

# HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 102, July 2024

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## Shire Budget restricted to 1 per cent rise

THE Burdekin Shire's newly-elected council has released its first Budget for the 2024/25 year, describing it as "stretching dollars and strengthening communities" with \$54.5 million for capital initiatives and \$62.2 million for operational activities.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort presented the Budget with a general rate increase of one per cent, in what she said reflected a mindful approach to the cost-of-living pressures faced by residents and local businesses.

"Stretching dollars, strengthening communities, the 2024/25 Budget reflects Council's commitments to infrastructure development, economic growth, community initiatives and

advancements that the community will benefit from now and into the future," Cr Dalle Cort said.

She announced "highlights of the Budget" included - South Ayr Filtration Plant and South Ayr Bores (State Funding) of \$29.4 million; Roadworks and Reseals and Drainage of \$16.4 million; Ayr Industrial Estate Development of \$3.2 million; Jerona Causeway (State Funding) of \$2.9 million; Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades of \$1 million; Community Parks Upgrades of \$385,000; Cultural Venue Upgrades and Renewals of \$352,000; Landfill and Transfer Station Upgrades of \$230,000; Spiller Street Park Upgrades, Brandon of \$190,000; Ayr Pound Upgrade of \$125,000; and

Clare Pool Upgrades and Renewals of \$75,000.

The mayor said that in recognising the importance of external funding sources, Council will continue working with the State and Federal Government to secure grants, which will assist in relieving some financial pressures.

### Road reconstructions and upgrades -

Cr Dalle Cort announced a total of \$16.4 million allocated to reconstruct and upgrade roads around the Shire as part of the Budget. The funding covered four Rural Road Projects and four Urban Road Projects with major work being \$2,150,000 for the reconstruction of Bahr Road; \$2,000,000 for reconstruction of a section of the Rail-

way Street/Jones Street heavy vehicle bypass; and \$2,100,000 for the Ayr Industrial Estate road reconstruction and upgrades. However, the only specific allocation to the Home Hill side of the river was \$240,000 for new concrete footpaths under Stage Five of the Burdekin Be-Active Trail in Home Hill.

### Ayr Industrial Estate -

The Mayor announced the continued investment into the Ayr Industrial Estate expansion, "providing more industrial land and infrastructure to support the growth and diversification of the local economy".

She said that as a sign of Council's commitment to development in the community, the 2024/25 Budget **Continued on Page 3—**



Hilda Frew (right) with one of her supporters, Myra Pavlovic and some of the many bed socks Hilda knits, with proceeds donated to the High Schools Chaplaincy Program in the Burdekin District, which is recognised in the Certificates held by the two ladies

THE Home Hill community are used to seeing well-known local resident, Hilda Frew selling her cosy bed socks in front of Home Hill News & Coffee – and they will be seeing even more of her in the coming weeks as she will again be offering her-hand knitted bed socks to help everyone beat the current cold weather conditions.

Hilda proudly shows off the certificates she has received from the School Chaplains for her annual donations of \$200 from the sale of her bed socks.

Hilda sells the socks for the princely sum of \$5 each, with all funds raised going to sup-

port the Scripture Union Queensland (School Chaplains) in their ongoing work supporting school students at Home Hill schools in a variety of ways.

The bed socks come in a large variety of colours and are a testament to the volunteer efforts of Hilda Frew who, at 90 years of age is continuing her ongoing support for the local Chaplains.

Look for Hilda in front of Home Hill News & Coffee in the coming weeks and assist her in her efforts to sell her cosy bed socks while supporting the Chaplains.

THE newly-elected Burdekin Shire councillors are only three months into their four-year term but their new budget indicates that nothing has changed in the allocation of available funds to projects throughout the Shire. It is only natural that in that first three months, the councillors have certainly had no chance to look to the future and see what projects they can adopt that are in other parts of the shire, apart from Ayr.

Once again, there has been multi millions allocated to a new industrial estate in Ayr in a continuing project that was started by the previous council.

There are people with a desire for an industrial estate in Home Hill and with no intention of moving to Ayr—but there is no indication from the council, past or present, of planning for such a project for the Home Hill side of the river.

Then there is an allocation of “\$480,000 for Queen Street drainage upgrades and footpath replacement” - but nothing that we can see for improvements to the Home Hill Central Business District.

Wouldn't it be nice to an allocation to “drainage and footpath replacements” in Eighth Avenue, especially the deep gutters, which are a nightmare for elderly residents to move from cars to the footpath.

On the positive side, it was good to see allocations to pools in Home Hill and outside areas such as Clare and Millaroo—although it does seem to be a bit over the top allocating another \$30,000 to the Ayr pool after the multi millions that have been spent in that area in recent years.

It is only early years for the new council and it is too late for this year—but hopefully the Council will work with a new state government after October to obtain joint funding towards the upgrading of Eighth Avenue.

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

WE would hope our new Council is giving serious consideration to returning the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival, including the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships and the burning of the “Fire Spirit of the Cane Fields” effigy (pictured right), which was an innovation to the annual events that were so successful in past years, instead of holding them every two years. The events attract large crowds of visitors and locals to the unique attractions, such as the first cane fire of the year, which was obviously missing this year. Railway Avenue in Home Hill was full of visiting Grey Nomads on a nightly basis over the time period when the Festival would have been held this year but they had nothing to entertain them. In fact, it would have been interesting to see how many of them had returned for the event—the Grey Nomad grapevine works very well in getting the message across about when these events are held. There were some willing workers who were lost to the festival events and it would be a major benefit to the district as a whole for everything to be returned to what it was originally.



IT HAS been a long time since there has been a hold-up on the Burdekin Bridge like the one in June, where a prime mover on a semi-trailer caught fire on the northern approaches, causing lengthy delays to traffic. It is a reminder of the past where serious traffic accidents, including fatalities, caused lengthy traffic delays and resulted in local hotels and restaurants benefitting from the increased business as the travellers looked for sustenance while they waited.

It should also be a reminder to state and federal governments of the need for a second crossing of the Burdekin River to cater for increasing numbers and wider transports, which are resulting in numerous delays for commuters as the bridge has to be closed to allow the wider vehicles to cross safely.

The state government is spending millions of dollars annually on the upkeep of the existing bridge but they are saying nothing of plans for the future.

Surely, both state and federal governments must have some plans in place for a second crossing adjacent to the existing bridge, which would allow traffic to cross safely without

the current delays.

With the bridge playing such an important part in the flow of traffic along the length of the Bruce Highway, it would be a major failing of any government not to have some sort of planning in place with the existing bridge ageing so quickly and costing so much to maintain annually.

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce is moving forward in leaps and bounds in recent years, with the changes that have taken place in meeting procedure and with its plans to oversee the 2024 Canefields Ephemera in conjunction with the Home Hill Harvest Festival Committee.

The introduction of interesting guest speakers to the monthly social networking meetings at the Home Hill Community Sports Club has resulted in increasing attendances, while it has also sparked an increase in membership numbers, which have almost doubled to 47, over last year's numbers.

Excellent grants and sponsorships have been obtained for the Ephemera, which has also seen an increased number of entries including some from outside areas. It all augers well for the future of both the chamber and the Ephemera.

- DAVID JACKSON

# Budget stretches dollars and strengthens communities

**Continued from Page 1—** had allocated \$3.2 million for the ongoing development of the Industrial Estate expansion, with expectations to see Phase One of the expansion complete by the end of the year.

## **Potable Water –**

Cr Dalle Cort announced that the long-term potable water supply for the Ayr, Brandon and Alva communities has been secured in the 2024/25 Budget ensuring a safe and reliable source of drinking water well into the future.

“Council is eager to announce that construction of a new Water Filtration Plant is expected to begin in the coming months,” she said.

## **Jerona causeway –**

The Council has secured \$2.9 million from the State Government to reconstruct the Jerona Causeway following damage to the structure in the 2023 flooding events.

The successful tender for the construction of the new Jerona Causeway has been awarded to A. Gabrielli Constructions, with construction set to commence at the end of June. Cr Dalle Cort said this marks a significant step forward in the restoration of

full access for the Jerona community.

## **Shire facilities upgrades –**

THE Budget announced “a significant investment in community well-being and infrastructure” with the allocation of \$155,000 towards facilities throughout the shire.

Cr Dalle Cort said the Clare Pool will receive a rejuvenation worth \$75,000, which includes the construction of a new shelter, “ensuring the community can enjoy the pool while being protected from the sun”.

She said the amenities and changing rooms would also get a fresh coat of paint and various fixtures and fittings would be updated.

The Home Hill Pool is set to benefit from a \$50,000 contribution towards the Masterplan works, which will introduce a barbecue area, picnic settings and a shelter “in future years”.

Cr Dalle Cort said the Millaroo community would benefit from programmed works in the 2024/25 financial year, with new development taking place.

“Working collaboratively with the Millaroo community, the former Millaroo Pool site will be re-developed to



Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort with her first Budget report

include a new community performance space and the existing amenities block refurbished, thanks to Federal Government Funding through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program,” she announced. “Located next to the Millaroo Social Club and offering a venue for local performers and events.”

The Mayor also announced that the Ayr Pool would also undergo upgrades with a \$30,000 investment, focusing on providing hot water to the disabled toilet and shower facilities and expanding the men's showers from two to six and improving

accessibility and convenience.

## **World first wastewater facility –**

The Council budget also announced the world first Macro Algae Bioremediation Facility was set to be commissioned in September. A joint initiative between Council and RegenAqua, the innovative facility will use native green algae to treat wastewater and remove nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which are harmful to the Great Barrier Reef and will sequester carbon dioxide. Cr Dalle Cort said the project would set a new benchmark in wastewater treatment, managing larger volumes more effectively than ever before.

“This project is set to transform our wastewater management practices,” Cr Dalle Cort said. “It promises not only to elevate the standard of water treatment, but also offers a cost-effective alternative to conventional tertiary treatment plants in terms of construction and operational expenses, as reflected in the modest increase to the residential sewerage charge in the Budget of \$48.”

## More big race days ahead in Home Hill

Enjoy a day out under the big trees at the Home Hill Race Track as the Burdekin Race Club features its coming events —

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, August 27, 2024  
(TAB meeting)**



A large program of local races during each race day plus southern races, the TAB in operation, as well as local bookmakers and a range of food options available

# Industrial action at mills suspended for six weeks

INKERMAN Sugar Mill at Home Hill has led the way in starting the 2024 crushing season for Wilmar Sugar and Renewables' Mills in North Queensland, with production kicking off with the first cane for the 2024 season tipped at 9.28am on Monday, June 10.

Two more of Wilmar's Burdekin factories, Invicta and Kalamia, were set to start production later that same week, while the company's other five sugar mills were scheduled to start production in the following week.

General Manager Operations, Mike McLeod said Inkerman Mill got off to a good start, thanks to the hard work of all employees.

However with ongoing industrial action, the Fair Work Commission scheduled a hearing for 4pm Thursday to consider an application from Wilmar Sugar and Renewables for Commission orders on unions to suspend industrial action that had delayed and continued to threaten, the annual crush in four North Queensland districts.

On Monday afternoon, three unions notified Sugar and Renewables of plans for a series of one-hour stoppages at all eight Wilmar factories over the next two weeks. As withdrawal of labour by members of the three unions would leave the site and equipment at risk of damage, the company sought assurances that key operators would remain on site to ensure the safety and operational integrity of key equipment, however those assurances have not been forthcoming. In those circumstances, Wilmar lodged an application with the Commission seeking orders to suspend the threatened industrial action. A spokesman for Sugar and Renewables said the safety of persons and

plant could not be jeopardised. "We have informed the Commission of the circumstances and potential impacts and asked for relief from such industrial action while there remain options to resolve an enterprise agreement through bargaining. As of that time, all eight Sugar and Renewables factories, and the Sarina Bioethanol Distillery, were in production or ready for production after weeks of delay caused by industrial bans and stoppages."

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Wilmar Sugar and Renewables advised on Sunday, May 30 that the Fair Work Commission had ordered three unions to suspend industrial action at the Queensland factories of Wilmar Sugar and Renewables for six weeks after hearing submissions from unions and the company. In light of the Commission's decision, Wilmar Sugar and Renewables is planning to have all of its eight factories crushing cane again this week, as soon as harvesting resumes in the wake of rain that drenched all its districts during the past week.

A spokesman for the company said that, assuming no more rain fell in the regions, it expected to have cane supply enabling production at all Burdekin mills this week, starting with Kalamia and Inkerman mills on Monday followed by Invicta and Pioneer by Thursday.

## Two writing groups combine for Anthology Showcase

WRITERS from two local Groups – the Burdekin Creative Writers and the Night Writers – joined together at the Home Hill Branch of the Burdekin Library on June 12, to read a selection of their written pieces from a book entitled "Anthology Showcase".

The two small writing and critiquing groups were welcomed to the Library by the Home Hill Branch Librarian, Kali Kovacich, who thanked them for using the Home Hill Library for their combined meeting.

One of the groups, the Burdekin Night Writers, is a writing and critiquing group who meet online at 7pm every second Tuesday via Messenger Rooms, where they share their stories.

Anyone who would like to become part of that writing community should contact Tracy at [Burdekinnightwriters2023@outlook.com](mailto:Burdekinnightwriters2023@outlook.com).

The second group, the Burdekin Creative Writers, are also a writing and critiquing group, who meet in person on the third Wednesday of each month at



Members of the two Burdekin Writers Groups at the Anthology Showcase held at the Home Hill Branch of the Burdekin Library

9.30am.

The group shares their stories, hand back their critiques and complete a writing exercise together.

The writers contribute \$2 per meeting

into a communal fund for tea and coffee and sundries.

Anyone who would like to become a member of that writing community should contact George Venables (0407 105 950).



Look out  
for those  
cane trains



wilmar

## Industrial action and rain slows crush start

THE widespread wet weather along much of the east coast of North Queensland has had an impact on production at the Wilmar Sugar and Renewables eight sugar factories in North Queensland.

A Wilmar Sugar and Renewables spokesperson said the last of the company's eight sugar mills was ready to commence production on Wednesday, June 26, but had their start-ups hampered by wet weather. In the Burdekin, Inkerman and Invicta mills were currently operating, but would run out of cane on Wednesday. The spokesperson said Invicta was processing all cane harvested on the north bank that day. Pioneer and Kalamia Mills shut down on Wednesday morning and had commenced cleaning and maintenance.

The Victoria Mill's B-side milling train and the Plane Creek Mill at Sarina were expected to commence operations as soon as adequate cane supply became available.

However, with limited harvesting occurring in the Herbert region on Wednesday and with harvesting halted at Plane Creek, that would not be before Thursday, June 27 at the earliest. The Macknade Mill in the Herbert region and the Proserpine Mill commenced their 2024 production seasons late on Tuesday, June 25, but were also rain affected.

The Spokesperson said they were hoping to secure enough cane supply on Wednesday to enable Macknade to continue crushing overnight. Cane that was at Victoria Mill for its start-up had been transferred to Macknade.

With no harvesting occurring in the Proserpine region on Wednesday, Proserpine Mill would shut down after it had processed all harvested cane already in bins.

The spokesperson said logistics staff would liaise with growers and contractors in all regions to determine when harvesting could resume and factories could restart.



## Artisans' Christmas preparations

THE Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. is celebrating Christmas six months early by opening up their premises at 170 Arts on the Avenue to early shoppers to help them start their gift selecting. The Artisans have a large selection of unique Christmas products and gift ideas, which will be on display at 170 Arts on the Avenue throughout the *Christmas in July* period.

There will also be more interesting and novel gifts on offer when the Artisans host their monthly Car Boot Sale under the trees in front of Ashworths Rock Shop on Saturday, July 13. commencing from 8am.

The doors at 170 Arts on the Avenue open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Friday and from 9.30am to 1pm on Saturday.

The Artisans are closed on Sunday and Monday.



## HOME HILL NEWS

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# State election candidates address Home Hill Chamber

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has given local residents the opportunity to hear from two of the leading candidates in the forthcoming Queensland State Elections over the past two months, as both the LNP and Labor candidates accepted an invitation to attend the monthly social networking meetings.

Following on from the sitting LNP Member for Burdekin, Dale Last in May, the Labor Candidate for the seat, Ms Anne Baker addressed the June Chamber meeting about contesting the seat in the electorate that she has called home for over 38 years.

Described as “one of Queensland’s most respected local government leaders, who is known as a powerhouse community

champion for her monumental lobbying and her authentic approach of putting people before politics”, Anne Baker spent time in Townsville, Ayr and Home Hill, while her husband, Frank Baker played Rugby League for the North Queensland Marlins in the mid to late 1980’s.

At the same time, Anne also worked for Queensland Netball and coached netball in the Home Hill and Townsville Associations.

After 17 years representing the Isaac region in local government, the last 12 of those as Mayor, Ms Baker is ready to once again stand up for local working families, businesses, agriculture, mining, construction and regional



Home Hill Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Uli Liessmann (left) with the Labor candidate for the State Seat of Burdekin, Anne Baker and Burdekin Shire Mayor, Pierina Dalle Cort at the June Social Networking meeting at the Home Hill Community Sports Club

communities. Ms Baker called time on her Local Government career in March after successfully lobbying for legislation to Save Glenden and securing over \$400M in funding for her commu-

nities, including the new Moranbah Hospital, providing an ongoing commitment to health services in the Burdekin. She is married with two children and three grandchildren, all of whom were born in the Burdekin.

## Local Housing action plan to address region’s needs

The Burdekin Shire Council has announced the adoption of its new Local Housing Action Plan—a strategic initiative designed to address the region’s growing housing needs and enhance community living standards. The housing crisis in Queensland is multi-faceted and affects both metropolitan and regional areas, including the Burdekin.

A lack of suitable and affordable housing has been identified as a significant risk to attracting and retaining employees across various industries within the Shire.

As housing demand increases, upward pressure on rent occurs, impacting affordability and potentially leading to increased social issues such as homelessness.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the newly adopted Local Housing Action Plan represents a positive step towards ensuring affordable and accessible housing for all.

“This initiative not only supports eco-

nomic growth but also strengthens the social framework of our community,” Cr Dalle Cort said.

“The plan outlines key strategies for housing development, improved infrastructure, and sustainable growth, aiming to attract new residents and businesses to the region.

“The development of the Burdekin Shire Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP) was a collaborative effort involving key community, business, and rural stakeholders.

“Council’s role was to facilitate the development of the LHAP in combination with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), whilst implementation will involve other tiers of government, community housing providers, and the private sector,” Cr Dalle Cort said.

“Since receiving project co-ordination support from the LGAQ, Council has collaborated with Hinchinbrook Shire Council to explore a joint approach to developing LHAPs for both Shires.

“This joint effort, while maintaining a local focus for each Shire, ensures efficient use of resources and a comprehensive understanding of shared and unique housing issues.”

The final LHAP, now adopted by Council, includes the formation of a Local Housing Action Plan implementation committee.

This committee will comprise representatives from the Council, relevant State agencies, community housing providers and other key stakeholder groups.

They will oversee and progress actions, review findings, report semi-annually on progress and further develop the LHAP as a living document to address local housing challenges.

For more details on the Burdekin Shire Housing Action Plan, go to the Burdekin Shire Council website at [burdekin.qld.gov.au](http://burdekin.qld.gov.au) or phone Council’s Customer Service Centre on 4783 9800.

# Golf competition to honour young business woman

GOLFERS from throughout the Burdekin are being encouraged to extend their support to the annual Kali's Cup competition, which aims to bring the community together while at the same time, raising awareness of melanoma as well as funds for skin cancer research.

Kali's Cup is an annual fundraising event in honour of former Home Hill business woman, Kali Totorica, who sadly passed away from melanoma at the age of 21.

Kali's Cup will be held on Sunday, July 7, at the Ayr Golf Club commencing at 8am.

The golf competition is open to anyone wishing to attend and register their team of four to participate in the nine-hole Ambrose competition.

The cost will be \$20 per person to enter the competition, which is offering cash prizes for successful competitors.

Anyone who does not want to participate in the golf competition is encouraged to go along to buy some delicious goodies from the bake sale, grab a bite for lunch, or to try their luck on the raffles and money boards.

There will also be a colouring-in competition and other activities for the children.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Australian Skin Cancer

Foundation.

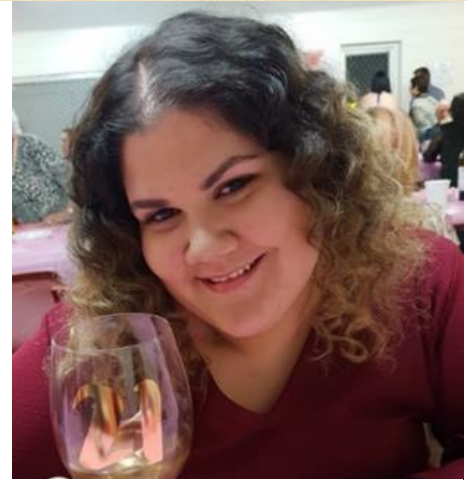
This year, the organisers are also fortunate to have the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation's free skin check truck at the event and everyone is encouraged to go along and get their skin checked – there is no need to book, just show up.

The free skin check truck is just one example of where the community's generous donations are benefiting the wider community.

Statistics show that one Australian is diagnosed with melanoma every 30 minutes and sadly, one Australian dies from melanoma every six hours.

The early detection of melanoma that occurs within the skin check truck is paramount in saving lives.

The theme for Kali's Cup this year is "Mad Hatter Tee Party" – and everyone is being encouraged to think sun smart and go along wearing their



Kali Totorica who passed away in 2018 from a melanoma

best hat or headwear – with more prizes up for grabs.

Keep an eye out for updates on the Kali's Cup Facebook page in the lead-up to the event.

To register a team for the golf, contact Liana Kennedy (0437 848 188).

"Kali's Cup" is a successful fundraising event that has been held in the Burdekin since 2019. The event was started to honour this beautiful girl (pictured above) and to continue her legacy to raise funds and awareness for melanoma.

Kali Totorica was only 21 years old when she sadly passed away in 2018 from the vicious melanoma.

The statistics are disheartening and unfortunately have not changed. Melanoma is the most common cancer affecting Australians aged 20 to 39, with statistics showing that one Australian is diagnosed with melanoma every 30 minutes and it is estimated that 1300 Australians will die from melanoma this year.

We know the horrific reality of losing a loved one from melanoma and we are doing what we can to help change these statistics.

## Busy period for Scouts

JUNE has been a busy period for members of the Home Hill Scouts with a variety of planned events undertaken including a visit to the Ayr Show for fundraising activities.

The scouts attended the Show's Gate Five in McKenzie Street, Ayr where each member of the Troop spent about two to three hours at a public relations table where they handed out brochures. Sunday, June 30 through to July 6 was Leap camp for Scouts and Venturers, which has been described as "great preparation for a Jamboree".

Plans were in place to paint the Scout Hall from 2pm to 5pm on Thursday, June 27 in preparation for a mural. However, a look at the weather radar indicated that it was not going to be a good day for painting. As a result, it was decided to cancel the plans for another day.

Over the next week or so, the Scouts will send out their latest newsletter and an Operoo (Parent permission) for upcoming events.

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# President's praise for Growers Race Day success

BURDEKIN Race Club President, Ricky Gudge has extended his "congratulations" to all involved with the 2024 Growers Race Day.

Addressing the June meeting of the Club, Mr Gudge said the event "was once again conducted very professionally with nothing but positive comments from patrons I spoke to, as well as in feedback from sponsors, workers and club members".

He said racing was conducted in a safe and professional manner, which only returned high praise from all the racing fraternity.

"Winners were spread across the spectrum, with favourites and a 40-to-one outsider greeting the judge," he said and "personally, I am looking forward to our Provider's report, as, just from the little info I received, he spent plenty of time on the phone ordering more alcohol".

Mr Gudge said the improvements that had have been made to the Home Hill Club had placed them in the upper echelons of standards, not only with Queensland Country Clubs, but also around some Racing Queensland-funded provincial clubs.

"The new external track fence and entrance gates have been a big talking point for not only the racing people, but also local passers-by commenting on how it has lifted the look of the club," he said.



Burdekin Race Club President, Ricky Gudge

Other projects that had been completed for the Growers Race Day included the new Secretary's office and the chain mesh fence heading north from the entrance.

"The removal of the eye-sore TAB fluctuations box in the betting ring has sharpened the look as well - and then placing Russ (Reguson) there to look down on us made it a far cry from what we had," Mr Gudge commented.

"He is where he should be and many thanks to Ron (Scott) and Company for your efforts."

With the Club's decision to withdraw TAB betting from the betting ring on the Race Day, he said he had nil negative comments about the decision.

"It looks like we have well and truly moved into the digital generation," although he said he would be interested to hear if anyone else had received adverse remarks.

Mr Gudge also noted that techni-

cians had removed all of the TAB electronics.

Referring to the track, the Club President said the new watering system had been installed, "but unfortunately, it will not be completely operational until (the day after the club meeting) because one of the valves was faulty and a replacement will have to be fitted".

He told the club meeting that later that night, he would be suggesting that they install some external track piping where the new crowd control fence was widened.

Mr Gudge advised the meeting that club secretary, Leanne Gudge was busy in April lodging applications in the latest CCAF Grants, with the club applying for new jockey's/steward's rooms, a watering system that had just been installed, the lifting of the horse tie-up stalls (which don't meet standards) and external fencing for the main and training tracks.

He also noted that their grounds had become very undulated, "which I suspect is from a few offenders with sinkage being the main culprit and tractors/trucks being another".

"This needs addressing as it is not a safe environment for our patrons, especially those in high heels," he said. "I have spoken to a mill mud supplier and with the club's permission to proceed, he could start dropping off this week.

Mr Gudge has also highlighted the co-operation that exists between sporting clubs in the Burdekin district and the Race Club's generosity in loaning chairs, tables, picket fencing, nip pourers etc, to rugby league and he expected in the future for Rugby and Soccer to also ask to borrow the club's equipment.

"I think that all of us agree that it

is not an issue but as a thank you, I have planted the seed with League to arrange for players, coaches and whoever, to support us on one of our smaller days.

"This will also be proposed to the mentioned clubs and, as we know, money across the bar is essentially where the club survives," he said.

Lengthy discussion took place at the Race Club meeting on improvements that could be made ahead of future Growers Race Days to improve the grounds for the growing crowds attending the event.

Mr Gudge put forward several ideas of his own on what should be done to improve the product for patrons and other club members put forward their own ideas on improvements that should be carried out.



The Millinery Award winners, Runner-up Trudy Bryers and the winner, Kerry McGlone



Leading place-getters in the Couples section of the Growers Race Day Fashion Awards



Club President, Ricky Gudge said the removal of the "eye-sore TAB fluctuations box" from the betting ring had sharpened the look—and "placing Russ (Reguson) there to look down on us made it a far cry from what we had".



# June race meeting recognises former club presidents

THE Burdekin Race Club recognised many of the earliest Presidents of the former Home Hill Race Club in naming the five races on the program on Saturday, June 29.

The former Presidents honoured (in race order) were Owen Ruddick (1956 to 1959), Wilf Davies (1946 to 1956), Victor Hanson (1939 to 1945), Gelly Piva (1961 to 1963) and Jock Kelly (1963 to 1965).

All were well-known cane farmers and businessmen in the Home Hill Community with Victor Hanson being allocated land in the first ballot when the Home Hill side of the Burdekin River was opened for settlement and the family (who were present at the race meeting) last year saw the birth of their sixth generation family member since that settlement.

Following almost an inch of rain (80 millimetres) earlier in the week, racing started as a 'Soft Six' but it remained in excellent condition for the entire program.



Connections of brown gelding, Dawn Strike with Jockey Pietro Romeo and Trainer Joanna Hassett (Townsville) after winning the Wilf Davies (President 1946 to 1956) Benchmark 50 Handicap over 1460 metres and with Melissa and Denise Tapiolas, sister and mother of part owner, Chris Tapiolas. The jockey wore the colours previously used by the late Ray Tapiolas.

A small crowd of punters enjoyed the racing, during which three jockeys dominated the results of the five races.

Experienced jockey, Graham Kliese won the last two races on Zi Win (Race Four) and Para Park Chance (Race Five); young jockey Chelsea Jokic recorded a win in race one on Zuri Zuri and second placings in race two on Defrosted, race three on Sensationabull and race four on I am a Rusty Parker and the

only reason she missed out in race five was because her mount was scratched.

Jockey Scott Sheargold also had a good day with a win in race three on Baby Guinness, a second in race one on My Little Viking and third placings on Another Jack in Race Two, Chickerartie in Race Four and Old Fashioned Rose in Race Five.

And race patrons were well catered for with give-aways for drawn losing tickets, free ice creams for the children and a monster meat tray raffle which drew considerable support until it was drawn.



Zuri Zuri (Number 9, outside) ridden to a win by Chelsea Jokic and My Little Viking (Scott Sheargold) fight out the first race, the Owen Ruddick (President 1956 to 1959) QTIS Maiden Plate over 1460 metres)

## Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

**I Love the Lord,  
because he has  
heard my voice,  
and my pleas for  
Mercy**

*Psalm 116, Verse 1*



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**Parliament Update—**

THE 2024/2025 State Budget has been handed down and while many in the south-east will look forward to 50-cent train rides, the reality is we'll be left to drive on unsafe roads and face a five-hour round trip for a CT scan.

I've said it plenty of times, the Burdekin Electorate's major industries give more than most when it comes to lining the state government coffers and in return, we have every right to expect that at budget time, we receive some of that back.

Right across the electorate, we need more housing, investment in our health, measures to support our frontline services and funding to upgrade our roads, so it was disappointing that no new, fully funded projects were promised in the Budget for the Burdekin Electorate.

**Home Hill High's growth on the horizon—**

COMPLETION of improved facilities for agriculture and hor-

ticulture at Home Hill State High School is finally on the horizon, after waiting three years for the project.

This district is the heart and soul of our agriculture industry and this project will provide vital support and opportunities for local students to learn hands-on skills and grow our local sectors.

This project has the potential not only to secure the future of students looking to work in the agriculture industry but our district's future as well.

**Here to help—**

IF YOU or someone you know has an issue that you need help with, please remember my job is to represent you. I may not always be able to fix the problem, but rest assured I will always do my best. For help, please call my office on 1800 817 594 or send an email to burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au

Until next time, stay safe and well.

DALE

**State Member responds to Bus crash**

STATE member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP has responded to the horrific accident that occurred near Gumlu, south of Home Hill on Sunday, June 30.

The collision between a Greyhound Coach and a SUV towing a caravan has resulted in three fatalities, as well as several other passengers of the bus who were seriously injured.

Mr Last said the priority must be the victims and responders.

"My thoughts right now are with those involved in the incident, their families and the emergency services who are involved," he said.

"I know from personal experience that events like this have an impact on emergency services staff and I would ask the community to include them when they send their best wishes to those involved and their loved ones.

"I know that many people will be inconvenienced by the road closures, but that pales into insignificance compared to what the people involved are currently going through."

Mr Last said it was vital they allow emergency services time to help the victims and investigate the incident to ensure the best outcome and, in the longer term, to work toward ensuring this incident is not repeated.

**Burdekin Region Mills Weekly Production Figures**

**Week 01 — ending June 15, 2024**

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	142,849	167,749
Pioneer	30,626	30,626
Kalamia	62,089	81,455
Inkerman	81,341	125,172
Burdekin	316,905	405,002

**CCS**

Invicta	13.57	13.54
Pioneer	13.65	13.65
Kalamia	13.50	13.35
Inkerman	13.57	13.50
Burdekin	13.56	13.50

**Comments —**

**Week 01—**

Three mills commenced production for the 2024 season this week, putting through just over 88,000 tonnes. The dry weather has provided favourable harvesting conditions. The average weekly CCS was 13.35 which is above budget helped by the cool dry conditions. The highest CCS sample of 16.1 was from a rake of KQ228-P in the Darveniza's (Inkerman) productivity district. The season start has been a good one given the scale of the capital and maintenance program and the disruption caused by industrial action. Cane trains are now operating around the clock, across our cane rail network.

**Week 02 — ending June 22, 2024**

Pioneer Mill was the last of the Burdekin factories to commence production, starting on 18 June. Operations across all four mills are now steady after some initial commissioning issues. Inkerman Mill exceeded budget this week, while Invicta and Kalamia mills both met budget. Just under 317,000 tonnes of cane were processed for the week, bringing the season-to-date total for the Burdekin factories to just over 405,000 tonnes. The dry weather has provided favourable harvesting conditions. The average weekly CCS was 13.56, which was above budget, helped by the cool, dry conditions. The highest CCS sample of 16.95 was from a rake of KQ228-P in the Causeway (Inkerman) productivity district. With the school holidays now in full swing, parents and carers are reminded of the dangers of children playing on or near the cane rail network.



John Tait,  
Cane Supply Manager,  
Burdekin Region

## Uli Liessmann comments . .

LAST week provided a good example of how vital the Burdekin Bridge is to this Shire and the rest of North Queensland. A big truck coming off the bridge on the north side in the early morning caught fire at approximately 5am on its way to Ayr. Of course, this stopped all traffic going both north and south for about five and a half hours and traffic on the southern end of the highway, I believe, was backed up halfway to Inkerman. North Queensland needs a second bridge and it is no good just talking about it because this has been done



for years with no positive results. It is a disgrace just how easy it is to stop the traffic flow on our number one highway. There is always money available for politician's pay rises, but no money for vital national infrastructure—what a sorry state of affairs!



I AM a bit late with this great update regarding the Home Hill swimming pool amenities blocks. How good is this that the council has upgraded and installed, among other things, hot and cold showers in the dressing rooms, a new paint job etc. Now if I wanted to go swimming, they would need to heat the pool as well., nevertheless a great job.



NOW some people do and some people don't read *The Home Hill News*. Well, regarding my last article, where I wrote about ANZAC day here in Home Hill, this couple, Sharon and Dave Tennant from Ayr, read the article and as they are going to visit the battlefields of WWI and WWII in Belgium and France, they asked where they could get some poppies. The Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL came to the rescue and gave the family a bunch of poppies, which the family will leave at different

*Businessman and Home Hill Chamber of Commerce Vice President,  
**Uli Liessmann**  
reports on local issues of  
interest in the Home Hill district*



battle fields—just a little something from local people from the Burdekin in Australia. My most sincere thanks to you.

THE 2024 Ephemera for the Harvest Festival is well under way. We have already had several applications for installations, which shows a cheerful outlook from the community, but there is room for more, so show us what you and your friends can do. Thanks to our sponsors—you are greatly appreciated, as you will make a difference to the Harvest Festival Ephemera.

I AM led to believe that 11 or so local schools are holding a cane growing competition, sponsored by the Canegrowers Association. Each school will grow a very small plot and the results will be judged next year at the Harvest Festival. This will be a very interesting competition and may the best school win.

I AM also led to believe that there could be a vacant volunteer position available part time at the Home Hill High School to help the school in its agricultural department. Should you be a retired farmer or just a keen horticulturist, give the school a call.

HAVE a look at this picture—new trees and great looking tree guards all in Memorial Park. Council staff need to be congratulated on this job well done and in years to come, the shade that these trees supply will be more than welcomed.



NOW for another joke or two—

Sibby and his friend, Sam find three ex RSL grenades, and being upstanding citizens, they decide to take them to the local cop shop.

Says Sibby "What if one detonates or even explodes before we get there?"

Well Sam, quick as a whistle but not too smart, says "We'll tell them that we only found two."

Sam a vocalist from the local Chorial Society was asked not to sing, but Samsung anyway.

These are my opinions and views. To contact me, phone (mobile) 0439 822 064—[www.uliliessmann.com.au](http://www.uliliessmann.com.au)

- ULI LIESSMANN

## CEO awarded Public Service Medal in Kings Birthday Honours

THE Burdekin Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Terry Brennan has been honoured with a Public Service Medal in the King's Birthday Honours List, recognising his dedication and outstanding service to Local Government in Queensland.

With his entire 45-year career devoted to Local Government, Mr Brennan commenced work in 1979 as a junior administration officer with Toowoomba City Council. He served in Local Government with a number of Councils, including Stanthorpe Shire and Cassowary Coast Regional Council and as a board member of Queensland Local Government Mutual and Local Government Workcare.

Mr Brennan's experience and good governance has applied not only at a Council level but also outside Local Government boundaries, playing a key role in projects as part of both the North Queensland and Far North Queensland Regional Organisations of Councils.

As the CEO for the Burdekin Shire Council since 2016, Mr Brennan has been instrumental in the realisation of a range of high-quality infrastructure projects across the Shire including the Burdekin Water Park, the Ayr/Brandon 10ML Reservoir and the associated water supply upgrade. As he prepares for his retirement in August, the Burdekin Shire Council congratulated him on this outstanding achievement.

## Places to see, things to do in the Home Hill district

**170 Arts on the Avenue**—The Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. invites you to inspect their display of various arts and craft forms at the Ashworths Rock Shop complex each day from 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Friday and 9.30am to 1pm Saturday.

**Beachmount/Wunjunga**—Visitors can move off the Bruce Highway south of Home Hill to spend time at the community's beaches—Beachmount and the community of Wunjunga. Travel east off the highway south of Inkerman across gravel roads until meeting the sea in the vicinity of Funny Dunny Park where tourists can enjoy a stay in pleasant surroundings.

**Burdekin River and the Burdekin Bridge** - part of the Bruce Highway plus **Home Hill Lions Club Diorama** at southern end of bridge, which features five new panels detailing the pioneering sugar industry work of John Drysdale and the town's early history;

**Burdekin National Servicemen's Association** meets at the Home Hill Community Sports Club on the first Sunday of each month from February to December, starting at 9 am. Contact Secretary (4782 2368) or President (4783 5529).

**Card** making, scrapbooking, album making and assorted jewellery classes at **Lynn and Mike's Craft Studio, Home Hill**. Phone 0418 783 799 for details of how to participate.

**Charlie's Hill World War II site**, about seven kilometres south of Home Hill – former radar station during the second world war—Old igloos and gun emplacement still in place.

**For the sports man and woman—**

**Join** in the friendly atmosphere at the **Home Hill Golf Club** (phone 0467 566 448) — amongst the cane fields on Iona Road; or

**At the** excellent **Home Hill Tennis complex** in the centre of the Home Hill Race Track (**Email:** homehilltennis@gmail.com, Facebook: Home Hill Tennis or to book a court go to [play.tennis.com.au/homehilltennis](http://play.tennis.com.au/homehilltennis)).

**Home Hill Community Sports Club Inc.** (0468 313 115) offers roll-up bowls Thursdays and Sundays at 12.30pm with an open bar. Things to do at the Club—**MONDAY:** Low Impact Classes at 9am; **TUESDAY:** Trimmers at 9am; **WEDNESDAY:** Arts and Crafts at 9am. The Club is also available for hire.

**Burdekin Friendship Club**—Fortnightly, on Mondays from 9.30am to 11.30am at St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Cnr Fourteenth Street and Tenth Avenue, Home Hill. \$7 per person. Light entertainment and fellowship. Morning Tea provided. Phone Esme 4782 1766.

**Groper Creek** - worth a look as it is a unique small village —one of the many creeks in the Burdekin Delta allowing access to the numerous fishing areas throughout the district—very popular with visitors who return each year to enjoy our climate over several months;

**Home Hill Friends and Neighbours Craft Group**—meets every Wednesday, 9am to 11.30am at Home Hill Community Sports Club, Ninth Avenue, Home Hill for general craft activities and cooking tips. Cost \$3 with morning tea. Phone 0427 804 129 for more information

**Home Hill Swimming Pool** (Eleventh Avenue) is open throughout the summer months—5.30am to 7pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 5.30am to 6pm Wednesday; 10am to 6pm Sunday.

**Home Hill Service Clubs**—The **Home Hill Lions Club** meets at the Crown Hotel on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The **Home Hill Rotary Club** meets at their Club House (58 Thirteenth Avenue, Home Hill) on the first Tuesday of each month and at the Malpass Hotel, Home Hill at 6.30pm on each other Tuesday night of the month. Visitors are welcome at both clubs.

**Mount Inkerman**—approximately 12km south of Home Hill, near the township of Inkerman. Access to the top is via a narrow road, which is not suitable for caravans and a "Nature Trail" for walkers. The narrow road has been widened in sections and a number of new safety barriers installed. Recommend visiting as there are outstanding views of the surroundings such as cane and other farms.

**Old Time Dancing** at the St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Tenth Avenue, Home Hill on the first three Saturday nights of each month;

**Pioneer Avenue Plaques** – learn about the history of many of the pioneers of Home Hill and the Burdekin District by reading the plaques situated along the western side of the ti-trees in Home Hill's main street

Sing Along with the **Home Hill Choral Society** — every Wednesday evening at the "The Vault" - the Choral Society Hall in Eighth Avenue—from 7pm to 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join in.

**The Big Canecutters**—Visit the former Home Hill Showgrounds (southern end of town across the railway line) to see the representation of the former canecutters that cut the Burdekin district's sugar cane crop before the advent of mechanical cane harvesting.