

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 103, August 2024

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Mayor answers queries on Home Hill projects

THE release of the Burdekin Shire Council's annual Budget, which was detailed from Council press releases in the June edition of *The Home Hill News* – and our comments on the difference in project funding in various areas of the Shire - has prompted the Council's newly-elected Mayor, Pierina Dalle Cort to provide further information at a recent Home Hill Chamber of Commerce meeting with regard to undertaking more works on the south side of the Burdekin River. Under the heading of

“Executive Summary”, a council report (which was due to be included in the minutes of a recent Council meeting) sought Council's endorsement of funding submissions to the State Government's 2024-2028 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program as follows – Construction of approximately 450 metres of duplicate water main from existing Home Hill water Tower and reservoir to intersection of Third Avenue and Sixth Street, Home Hill – total estimate cost \$1,200,0000;

Upgrade of Ayr Town Drain in vicinity of McKersie Street by construction of an upgraded concrete lined channel to a width of five metres, as identified in the Ayr Town Drain Flood Study – a total estimated costs \$2,019,500; and Design of the continuation of the Home Hill augmentation main to create a secondary main under State owned reserves (Department of Main Roads and Queensland Rail) – total estimated cost \$60,000. Cr Dalle Cort also listed further works on the south

side of the Burdekin River from the “Current 2024 – 2025 Budget” , some of which were detailed in the council Budget press releases that were published in the June Edition of *The Home Hill News* – They included: Memorial Hall – Minor Hall ceiling replacement \$20,000;
Continued on Page 3—



Bluey's Thrift Shop celebrates its Fiftieth Birthday



Some of the Thrift Shop volunteers who sat back to enjoy the celebrations on Thursday, July 25 included (from left) Elizabeth Foote, Ivy Marano, Pat Brook, Cheryl Parison and Sharyn Gale

LEFT—VOLUNTEERS at Bluey's Thrift Shop in the Home Hill Central Business District took time off from selling clothing to local residents on Thursday, July 25 as they celebrated reaching their Fiftieth Birthday milestone while a Luncheon was held on Saturday, July 27 to thank their many volunteers. **Turn to Page 6** to see where the funds raised at Bluey's is distributed

Centenary of services for St Helen's Anglican Church

RIGHT—THE first service conducted by the pioneers of St Helen's Anglican Church in Home Hill was on **August 18, 1924**—and the centenary of that service will be recognised by the current Parishioners on **Sunday, August 18, 2024**, followed by a Sausage Sizzle and Lunch in the covered area adjacent to the Church. **Turn to Page 8** for details of the centenary.



OUR comments in the July issue of *The Home Hill News* with regard to the Council Budget and its lack of new references to the Home Hill side of the river drew a welcome response from new Mayor, Pierina Dalle Cort, who was upholding the Council's side of the debate. Even though we did point out clearly that the new council had only been in office for three months, the mayor was quick on the phone to reiterate their lack of time to make new decisions and the need to carry over decisions made by the previous council in areas such as the new industrial estate in Ayr. And from Cr Dalle Cort's comments to us, it seems fairly clear that there is little hope of Home Hill gaining an industrial estate of its own into the long-term future, mainly because of the size of the Ayr facility and the need for the present and future councils to fill that space. That means that roads and other areas of spending under the \$3.2 million allocation to the Ayr Industrial Estate this year will be sitting there unused into the future until interested land users can be found. The Mayor's call was welcomed because it was good to get a response to our comments, which was a novelty to us. We do not expect everyone to agree with our comments, but we will continue to stand up for Home Hill when we believe the town and its ratepayers are not being given a fair go.

CONCERNS have been raised by a Burdekin resident about the increasing number of travellers using the land off the side of the highway on the northern approaches to the Burdekin Bridge—not so much about the caravanners camping there, but more so the long slow vehicles entering and leaving that area on what is a sweeping curve in the road. Over the years of the

The finer points of Home Hill . .

THE lack of support for the Home Hill Central Business District (CBD) from the previous council is now coming back to bite Home Hill badly, as travellers visiting the town are unfairly targeting the condition of the our business centre with online comments—comments that are not helpful. While they make use of the Comfort Stop and its facilities, they are quick to point out the condition of the town centre and the “lack of things to do” which is detrimental to the businesses in the town. (One of the first items introduced to our pages when *The Home Hill News* started was the “Places to see, things to do in the Home Hill district” which takes most of the back page). Now the condition of the CBD is not the fault of the Home Hill community, who are still charged thousands of dollars in rates annually, but have received little in return from past councils towards the upgrading of the CBD—the recent work on the Comfort Stop improvements being unique for the area. The Chamber of Commerce, which is obtaining grants for this year's Canefields Ephemera in conjunction with the Harvest Festival Committee, is doing its best to try to improve

bridge's existence, there have been many serious accidents and it does not need any more dangerous situations to be added to it. It has been pointed out that there have been up to 12 or more caravanners staying in the area on any one night and they all have to enter and exit at some time. There is also concern about the campfires being lit in the area and the consequences if sparks should fly into nearby mature canefields. There has been some discussion about who is responsible for the area and who should be acting to control how it is used, but nobody is quite sure what level of government is involved?

APPARENTLY it is big news to people in the south-east corner of our state that the Bruce Highway north of the Sunshine Coast is not in as good a condition as they experience in their area. A recent story published in a newspaper in that south-east corner highlighted the fact that the worst section of the Highway was between “Bowen and Home Hill where the deadly Greyhound bus crash occurred”. The information came from a

the town centre, but it is not a service club and does not have the money to carry out the improvements that our town centre badly needs. Organisations like the Burdekin Artisans Community Association have been doing their best to add something to the “things to do” in the town through their business operation at 170 Arts on the Avenue and with their monthly Car Boot Sale, which is held in front of Ashworth's Rock Shop, but they would dearly love more support. Their next car boot sale (pictured below) is postponed to **Saturday, August 17**.



University Professor and a health professional who drove the length of the Highway and who have been advocating for safer standards. The news will not be new to residents in this part of the world who have to drive it on a regular basis, but that message needs to be shared more with the politicians who control the money that finances those much-needed upgrades. There is a Queensland State Election coming up in less than three months, but how much of the campaigning will be directed to improving safety on a vital highway, when there are people in the south-east who think that spending multi-billions on an Olympic Games in their area has more importance than funding for highways in out-of-the-way areas in North Queensland. The Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Willcox MP has launched a petition to “Back Our Bruce and improve the safety for those who live, work and travel throughout our beautiful region”. To support the petition, go to www.andrewwillcox.com.au/back-our-bruce or at Andrew.Willcox.MP@aph.gov.au or on (07) 4944 0662.

- DAVID JACKSON

Chamber Treasurer tells life story from Africa to Burdekin

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce monthly social networking meetings continue to grow in popularity, as increasing numbers of members and supporters have been attending the meetings, even on State of Origin night in July.

The guest speaker at that meeting was Chamber of Commerce Treasurer and local IT expert, John Clark (pictured), who took the chance to tell the story of his Life from Africa to the Burdekin, which took him from England to South Africa, where his parents were missionaries and then, later in life, to Australia.

John spoke of his enjoyment of his life in Africa and his dislike for London when he returned there with his parents and his pleasure in returning to Africa.

John's working life started in the insurance industry in



London, which he disliked and after his senior schooling, he started work as a programmer in a bank in Africa before moving to Kuwait where he started his own computing business.

He developed a love for Australia through travelling and after selling his Kuwait business, he and his partner, Jane moved to Australia, where they eventually found the Burdekin during their travels.

The meeting also heard from Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort who listed all the areas of the Council Budget that referred to the south side of the Burdekin.

With time running low at the end of the meeting, some of those present were keen to discuss the possibility of returning the Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival to an annual event, although it was made clear that many of the original volunteers who made a success of the event were now no longer able to participate.

The next Chamber meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 21, followed by an address by Mr Darren West.

Home Hill projects in 2024 Council Budget

Continued from Page 1—

Memorial Hall – Meeting Room Refurbishment \$17,000;

Home Hill Caravan Park – Refurbish Cabins (2) \$20,000;

Home Hill Pool – BBQ Shelter \$50,000;

Be Active Trail Home Hill – Stage 5 \$240,000;

Arch Dunn Playground – Refurbish Playground Fence \$40,000;

Sewer Dump Point – Home Hill Showgrounds \$20,000;

Condition Assessment – Home Hill Waste Water Treatment Plant Trickling Filter \$50,000;

Linton Road and Georgees Road Culvert Upgrade Design \$20,000;

Home Hill Maintenance Depot – Replace Perimeter Fence \$55,000;

Burdekin Be Active Trail Home Hill – Eleventh Street

from Ninth Avenue to Eighth Avenue \$110,000;

Eighth Avenue – Improve access from road to Home Hill Surgery \$70,000;

First Street – Drainage upgrade to facilitate racecourse lease extension \$180,000;

Fifth Avenue Drain – Upgrade culverts at Sixth Street and First Street 50,000. Unfortunately, apart from the \$70,000 works to “improve access from road to Home Hill Surgery”, there is nothing else included in the Council Budget to improve Home Hill’s Central Business District – which is desperately in need of funding.

And as we pointed out in June – and Cr Dalle Cort also reiterated – the \$480,000 to “drainage upgrades and foot-path replacement in Queen Street, Ayr” was a carryover project from the previous council.

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, as well as local bookmakers and an excellent range of food options available

'Constructive' discussions in mills' dispute

UNIONS involved in an ongoing industrial dispute with Wilmar Sugar and Renewables have joined the company in accepting an offer from the Fair Work Commission to assist in resolving the long-running enterprise agreement dispute.

The Electrical Trades Union (ETU), Australian Metal Workers Union (AMWU) and Australian Workers Union (AWU) informed Wilmar that, following consultation with members, they were willing to participate in the Commission process.

A Wilmar Sugar and Renewables spokesman said the company hoped the unions' agreement to accept the Commission's offer of assistance would pave the way to reaching an enterprise agreement that is fair, reasonable and sustainable for all parties.

"We are optimistic that, with the expert help of a Commissioner from the Fair Work Commission, we will finally be able to close the gap between the company's offer and union claims," he said.

The spokesman said that, given unions had agreed to participate in discussions facilitated by the Fair Work Commission, it was hoped they would withdraw next week's planned industrial action.

"The agreement from unions to participate in the Commission process is a positive development and we are hopeful of reaching resolution through this process."

Those Enterprise bargaining discussions between Wilmar Sugar and Renewables and representatives of three unions in Townsville were described as constructive by a company spokesman.



Inkerman Mill at Home Hill which is part of the industrial dispute

A Fair Work Commissioner assisted in the discussions and the Wilmar spokesman said that in the course of the day, the parties had succeeded in narrowing the gap further between unions' claims and company offers.

The Commissioner, Bernie Riordan, has offered to provide further input and remain available should the parties wish him to contribute further.

"These confidential discussions are ongoing and without prejudice, so we do not intend to discuss details outside the negotiating room," the company spokesman said.

He added that Wilmar Sugar and Renewables was disappointed to receive notification of further industrial action from all three unions within 15 minutes of the day's discussions concluding.

Wilmar's Michael Littlefield referees on the world stage

A BURDEKIN Touch Referee and Wilmar Sugar and Renewables staffer jetted off to England early in July to join the world's best touch football players in action in the 2024 Touch Football World Cup. Engineering Superintendent at Wilmar's Inkerman Mill, Michael Littlefield (pictured), is ranked as the number one referee in North Queensland and 12th in the country.

That high status allowed him to join 200 referees from 20 nations refereeing the 2024 Touch Football World Cup at Nottingham from July 15 to 21, with 39 nations competing and Australia fielding the lion's share of both players and referees. Burdekin born and bred, Mr Little-

field has played touch football locally since he was a child and became a referee when he was in Year 12 at school.

"The World Cup comes around every four years and represents the pinnacle of touch football globally," Mr Littlefield said. "I'm honoured to be selected to represent my country in the game I've grown up with."

He said he started refereeing 21 years ago when he was playing club competition with Burdekin Touch Football. "They needed more referees, so I thought I'd give it a try. I never thought it'd take me this far," he said.

"I was first selected as an Australian referee for the 2015

Touch Football World Cup in Sydney, which was amazing.

"I was selected again for the 2019 World Cup held in Malaysia, so this was my third stint refereeing on the world stage."

Mr Littlefield said he loved refereeing the game at a national or international level.

"The pace of the game is so fast, you're right in the middle of the action, you get a much better view on the field and you make lifelong friends in the process."

Mr Littlefield's Inkerman Mill workmates rallied behind him with Senior Engineering Superintendent, Guy Giardina saying he was stoked to see his colleague representing Australia at the elite level.

General Manager Engineering, Istvan Torok also congratulated Mr Littlefield for his achievements, on behalf of the company.

Australia has dominated the International Touch World Cup, with the Emus winning 12 of a possible 13 gold medals at the seven-day tournament. The Emus triumphed in the Open Men's, Women's and Mixed finals after going through the round-robin stage without loss across all divisions to retain the World Cup they last won in Malaysia in 2019.



Home Hill Police Beat



—With Sergeant Sam Pyke,
OIC, Home Hill Police Station

NEW officer-in-Charge of the Home Hill Police Station, Sgt Sam Pyke, has been working with his team of three very experienced Senior Constables since he moved over from Ayr to take over his new position in February, 2024. Now in his thirteenth year in the Queensland Police Force, Sgt Pyke grew up on the Gold Coast before starting his police career with a four-year stint in Gladstone, where he worked as a Police Prosecutor.

He then moved to Townsville for three years, serving with the Rapid Action Patrol before moving to Fortitude Valley in Brisbane where he stayed for two years.

He then moved to the Ayr Police Station, where he was promoted to Sergeant and from where he moved to the Officer-in-Charge role in Home Hill in February this year.

Sgt Pyke said he had a very experienced team of Senior Constables for a rural area, comprising Senior Constable Jason Robinson, Senior Constable Joel Little and Senior Constable Dean Wellington.

He said they spent most of their time out and about in this area and down as far as Gumlu, where he was one of the first officers on the scene of the recent tragic bus accident.

After moving into his new role, one of his first tasks was to have a new sign installed at the front of the Police Station, after expressing his surprise that there was no sign-



Sgt Sam Pyke with one of his first requests after being elevated to the position of Officer in Charge of the Home Hill Police Station—a new sign for the station

age for the Home Hill Station.

He also highlighted the fact that the station now had a Domestic Violence “Safe Room”, which is located in the rooms which were previously used as the single men’s quarters towards the rear of the station.

Sgt Pyke also highlighted the surprising fact that “70 per cent of what we do” in the Home Hill area is Domestic Violence related. He said the majority of his team were involved in those investigations.

They also helped out at the Ayr Police Station early in the morning and late at night.

Sgt Pyke said the Home Hill Station was “going well” crime wise, with figures being down in the past month, through the strategies they were using.

HOME HILL NEWS

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Bluey's Thrift Shop celebrates 50 years

THE volunteers at Bluey's Thrift Shop in the Home Hill Central Business District took a break from serving their many customers in the Burdekin District on Wednesday, July 24 as they all joined together to celebrate the Thrift Shop's Fiftieth Birthday. Selling of clothes was set aside during the morning as the shop workers enjoyed a special Cake and Punch with their customers, as the President of the Thrift Shop Committee, Margaret Thorne said they wanted to thank their customers for supporting them. She said the Thrift Shop managed to donate back at least \$12,000 per year, with \$6000 each of that amount going to the Burdekin Community Association for Domestic Violence victims and to the School Chaplains in

the Burdekin. Mrs Thorne was also delighted to tell her audience that Bluey's had recorded record receipts for the months of May and June this year, with \$2100 being received in May and \$2700 in June. She said the Thrift Shop was started in 1974 in Ayr by the Methodist Church Auxiliary to raise funds for the Blue Nursing Service. And at the present time, they are assisting the many Pacific Island workers currently in Home Hill, by providing each of them with a bag of clothing at half price (\$5). The Thrift Shop also thanked their many volunteers over the 50 years with a Luncheon held at the Home Hill Uniting Church Hall on Saturday, July 27.



President of the Thrift Shop Committee, Margaret Thorne (left) and one of the younger volunteers who helps out at the Thrift Shop, Lily Julyan had the honour of cutting the celebration cake



ABOVE—Enjoying the Volunteer's Luncheon were (from left, back) Kerry Lowing and Joan Gist and (Front) Debra Cochran, Denise Celledoni and Dell Martin

ABOVE—Volunteers attending the Luncheon included (from left, back) Merle Edwards, Naree Talbot and Bernadette Brown and (front) Margot Sutcliffe, Marion Giddy and Ivy Marano

(LEFT) - Joining in the volunteers luncheon were (from left, back) John Ford (Treasurer) and Jan Hughes and (front) Colleen, Judy Sutton and Annie Berkery

Burdekin Race Club preparing for August TAB meeting

AFTER a rare month off from racing on the Home Hill track, racing returns to the Burdekin Race Club on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 with a TAB meeting featuring seven races from distances of 1000 metres right up to 1830 metres. This will be the only TAB meeting in Home Hill this year, in between the club's normal

allocated race dates, starting with the Justin Scott Memorial Day on Saturday, November 2, which is held in conjunction with the popular Ladies Day and Derby Day racing under the expansive Fig Trees at the track. Other planned meetings in Home Hill include Saturday, February 15, 2025; Saturday April 5, 2025; and the big one for the year, the Burde-

kin Growers Race Day, to be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Club President, Ricky Gudge reported to their recent meeting on the success of the June meeting with the track in excellent condition and good fields in the five events. He also advised of the increase in stabling at the track, with the club purchasing five new portable stables.

Car raffle to raise funds for a Molongle swimming pool

WITH large numbers of Burdekin residents being regulars at Molongle Creek, there is no doubt that the planned swimming pool will be a popular addition to the facilities in the area. However, support is needed for the fundraising program for the pool at Molongle, which has been active for almost two years up to now. The first major fundraising raffle was a tinny, which was offered last year and was won by a local.

This year, the Molongle Creek Boat Club is raffling a small car, with tickets priced at \$50 each - and only 700 tickets available for sale.

There are still approximately 300 tickets to be sold and they are available for purchase through the Molongle Creek office and also at some local businesses around Home Hill and Ayr.

The original draw date for the car was to be in June, 2024, however that has been extended till tickets have sold - but it will definitely be drawn this year.

The Club is also fundraising throughout the year with their 10 cent recycling, which has accumulated to over \$13k since it began in August, 2021.

Meat tray raffles are held every Sunday at the new Licensed Café, which operates Thursday and Fridays from 5pm for wood-fired pizzas, every Saturday from 11am to 8pm and every Sunday from 10am to 8pm.

It has become a real local attraction in the area, bringing people together for a fun, relaxed day with great food options available.

The Molongle Creek Boat Club have also put in a bowling green and a 'putt putt' course - something is being provided for the whole family, no matter the age.



Drew and Amanda will tend to your every need at the new Licensed Café at Molongle Creek, which has become a real local attraction for the residents of the area



Full time Australian Christian Children's Music Artist and travelling Entertainer, Dan Warlow with some of his youthful supporters

Free Gospel Music program

A FREE Gospel Music Festival Concert is to be hosted by the Burdekin Uniting Church in the forecourt of the Burdekin Theatre from 4.30pm on Sunday, August 11, 2024.

Produced with the assistance of the Regional Arts Development Fund, the concert will feature family entertainment, with music and puppets along with fellowship, prayer and counselling as well as local entertainers including the Burdekin Brass Band.

The Concert will also feature Special Guest Artist, Dan Warlow, a full-time Australian Christian Children's Music Artist and travelling entertainer. The Uniting Church has invited local residents to "Come, Let us sing to the Lord! Let us give a joyous shout to the rock of our salvation" (Psalm 95:1) Cold drinks will be on sale during the event, along with Burgers and a Sausage Sizzle and Coffee and Donuts to satisfy the hunger pains.

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Centenary of first service at St Helen's

A MAJOR milestone has been reached by St Helen's Anglican Church in Home Hill as they celebrate the centenary of the first service to be conducted by the pioneers of the church community on August 18, 1924.

The Church is inviting parishioners to attend the St Helen's Centenary Holy Communion Service to be held on Sunday, August 18, 2024 followed by a Sausage Sizzle and Lunch in the covered area adjacent to the Church. The establishment of the St Helen's Anglican Church came after the Inkerman lands were made available for subdivision in December, 1911 and a week later, the town of Ayr was

crowded with men who hoped for success in a ballot for what would be farms of the Home Hill district. The successful applicants formed the basic population of early Home Hill and those stout-hearted people had to cope with the many difficulties facing their new lives.

At first there was no Anglican Church and Sunday School for Church of England children was taught in the homes of Mrs E.W. Ford and Mrs H.J. Ramsden (Senior) and the Rector



The original St Helen's Anglican Church with the Church Hall before the construction of the current church on the same site

from All Saints Church in Ayr, Rev. W.B. Hughes rode a horse over, conditions permitting and took services in various places. However, he found it difficult and eventually reported that it was advisable to leave Home Hill out of stipend collecting until they were on a better footing.

In that same year, an old railway house (a small weatherboard building) was bought and re-erected on the site of the present St Helen's

Hall and the opening service was held on December 7, 1913.

The pioneers then went on to have the second St Helen's Church built the following year by Edward Woodward for \$884.

From those early beginnings, the St Helen's Anglican Church community will now be celebrating their first service from August 18, **1924** – 100 years ago – in what will be a special day for the parishioners on Sunday, August 18, **2024**.

New cemetery management system for enhanced community services

A NEW cemetery management program, titled OpusXenta, which will "significantly improve the way the council manages cemetery records" and which will "enhance the services that are provided to the community" has been launched by the Burdekin Shire Council.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the introduction of OpusXenta would streamline Council's cemetery administration, offering numerous benefits to both staff and community members.

"This upgrade facilitates long-term planning and extends the life of our ceme-



The new management system will allow users to view detailed cemetery layouts and locate graves directly from their smart phones using interactive maps of the Home Hill (pictured) and Ayr Cemeteries

tery facilities," Cr Dalle Cort said.

"Council's website now features an enhanced search function that directs users to specific grave locations, making it easier to find precise burial sites.

"Additionally, the interactive

maps will allow users to view detailed cemetery layouts and locate graves directly from their smart phones.

"The new system has also facilitated the renumbering of graves, improving planning and supporting future

expansion of the cemeteries."

More information about the transition to OpusXenta is available by phoning the Council's Customer Service Centre on 4783 9800 or by visiting the council website, burdekin.qld.gov.au.

Double opportunity for cash bonus from home cleanout



THE Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc is offering Burdekin residents double the opportunities to clean out the cupboards and earn some extra cash, with two market days to be held during August in or near their premises at 170 Arts on the Avenue in Home Hill.

The Association will once again be holding their Car Boot Sale in front of Ashworth's Rock Shop in Home Hill, although the August date has been put back one week

to Saturday, August 17 because of a clash with a similar event being held on the same day. The Car Boot Sale is held monthly at Ashworths with local residents offering a variety of different products from the back of utilities or from the car boots on the normal second Saturday of each month.

The September date will revert back to the second Saturday in the month.

On top of that selling opportunity,

the Burdekin Artisans will be starting the month of August with a "Craft and Fabric Destash Markets" to be held in the under cover area at the side of the Artisans building at 170 Arts on the Avenue (Adjacent to Ashworth's Rock Shop).

The markets will be held from 9.30am to 1pm on August 3, with site fees of \$10 to be charged. Bookings for the Car Boot Sale and for the Destash are essential to Desley on 0497 356 355.

Kindness note to combat bullying

A 'Community Notes of Kindness' campaign, organised by the Burdekin Shire Youth Council is taking place throughout the month of August in celebration of 'Bullying No Way' Week.

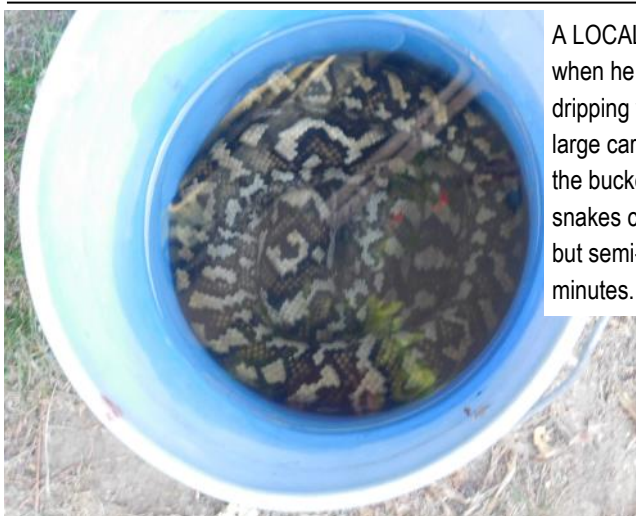
The initiative aims to spread positivity and kindness within our community, while encouraging everyone to participate in simple acts of goodwill.

During the Week, from August 12 to 16, the Burdekin Shire Youth Council is inviting all community members to participate in the positive campaign, using simple steps to participate -

Collect a 'note of kindness' from various locations around the Burdekin, including Ayr and Home Hill Libraries, cafes, schools and businesses - Look for the signs as they'll guide you to where the cards are located.

Take a moment to write a kind message for a friend, loved one, teacher, co-worker, or even a strange - You can choose to keep your note anonymous or include your name.

Leave the note of kindness to brighten someone's day.



A LOCAL home gardener received a surprise when he went to pick up a bucket collecting dripping water under a tap when he found a large carpet python completely submerged in the bucket (pictured). Google suggests sea snakes can stay under water for five to six hours but semi-aquatic snakes can stay for 10 to 15 minutes. This one disappeared after 20 minutes.

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Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

**He heals the
broken-hearted
and binds up their
wounds**

*Psalm 147,
Verse 3*



Direct from Dale

Dale **LAST** MP
MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN



Parliament Update

WITH the 2024/2025 State Budget handed down, we now move into the Estimates process, which is due to begin in the coming weeks.

This is a critical part of the parliamentary process where we, as Shadow Ministers, have the opportunity to question the state government over its expenditure and how those services will be impacted.

As the Shadow Minister for Mines and Natural Resources, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and Shadow Minister for Corrective Services, it is incredibly important to me that our frontline services have the resources they need to do their jobs and that everything in the government's power is done to ensure our miners are able to return home safely from work.

Tragedy on the Bruce

NORTH Queensland communities were rocked in recent weeks by the devastating tragedy involving a bus, that occurred on our main highway. As the Member for Burdekin, my thoughts have and continue to remain with those involved in the incident, their families and emergency services who were involved. It is also important to recognise those motorists and first responders who were confronted with horrific scenes and provided first aid to a number of victims. If you or someone you know has been impacted by the

tragedy, please know there is help available should you need it. While it is early days and investigations continue into the cause of the crash, the incident brought to the fore the need for serious investment in the Bruce Highway. If we look at the federal Labor government budget, the money allocated to the Bruce Highway would be barely enough to fix the pot holes, while the state Labor budget failed to commit any funding towards the Bruce Highway in North Queensland.

The Opposition Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Steve Minnikin MLA, has just completed a trip starting in Cairns and finishing in Brisbane to highlight the poor state of the Bruce Highway. This has also given him the opportunity to meet with relevant stakeholders along the way, which has been very well received and appreciated.

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*

YOUNG people across the Townsville region have been invited to register for the **2024 First Nations Youth Jobs Expo**.

The **free event** connects First Nations youth with local businesses offering job opportunities, provides information about training options and helps them get ready for work. The expo will feature over 25 exhibitors, including the National Aviation Academy, ADF Careers, McDonald's and The Ville.

Exhibitors and partners on the day will span various industries, including education, childcare, retail, community care, security, employment services, youth services, healthcare, energy, skills training and manufacturing.

The Expo will take place on Thursday, August 8, 2024 from 1pm to 4.30pm at the PCYC Townsville, 126 Wellington Street, Aitkenvale.

Burdekin Region Mills Weekly Production Figures For Week ending July 27, 2024

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	145,341	656,301
Pioneer	59,009	285,825
Kalamia	74,018	395,124
Inkerman	86,629	469,835
Burdekin	364,997	1,807,084

CCS

Invicta	14.33	13.86
Pioneer	14.35	13.87
Kalamia	14.12	13.64
Inkerman	14.07	13.58
Burdekin	14.23	13.74

Comments —

Week 06 — ending July 20, 2024

The Burdekin mills processed just over 300,000 tonnes of cane for the week, bringing the season-to-date total to more than 1.4M tonnes.

This represents just over 17 per cent of the estimated crop. Production was impacted this week by a number of unplanned stops, as well as notified industrial action. The opportunity was taken during the stoppages to carry out necessary maintenance work.

The average weekly CCS was 13.92, which was above budget.

The highest CCS sample of 17.2 was from a rake of KQ228-1R in the Colevale (Pioneer) productivity district.

The number of reported near misses in the Burdekin rail network has been low so far this year. Drivers should not attempt to race the train.

Week 07 — ending July 27, 2024

The Burdekin mills processed just under 365,000 tonnes of cane for the week, which was just below budget. It was, however, the best weekly throughput for the season to date, bringing the total tonnes crushed to more than 1.8M tonnes. This represents just over 21 per cent of the Burdekin region's forecast crop. Production was impacted this week by a number of unplanned stops as well as industrial action. The opportunity was taken during the stoppages to carry out necessary maintenance work. The average weekly CCS was 14.02, which was above budget. The highest CCS sample of 17.1 was from a rake of Q240-PL in the Sextons (Pioneer) productivity district. As always, please remember to take care as you approach cane rail crossings. Our cane trains operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the season.

John Tait,

Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region



Uli Liessmann comments . .

TIMES are changing for the better in the Home Hill Chamber, as we now have four cane farmers who have joined the chamber—and we thank you for it.

All cane farmers are members of this community and should have an opinion and voice their concerns relating to Home Hill and surrounding district on whatever subject. If you don't speak up, no one will hear or care. Now it's up to you and the rest of the Chamber to be heard.

ON THE subject of all good things, how about the Burdekin Brass Band, which is holding a concert at the Burdekin Theatre on August 4. Come along and enjoy a great Sunday afternoon.

NOW have you ever thought about how fortunate this shire is in having a Brass Band, the envy of many a bigger towns? Imagine a parade, the Harvest Festival, Water Festival or having the ANZAC parade and the street march without a band, so I'm asking you to support the Burdekin Brass Band.

IN LATE August/early September, the Burdekin Art Society is holding its annual Art Exhibition for a week. Be sure to go and have a look at some great local talent and should you have some spare time, I'm sure the ladies could use your help.

NOW, after having written so many good comments (see above), I now have a few gripes. For many years, I have been advocating through local government for a small exhibition space, come museum/gallery. Why is it so hard to move down this track and money is not the main problem, as the last council was not destitute? Many small towns, such as Roma and Ravenswood to name a couple and many other little towns throughout Queensland have a small museum to preserve their local history. Obviously our own history is of little value. I will keep trying to convince our now new council to think about this project and to honour our great district.

SOME idiot or idiots who have either too much time on their hands or just too much money knocked down/ran over or whatever a lot of road signs along both sides of Groper Creek Road from the Mount Alma Road turn-off all the way to Groper Creek. Yes real smart and no brains—Hope you damaged your vehicle, which will cost you a S#@& loads of money to repair. (pictured)



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



RE THE last Council's unfinished project—question, what is the plan with this slab of concrete (pictured) at the Comfort Stop? and if there is a plan, when might it be finished? We should also be grateful that we live in a town with so few needs—Please read between the lines.



MY first joke—

MARIO was driving home drunk as a skunk from the local pub in Home Hill. Suddenly, he has to swerve to avoid a tree, then another and another. The local copper, Bill (nick name withheld for safety reasons) in his super charged cop car gives chase and pulls Mario over as he veers off the Groper Creek Road. Mario tells the copper about all the bloody trees in the middle of the road that he had to miss. Bill the copper says, "For God's sake Mario, you dip stick (that's Marios nick name as he is into cars in a big way), that's your air freshener swinging about, you bloody galoot!"

OKAY, one more family joke—

AN extremely attractive blonde from Home Hill (name withheld for security reasons, do not know why) arrived at the Casino in Townsville. She seemed a little intoxicated and placed a thousand bucks on a single roll of the dice., saying "hope you fellows don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm naked".

With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and yelled, "Come on, baby, I need new clothes!" As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed: "Yes! Yes! I Won, I Won!" She hugged each of the dealers and then picked up her winnings (and her clothes off course, as this is a family joke) and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?"

The other answered, "don't know, I thought you were watching the dice."

MORAL OF THE STORY—

Not all blondes are dumb . . .

But all men . . . are men, okay, we have some faults.

These are my opinions and views.

To contact me, phone (mobile) 0439 822 064—

www.uliliessmann.com.au

- ULI LIESSMANN

Tenders open for Ayr Industrial Estate expansion

TENDERS are now open for lots in the Ayr Industrial Estate expansion project.

Burdekin Shire Mayor, Pierina Dalle Cort said the expansion would provide additional industrial land and infrastructure to bolster the growth and diversification of the local economy.

“Council has opened tenders for this major expansion project with stage one offering 19 lots,” Cr Dalle Cort said. “The launch of tenders for the Ayr Industrial Estate expansion is an exciting step forward.

“This expansion represents prime real estate strategically positioned to foster industrial growth,” she said. “It aims to attract a diverse

range of new industries to the area, enhance economic growth and also encourage innovation and development within the community.

“Not only will the new development provide existing businesses with the opportunity to expand, but it will also ensure the availability of future jobs for our young people”

She urged prospective developers not to miss out on this exciting opportunity to secure their business's future in this wonderful part of North Queensland. Interested businesses should visit burdekin.qld.gov.au or contact Council's Economic Development Team on 4783 9800 or via email to eliza.lovell@burdekin.qld.gov.au.

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).

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.