

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community



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Young author takes Winston on a world tour



A FORMER Home Hill High School student, now working as a dedicated speech pathologist at the Townsville University Hospital, has published her first Children's Book as part of being an avid advocate for language development and life-long learning. Renee Hudson attended St Colman's Primary School in Home Hill for her primary education, before moving onto the High School and then James Cook University, from where she graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Speech Pathology. She started work at the Townsville Hospital in 2015 and has been employed there ever since, as she focuses on language acquisition and development, while fostering curiosity and learning in young minds. Inspired by her own experiences and fuelled by her love for her pet dachshund, Winston, Renee's first venture

into writing comes with a book entitled 'Where in the World is Winston'. Her debut book, which she crafted with the intention of delighting both parents and children alike, centres around the charming adventures of Winston.

Through the tales, Renee not only entertains but also educates young readers about various geographical areas across the globe.

Renee first developed her ideas for writing while working at the hospital during North Queensland's most recent cyclone and has used available technology online to complete the finished product including artist's drawings.

With each page turned, readers of all ages are invited into a world where imagination thrives and learning is an adventure.

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Harvest Festival starts with seven Queens and the Ephemera

PLANNING for the 2024 Home Hill Harvest Festival is well under way, with the Festival Committee under the continuing leadership of Mark Vass preparing for another successful event, highlighted by a full program of events commencing with the launch of the 2024 Festival Ephemera displays in Lloyd Mann Gardens from 3pm on Thursday, September 29. The Festival has received an exciting boost this year with seven queen entrants being nominated, representing several Home Hill Service Clubs, including Rotary and Lions as well as the Burdekin Netball Association.



Harvest Festival Queen entrants for 2024 are (from left) Marnie Skippers (Home Hill Kindy), Danelle Laubscher (Lions Club), Sophie Brosnan (Get Fit Home Hill), Harmony Fletcher (Rotary Club), Martina Bojack (Home Hill Bowling Club), Madison Mainwaring-Samwell (Burdekin Netball Club) and Tegan Johnson (Rugby League)

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AUGUST has been a month that has included “Road Safety Week” but after seeing the way that some people drive and the chances they take through impatience, it is hard to believe that too many people have taken any notice of the importance of such an occasion. According to the promotion of the “week”, it is supposed to be a time when “all Queenslanders need to work together to make our roads safer”—an education platform where “you can learn more about road safety and help make a difference” and “a time for everyone, because the truth is, no matter how good we think we are at using the roads, we can always get better at it”. Unfortunately, that is not the case, judging by some of the things that have happened just in our little corner of the world. We have had an incident on the Burdekin Bridge where a car has left the road and become wedged between the safety barrier along the edge of the highway and the overhead electric signage with serious consequences—and that is not including the large number of motorists held up from when it happened around 6am to about when it was cleared after noon that day. Drivers in Home Hill would also have noticed the business building at the southern end of the Central Business District that now has safety barriers around the front of it because a driver allegedly hit four of the support posts and caused the partial collapse of the awning at the frontage. There is obviously some cost involved in cleaning up after such an incident, which anyone who has been involved in a road accident of any type would be well aware of. Anyone driving back from Townsville last Thursday night after the Cowboys game would have noticed how difficult it was with waves of fog covering the highway—but

The finer points of Home Hill . .

WHILE it is not unusual for transport vehicles and buildings in the cities to be targeted by graffiti vandals, it is disappointing to see buildings in the Home Hill community covered with the unwanted artwork, which detracts from the look that our town would prefer to present. The photo (TOP RIGHT) was taken recently inside one of the war-time igloos at Charlie’s Hill, south of Home Hill, where people have obviously been camping while also occupying their time with spray cans of paint. We have also mentioned in the past the unwanted welcome the boarded up former service station (BELOW) offers to travellers from the south with the building now carrying extravagant paintwork that would normally be seen on Brisbane trains. However, we were left wondering if the service station building and its artwork may be a thing of the past because of an advertisement in the Townsville Daily paper, which referred to a “Material Change of Use (Service Station) at 7—8 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill”. We contacted the Council to confirm our thoughts but



because the relevant council officer was not available, it could not be officially confirmed. We can only hope there are positive future plans for the building, which would further add to the many changes that are happening to the southern end of our town. We doubt if ratepayers would like to see their rates having to be used to clean up the graffiti. Recent media reports suggested that the removal of the unwanted graffiti from Brisbane trains is costing the state tens of thousands of dollars annually. As for the igloos, they are advertised as one of the Shire’s tourist attractions, but they would provide a better view for visitors to the district if it was without the graffiti eyesore.



drivers still took their chances by passing several cars at a time when they had little hope of knowing what was ahead of them. These drivers obviously have the attitude an accident won’t happen to them - it can and it does.

THE highway hold-up caused by the incident this month on the Burdekin Bridge and another one a couple of months ago where a semi-trailer prime mover was burnt out at the northern end of the bridge has highlighted just how important our “Silver Link” is strategically for the people of the north and once again stresses the need for another crossing to be built over the river. Talking to the people involved in the lengthy hold-up, there were overseas travellers, who must have won-

dered just how good our road systems are when traffic can be held up for so long after such an incident. Then there was the Signing Choir from Mackay, who must have been worried about getting to their appointment at a Cowboys game in Townsville on time (They did and they put on an excellent performance) while we also heard that there was a young football team that did not make their game—all because of an incident where Police had to give their investigations a priority. There is a definite need for State and Federal Governments to give serious consideration to the needs of the Bruce Highway without preference to the state’s south-east corner and a forthcoming Olympic Games, which will only benefit that same small area.

—DAVID JACKSON

Busy program for Harvest Festival

Continued from Page 1—

Those three organisations have been regular Festival supporters for many decades and they are being joined by the Home Hill Kindy, Get Fit Home Hill, the Burdekin Rugby League and the Home Hill Bowling Club.

The seven Queen entrants are - Marnie Skippers (Home Hill Kindy), Sophie Brosnan (Get Fit Home Hill), Harmony Fletcher (Home Hill Rotary Club), Tegan Johnson (Rugby League), Danelle Laubscher (Home Hill/Ayr Lions Club), Madison Mainwaring-Samwell (Burdekin Netball Association) and Martina Bojack (Home Hill Bowling Club).

Working to a Theme for this year's Harvest Festival of "Our Town", the Festival has a busy program that starts on September 28 and continues through to Saturday, November 9.

That program includes – September 29, 3pm: Ephemera and Launch;

October 4, 6pm: Students Ball;

October 20, 1pm: Town of Origin

sporting events;

October 26, 6am: King and Queen of the Hill;

November 2, 11.30am: Derby Day at the Home Hill Race Track;

November 3, 10am: Golf Ambrose;

November 6, 6pm: Pet Show and Bolt for Bucks;

November 8, 6.30pm: Harvest Festival Ball;

November 9, 5pm: Parade and Street Party.

While the Festival preparations are falling into place nicely, the Festival Committee is still open to welcoming more sponsors for festival events.

Anyone who wants to get involved is welcome to contact the festival at <https://hhharvestfestival.com.au/> sponsorship/ where sponsorships can be found.

Home Hill businesses are always welcome to put a float in the Grand Parade as well, by filling out an application form at <https://hhharvestfestival.com.au/float-application/>



Young author, Renee Hudson with her pet dachshund, Winston, who is the centre piece of the new book.

Renee and Winston on World Book tour

Continued from page 1—

Winston's first adventures centre on Australia,. However, Renee has also completed a second book, which takes the adventurous young dachshund further afield to places around the globe.

The book is available to local residents to purchase at Home Hill News & Coffee, although there could be moves in the future for an official launch of Renee's first adventure into being the author of a book.



RIGHT—An entry hangs in Lloyd Mann Gardens during the Harvest Festival in a previous Canefields Ephemera

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:

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Justin Scott Memorial Day

Ladies Day under the Fig Trees



A large program of local races during each race day plus southern races—and with local bookmakers and an excellent range of food options available

Mayors urge mills to break impasse

MAYORS from the Burdekin, Hinchinbrook and Whitsunday Regional Councils have united with one voice to plead with Wilmar and employee representatives to break the current industrial impasse for the good of the region and strike an agreement that would allow local mills to return to full production.

The Sugar Cane industry remains a significant economic cornerstone for the region, while the current industrial dispute threatens the prosperity of local communities.

Burdekin Mayor, Pierina Dalle Cort said the dispute was no longer just an issue between Wilmar and the Union – “it is now impacting our entire community”.

“The prolonged uncertainty is impacting not only the 2024 crushing season and our community but poses significant risks to the 2025 crushing season and our region's economic future,” Cr Dalle Cort said.

“There are serious concerns about the dispute's broader impact on the local economy and the well-being of not only the Burdekin Shire, but other cane farming regions.

“The communities depend on a quick

resolution that serves the common good.”

Hinchinbrook Mayor, Ramon Jayo said It was obvious the parties were firmly entrenched in their position and it was unlikely that they were going to reach an agreement.

“As the matter is heading to arbitration, I firmly believe that all industrial action should cease until a decision has been made by the commission,” Cr Jayo said.

“The ones being hurt by their actions are the third parties, which include the communities.”

Whitsunday Mayor, Ry Collins said as Mayor of the Whitsunday Region, he urged both parties to work towards a resolution in the ongoing industrial impasse.

“This standoff is not only affecting the workers and their families, but also has broader implications for our local economy, which relies heavily on the sugar industry,” he said.

“It is essential that both parties come to the table with a commitment to finding a fair and sustainable agreement that ensures the long-term viability of our sugar mills and the



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

livelihoods they support.”

MEDIA RELEASE

THE most recent media statement from Wilmar with regard to the impasse indicated that “Wilmar Sugar and Renewables and representatives of three unions met recently at the company's request to discuss current positions in relation to their enterprise bargaining dispute.

“Wilmar suggested that meeting following discussions two weeks prior in Townsville, facilitated by Fair Work Commissioner Bernie Riordan.

“Subsequent to those discussions, Commissioner Riordan recommended some potential solutions to

a range of issues in dispute.”

A Wilmar spokesman said that meeting established that each side saw merit in exploring at least some of the Commissioner's suggestions and a number of options were raised.

“We reinforced again our commitment to finding a mutually acceptable solution by suggesting new options for an agreement based in large part on a suggested solution from Commissioner Riordan,” he said.

“We see these as a possible opportunity for headway.

“We have left it with unions to come back to us on the options put forward,” the spokesman said.

Shire pools open from September 1

RESIDENTS of the Burdekin Shire can now benefit from the re-opening of the local swimming pools for the summer season, which took place on Sunday, September 1.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort has advised of updated hours of operation with the re-opening of the popular facilities.

“The reopening of our local pools is always a highlight as the weather

starts to warm up,” Cr Dalle Cort said.

“In addition to the re-opening of the facilities, the Home Hill Pool's amenities have recently undergone significant upgrades.”

Opening times for the Home Hill Pool (pictured) are –

Monday to Friday: 5.30am to 10am;
1pm to 6pm.

Saturday: 8am to 5pm.

Sunday: 10am to 5pm.



Public Holidays: 9am to 5pm.

Pools are closed on Good Friday and on Christmas Day.

Residents are able to check the updated schedules for each pool by going to www.burdekin.qld.gov.au.



Home Hill Police Beat



—With **Sergeant Sam Pyke**, new OIC of the Home Hill Police Station, as he takes a light-hearted look at his staff



**Senior Constable
JASON ROBERTSON**

Better known as 'Robbo' around town, Jason would be a familiar face in Home Hill, having served at the Home Hill Police Station for the last 10 years. Robbo is a part of the furniture in the Burdekin, having also served at Ayr Police Station from 2005 to 2011. Robbo then made the move to the good side of the bridge after a three-year stint in Alpha. Robbo is one of the most experienced officers

in the Burdekin and as they say, he has seen it all - quite literally, at over six feet tall.

**Senior Constable
DEAN WELLINGTON**

Locally known as 'Wello', Dean is a born and bred Burdekin local. Don't hold that against him. Being vertically challenged didn't get in the way of Wello joining the service in 2014. He served at Ayr Police Station before moving over to Home Hill in 2019. After a short hiatus in the public sector, Wello rejoined the service and was stationed at Jimboomba Police Station in South-East Queensland. Having quickly learnt where his bread was buttered, Deano returned to Home Hill in 2022. Look out if you're a drink or drug driver in Home Hill, Dean 'Shark eye' Wellington will catch up with you.



**Senior Constable
Joel LITTLE**

Joel has served around the state at various police stations including Ipswich, Cunnamulla, Townsville, Hughenden and most recently, as the officer-in-charge of Clare Police Station. Joel made the move to Home Hill in 2022 and has made himself at home as a local. Some may have heard of his sporting prowess in tennis and cricket. He is often heard around the station talking about superior sporting abilities and the lack of any locals who match his standard.



**Administration Officer
JOSIE COLLINSON**

If you've ever had to get your driver's or weapon's licence renewed in the last 25 years, you would have met Josie. She is the matriarch of the station and is Home Hill's longest serving member. Josie is often heard speaking fluent Sicilian and we still aren't sure if she's angry or just having a normal conversation. Something we all know at the station is that Josie is always on the money. She is extremely knowledgeable in all things weapons licencing and Queensland Transport related. So, if she tells you that you need something for an application or renewal, she will be right. Listen the first time, because you don't want her chasing things and cursing in Sicilian.



HOME HILL NEWS

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All advertising funds paid to the Chamber are for the benefit of the Home Hill Community

Join the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce TODAY to save on advertising costs

St Helen's Centenary celebrations of first service



St Helen's Anglican Church Warden, Pam Ashworth with the plaque that was unveiled to recognise the centenary celebrations



Long-time St. Helen's Anglican Church parishioner, Alf Shand (right) had the honour of cutting the Centenary Cake, watched by Church Warden, Pam Ashworth and the Bishop of North Queensland, Rev Keith Joseph



Pacific Islands workers from the Solomon Islands, currently resident in Home Hill, performed Melanesian dancing at the St Helen's Centenary celebrations

LOCAL and visiting former Parishioners of St. Helen's Anglican Church filled the church recently to celebrate the centenary of the first service to be conducted by the pioneers of the Church community on August 18, 1924.

The celebrations were held 100 years to the day with the Anglican Bishop of North Queensland, Bishop Keith Joseph officiating at the Holy Communion Service ahead of a sausage sizzle and lunch in the covered area between the church and the church hall.

The establishment of St Helen's Anglican Church followed the opening up of the Inkerman lands for subdivision in December, 1911 with prospective land owners crowding Ayr with hopes of success in the ballot for what would be the farms of the Home Hill district.

With no Anglican Church at first, Sunday School for Church of England children was taught in the home of Mrs E.W. Ford and Mrs H. J. Ramsden (senior) and the Rector from All Saints Church in Ayr, the Reverend W. B. Hughes who rode a horse over, conditions permitting and conducted services in various places.

After it became too difficult for the services to continue, an old railway house – a small weatherboard building - was bought and re-erected on the site of the present St Helen's Church 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.

It was from those early beginnings that the St Helen's Anglican Church community combined on Sunday, August 18, 2024 to celebrate that special day – the first service in the church building on August 18, 1924. Those celebrations included the communion service and following official recognition of the centenary with a plaque being unveiled on the wall of the church building as a lasting reminder of the celebrations. Lunch followed at which visiting Pacific Island workers performed Melanesian dancers, which were enjoyed by those who attended.



Alf Shand (left) with former Home Hill residents, Jim and Jeanette Hanson (now of Ipswich)



Bishop Keith Joseph with St Helen's Church Warden, Pam Ashworth after the unveiling of the Centenary Plaque

Chamber moves forward positively for the town

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has continued to work towards improving the town's Central Business District and the town as a whole as the organisation hosted its Annual General Meeting at the Home Hill Community Sports Club in August.

With strong support from members attending the meeting, President David Jackson reported that while the Chamber continued to move forward positively towards its goals of improving the town's Central Business District (CBD), they still had a lot of work to do to improve the outlook of the CBD through urging all levels of government to allocate funding to Home Hill in the same way that it seems so easy to do for much larger towns and cities.

Presenting his annual report, Mr Jackson said that amongst the most urgent works on their lists were improving the gradient levels of the highway through town and the associated drainage to improve the parking for motorists (state and federal governments); encouraging absentee landlords to co-operate in upgrading or replacing old buildings (council); improving the footpaths over the length of Eighth Avenue with cleaning and upgrading (council and the business operators themselves); continuing efforts to have a cash for cans outlet on the spot in Home Hill instead of having to go to Ayr (promised for ALL towns by the current State Government prior to the last state election and no local hotel outlets being available any more); Improving the TAFE facilities in the town and the services they provide (state and federal); and even something so simple as having directional signs in Lloyd Mann Gardens pointing to where local toilets are in the town, which were rejected by the new council because "it would be in direct conflict to the aesthetics of the space".

The Chamber President said the southern end of the town's CBD was developing a much-improved look in recent times, with the changeover of the former BP Service Station to the United Brand, which enhanced that side of the street and the development of a new Service Station only a block away on the other side of the street.

"With both the Prawn Stop and the Home Hill Car Wash also adding to the outlook of that end of Eighth Avenue and attracting increasing local and tourist numbers, it is an overall improvement for the town," Mr Jackson commented.

He said *The Home Hill News* continued to be well read throughout the community and increasingly in outside areas of the Shire, the state and the nation, while Chamber officers, Uli Liessmann, Robert Antoniazzi and John Clark had also taken on a new role of organising the Ephemera as part of the 2024 Home Hill Harvest Festival – "that includes obtaining grants from wherever they have been able to, to cover the cost of promotion and prize money".

The Ephemera display will take place in Lloyd Mann Gardens in September and will be an excellent lead-in to the 2024 Harvest Festival.

The Chamber President said that with a state government election coming up in the near future, the Chamber looked forward to increasing success in developing this part of our nation, including such major projects as the Bowen-Burdekin Water Pipeline and development of a second bridge crossing of the Burdekin River to remove the bottle-necks that are increasing in size, especially when incidents occur on the Burdekin Bridge that cause lengthy hold-ups to traffic, as has occurred on a couple of occasions recently.

Mr Jackson concluded by thanking his executive members, Uli Liessmann, Robert Antoniazzi, John Clark and Meghan Wilson for the time and effort they put to the Chamber in the interest of the Home Hill community.



The re-elected members of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce executive are (from left) Robert Antoniazzi (Secretary), David Jackson (President), John Clark (Treasurer) and Uli Liessmann (Vice President). Absent was Executive member, Meghan Wilson.

Electric vehicles under scrutiny

THE sale and use of electric vehicles in regional areas of Australia came under scrutiny from those at the annual meeting as guest speaker, Darren West, Principal of Don West Toyota raised a series of interesting points.

Mr West drew many questions from the facts and figures he provided including—

In the year to date to July 24, there were 56,972 electric vehicles sold in Australia, an increase of 6936 over the same period last year (3.8 vehicles per 1000 across Australia; EV's are heavily skewed to metropolitan areas; Outside the metro areas, only

0.04 per cent of vehicles are electric;

The biggest problem with Electric Vehicles is the lack of infrastructure in regional areas; Current Electric Vehicles have limited distance (450km average across all brands). That will increase with technology in the next few years to 800-900kms. Charging times vary.



Guest speaker at the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting was the Chairman of the Board of the Bendigo Community Bank, Darren West (left) with Clare farmer, Peter Hall.

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TAB racing draws strong fields to Home Hill

TAB racing returned to the Home Hill track in full force on Tuesday, August 27 with strong support from owners and trainers from throughout the state increasing the number of races on the program from seven to nine, after two races had to be split into two because of the strong nominations received.

That resulted in the majority of the races having emergency runners that, in most cases, could not gain a run and it also resulted in visiting jockeys travelling to Home Hill from various parts of the state.

Those visitors included Brisbane-based jockey, Justin Stanley, who, over the past decade, has been described as a "journeyman", as he fulfills riding engagements on multiple occasions at northern provincial meetings.

Stanley started the Home Hill meeting in fine form, riding the winners in two of the first three races as well as a second placing in the fifth race.

Young apprentice, Nikki Olzard also made the most of her trip north, with wins in the sixth race on Restriction and the seventh race on Lily Alley, while she also recorded a third placing on Isshegry in the fourth race.

The excellent nominations also forced several of the Burdekin Club members to spend the Sunday before at a working bee constructing a large number of new stalls at the track to accommodate the number of horses that would be coming to the Home Hill track on race day. Being a working day, the crowd was small, as expected, but those who did attend enjoyed a great afternoon at the Home Hill track with racing starting before noon and continuing until the last race was run at 5.30pm.

This was the only TAB meeting allocated to the Burdekin Race Club for this year.

However, there is still another race meetings to come before the end of the year with the Justin Scott Memorial Day to be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 in conjunction with the annual Ladies Day/Derby Day Program under the huge Fig Trees



Justin Stanley guides Vadamos Queen to a win in the Derby Day 2nd November Class 3 Plate ahead of Mission House with Andalus in third place

that are prominent on the Home Hill course.

Results of the day's racing were - Race 1 - 10 Little Pinker, Justin Stanley; 4 Lake Varna, Scott Sheargold; 3 Gettin' Lippy, Frank Edwards;

Race 2 - 6 Out Of Sight, Nathan Thomas; 8 Forgetaboutit, Carl Spry; 3 Enuff Stop It, Chelsea Jokic;

Race 3 - 7 Vadamos Queen (NZ), Justin Stanley; 2 Mission House, Jackson Murphy;

3 Andalus (NZ), Adrian Layt; Race 4 - 8 Bloomin' Ripper, Tyler Leslight; 2 Calm Is Power, Nathan Day; 9 Isshegry, Nikki Olzard;

Race 5 - 3 Para Park Chance, Graham Kliese; 1 Irresistible Force, Justin Stanley; 6 Vee Eight Power, Nathan Day; Race 6 - 1 Restrictions, Nikki Olzard; 10 Hand Grenade, Pietro Romeo; 5 Hartshorn, Nathan Thomas;

Race 7 - 1 Lily Allez (NZ), Nikki



Justin Stanley brings Little Pinker back to the enclosure after winning the first event, the Nutrien Ag Solutions QTIS Maiden Plate over 1000 metres

Olzard; 2 Red Boomshakalaka, Nathan Day; 3 Gossip Torque, Julie Busuttin; Race 8 - 5 Gulf Of Lion, Nathan Day; 8 Higher Love, Graham Kliese; 9 Under The Limit, Adrian Layt; Race 9 - 4 Baby Guinness, Chris Whiteley; 6 Set The Sails, Chelsea Jokic; 7 You Are King, Denicious Smith.



Some of the extra stalls installed by Burdekin Race Club members prior to the TAB meeting to accommodate all the extra nominated horses in Tuesday's program



A seasonal workers group that performed at the Burdekin Uniting Church Gospel Music Festival at the Burdekin Theatre

God's will that the show should go on

THE format of the Burdekin Uniting Church's planned Gospel Music Festival in the forecourt of the Burdekin Theatre on Sunday, August 11 had to be changed because of consistent rain, but with organisers of the opinion that "this was God's will and that the show should go on", the event was moved inside the Burdekin Theatre.

The rain became "Showers of Blessing" as the program moved forward with a new plan, which drew "lots of positive comments from attendees despite the difficulties", according to organisers. "We were all blessed by our guest artist, children's entertainer Dan Warlow's message in word and song, which was enjoyed by all present and was felt to be very appropriate for a wide age range," a church spokesperson said.

"The Burdekin Uniting Church could not do this without the support and assistance of the Burdekin Community Church, who lent many of the musical instruments and much of the sound equipment used on the night." The Burdekin Uniting Church also thanked all of the performers involved in the program for the many inspiring and exceptionally enjoyable items. The Church spokesperson said it was their hope that, "with the Holy Spirit's blessing, God was praised and hearts were touched, inspired and strengthened by the fellowship, music and messages that were shared".



Children's entertainer Dan Warlow

Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

The Lord is my strength and my song, He has become my salvation

Exodus 15, Verse 2



Council appoints new CEO

THE Burdekin Shire Council has selected a former Shire Chief Executive Officer to return to the position after a nationwide search for a person to lead the organisation into what the Council described as "its exciting future". Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort announced the appointment of Matthew Magin after an extensive recruitment process conducted over recent months.

"I am delighted to announce the appointment of Matthew (Magin) as our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)," Cr Dalle Cort said of the role commencing on September 16, 2024, on a four-year performance-based contract.

"Some of our community may recognise Matthew's name, as he was a successful former Burdekin CEO between 2014 and 2016 prior to taking up the CEO role at Balonne Shire Council, from where he has subsequently left to return to the Burdekin.

"Matthew looks forward to this incredible opportunity to work in this pivotal role again for our community and is looking forward to commencing as our CEO," the Mayor commented.

Mr Magin was interviewed by the

CEO Recruitment Panel and then the full Council recently, alongside a number of other shortlisted candidates.



Matthew Magin

The Panel included the Mayor, two councillors and an independent community member, who volunteered their time to assist the Panel.

The program was facilitated by an experienced Local Government independent consultant company who are based in Sydney and the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, but work across a number of Australian States in the local government sector.

Cr Dalle Cort said they attracted a very large field, but despite tough opposition from the other high-quality candidates, Mr Magin impressed the Council Panel with his mature approach, along with his obvious energy, knowledge and drive for the Burdekin community and role.

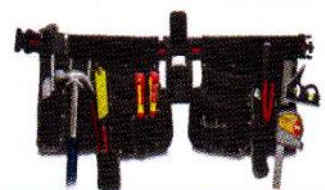
"Matthew has impressive multi-sector experience, having worked earlier in his career working as a consultant and also as a Senior Advisor to the Australian Government," Cr Dalle Cort said.

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Parliament Update

THERE are two Parliamentary Sitting weeks left before the State Election on October 26 and as a consequence, we can expect a packed agenda with many Bills still to be debated and finalised. In recent weeks, I have written to a number of Ministers on your behalf highlighting issues as diverse as teacher shortages, housing, health, power supply/interruptions and, of course, roads.

Given the slim pickings in this year's budget, I have taken up the fight on your behalf and I will be continuing to advocate for our fair share of Government funding right up to the time the Government goes into Caretaker mode at the end of September. Budget Estimates revealed this year that we have 200 less volunteers in orange across our state, while our marine rescue volunteers in VMR and Coast Guard are left to navigate through a scrambled process during the creation of Marine Rescue Queensland. At times of emergency or natural disaster, it's volunteers who answer the calls for help and it's becoming pretty clear that our volunteers can't rely on this state Labor government in the same capacity that we rely on our volunteers.

Industry collaboration key in sweeter future

AS negotiations around pay disputes and work stoppages continue through the crushing season, it has highlighted the need for all stakeholders in our sugar industry to be able to work collaboratively to ensure that the industry has a strong future.

We know that our community relies on this industry to be productive and efficient from the moment planting operations begin to the day that cane is crushed at the mill. If any aspect of that process is not meeting the expectations of other parties, then they should be held accountable.

Everyone has a responsibility to uphold, in order to secure the success of the sugar industry in the Burdekin and with the clock ticking, it is imperative a successful resolution to the current dispute is found sooner rather than later.

Your chance to have your say



I AM here to listen and I want to know about the issues affecting you. Scan the QR Code to fill in my survey and tell me about what is impacting you the most right now.

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

Burdekin Region Mills Weekly Production Figures For Week ending August 24, 2024

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	249	954,326
Pioneer	0	427,504
Kalamia	0	545,399
Inkerman	1,165	630,974
Burdekin	1,413	2,558,203
CCS		
Invicta	11.58	14.05
Pioneer		14.14
Kalamia		13.80
Inkerman	14.69	13.83
Burdekin	14.14	13.96

Comments —

Week 10 — ending August 17, 2024

The Burdekin mills processed just under 17,000 tonnes of cane for the week due to the impact of wet weather. Widespread showers and thunderstorms delivered between 70mm and 100mm across the district from Saturday night, bringing harvesting to a standstill on Sunday. The Burdekin mills have now processed a total of 2.55M tonnes of cane, representing about 30 per cent of the forecast 8.47M tonne crop. The average weekly CCS was 13.53, which was below budget due to the wet conditions. The highest CCS sample of 15.65 was from a rake of Q240-PL in the Marshall's (Inkerman) productivity district. As always, please remember to take care as you approach cane rail crossings.

Week 11 — ending August 24, 2024

The Burdekin mills processed just under 1500 tonnes of cane for the week. This represents cane that was cut on Saturday in preparation for a Sunday restart at Inkerman and Invicta mills following extended downtime due to wet field conditions. The season total of 2.56M tonnes represents 30 per cent of the Burdekin region's forecast crop of 8.47M tonnes. The average weekly CCS was 14.14 units, which was below budget due to the wet conditions. As always, please remember to take care as you approach cane rail crossings. In the coming week as mills come back online, train movements will ramp back up to 24/7 operations.



John Tait,
Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region

Uli Liessmann comments . .

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has just held it's Annual General Meeting, with all officers retaining their positions. Even though membership is well up, there is an urgent need for some younger members to step up and take up some of the positions. This is not a hard job, but it is the only way to keep this Chamber going forward and be the voice for Home Hill. We live here because it is a great friendly place, with most things available and, if not, you only have to go north or south.

IMPORTANT Notice—Now we all have gripes big and small at some time. If you want to voice your opinion on any topic, you can do so once a month on the third Wednesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Home Hill Community Sports Club (Bowling Club) hosted by the Home Hill Chamber and you can also hear some great speakers on any number of subjects. This is up to you if you want to be heard, or I could write it up in this column.

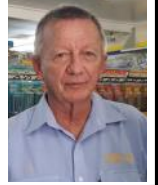
WE ARE lucky to live in the Burdekin Shire, where the local Bendigo Bank believes in the community and in return, the community supports this local bank. The



Home Hill RSL is in the process of upgrading the War Memorial at the Home Hill Cemetery (pictured). This upgrade will then hold Australian Defence Force (ADF) brass plaques. This was made possible with funding received from the Bendigo Bank, for which we thank them. Council also needs a mention, with its timely response to the permits needed for this small construction project. This job will be completed in the near future.

AT THE end of the month, we have the Burdekin Art Exhibition being held at the Burdekin Theatre, which runs for a week. I will also mention that the Burdekin Art Society has also received funding from the Bendigo Bank to upgrade their lighting over their display stands. Sadly, the lighting will not be ready for this year's exhibition as it is an extremely complicated job, but all will be ready for future exhibitions.

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



THE Man of the Week—well at least in Fourth Street—is Terry Taiters, for looking after the small garden beds, which surround the trees in the middle of that street. Now, not only does the street look better, but the garden beds supply a small number of vegetables. This is called taking pride in where you live.



THE end of September is going to be a busy time for the Home Hill Harvest Festival Ephemera, as the art installations in Lloyd Man Gardens will begin to be installed on September 21, 2024 and the judging will be conducted some time before the actual opening of the Ephemera on September 29, 2024. The seven Harvest Festival Queens will be introduced to the public at that venue on that date. And again, I need to thank Bendigo Bank for their funding towards this year's Ephemera, which is very much appreciated.

Jokes of the Week—

TIP for a successful marriage—Do not ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she is mowing the lawn.

PETO went to trial for armed robbery in Home Hill. After a lengthy duration, the jury foreman came out and announced, 'Not guilty.'

'That's grand!' shouted Peto. 'Does that mean I can keep the money?'

These are my opinions and views only.

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

- Uli Liessmann

Stall-holders invited to join in Seniors Expo

LOCAL organisations have been invited to express their interest in participating in the 2024 Seniors Month Expo and Luncheon, with the Burdekin Shire Council looking for senior, finance and health and wellbeing stalls to join them for the event.

In response to the high attendance at last year's event, Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the Expo and Luncheon would be held at a larger venue this year - the Burdekin Memorial Hall - on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with our sen-

ior community and be part of an event that highlights and supports their needs," Cr Dalle Cort said.

Organisations interested in showcasing their services and engaging with the senior community have been encouraged to register their interest by Friday, September 13 so they do not miss out on the chance to make a meaningful impact in the community. To obtain a Stallholder Expression of Interest form, go to burdekin.qld.gov.au or for more information, contact the Council's Community Development team (4783 9800) or email commdev@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.

Join in the friendly atmosphere at the **Home Hill Golf Club** (phone 0467 566 448) — amongst the cane fields on Iona Road; or **Home Hill Tennis** (0447 384 441) offers Monday night tennis fixtures @ 7pm and Friday social tennis @ 8am; Pickleball Tuesday night @ 7pm. Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. (Email: homehilltennis@gmail.com; Facebook: Home Hill Tennis; To book a court: 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.

Comments on our town or services would be appreciated. Email ddjacko@bigpond.com or secretary@homehillchamber.com