

# HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community



Issue No 105, October 2024

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## Positive Pipeline progress

### 182 kilometres of trunk and branch lines secured

THE Bowen Pipeline Company (BPC), which has plans in hand to construct a water pipeline from the Burdekin River near Home Hill to Bowen, has received positive news for the project, with an announcement that they “have secured the entire 182 kilometres of trunk and branch lines, with the exception of 40 metres under an open channel (a Water Board easement).”

Director Sean Brown has advised that “all the private land has been secured and we have support from both the Whitsunday Regional Council and Burdekin Shire Council to use their road reserves”.

“We have also secured the land for all five pump stations plus the laydown areas,” Mr Brown said, and they have also written to the Chair of the Lower Burdekin Water Board asking for an In-Principle Agreement to under-bore the open channel at Barry Road, Kirknie.

“Without this Agreement from the Water Board, the \$700 million project will be delayed further” Mr Brown said.

#### **Construction Partners - No State Funding requirement -**

The BPC Director also advised that they are in advanced negotiations for a partnership agreement with a US multi-national funds manager with Australian water infrastructure operations. “As such, we do not anticipate requiring State Grant funding for construction and are not asking the State to commit to any funding,” he said. “We will, however, apply for the usual Com-

monwealth NWGA grant funding for construction.

“Without that, the water is not affordable for water users.”

#### **Jobs and Economic Gain Every Year -**

Mr Brown said the project would create 200 jobs during construction and 1200 when operational, generating economic gain of \$300 million every year.

“We will operate a ‘Locals First’ employment policy and train everyone who wants a job,” he said. The pipeline has been designed to supply 100,000ml annually, with 60,000 to 80,000ml for agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture etc. and 20,000 to 40,000ml for ammonia (fertiliser), methanol and potentially hydrogen proponents in the Abbot Point Green Energy *Export Hub* (the Abbot Point State Development Area).

#### **Ministerial Project Approval Process – delayed -**

Mr Brown advised that the endorsement to lodge their Ministerial Infrastructure Designation application with the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works had been delayed by the Department until a new government is elected.

“This is very disappointing, as the endorsement would have meant we would receive the Ministerial approval in April 2025, be straight into local council permitting with construction due to start in November 2025,” he commented.

Continued on Page 8—



Katya Venter's winning entry, "What A Grub"

## Ephemera winner

THE 2024 Queensland Country Bank Home Hill Harvest Festival officially commenced on Sunday, September 29 with the design of “A Grub” being named as the winning Ephemera entry. **Full Story Page 3**



The Burdekin Art Society's Primary Art Class entry, entitled "The Rainbow Beach Tree".

IT IS election time—State Government that is—as the various political parties come out of the woodwork to make promises of great things that are going to happen if they are given the chance to control the State Treasury. No doubt over the next four weeks, political leaders will be touring the cities around the state promising millions of dollars for various projects that they hope will attract the votes they need to form Government—although it is difficult to see how promises like 50 cent transport fares will attract too many votes in the Burdekin electorate. However, it will be interesting to see how much of those millions on offer will be directed towards regional areas like ours, which are desperately in need of stronger support than has been on offer in the past. Political leaders are usually too busy to stop in small towns like ours to talk to residents about their needs and even to drive over the Bruce Highway to see just how bad a condition it is in, instead of flying high and missing it completely. There are offers already for this area, with \$3.5 million from the LNP for a development of the Burdekin Netball facilities—which has also been matched by the ALP candidate—plus much more, as can be seen in the pages of this issue—and this is just the start of the campaign. Wouldn't it be surprising to see someone come out and offer a second bridge crossing of the Burdekin to remove the constant highway hold-ups from ever-widening heavy vehicles or even the much needed project to correct the badly needed highway and drainage work through Eighth Avenue, so that drivers do not have their car doors closing on them as

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

HOME HILL has always had some quality parks in the right places throughout the town and it seems they are getting better and gaining more use by local residents and the many visitors moving through the town. The Arch Dunn Memorial Park near the centre of town was developed by the Home Hill Rotary Club in memory of a charter member and his wife and they maintained it over many decades until taken over in recent times by the council, who have installed new playground equipment. The adjacent town Memorial Park



has also grown, as more people make use of the facilities. Then there are the parks at each end of the town—The E.W. Ford Park near the Race Track and the Lions Park near the Burdekin Bridge—both of which have toilet facilities which encourage travellers to stop—and not forgetting the Lions Diorama closer to the bridge, which also is an attraction for visitors to view those displays. However, there is also the park right on the highway near the Police Station—the Lloyd Mann Gardens (pictured above)—which is currently hosting the Ephemera Display. The area

has unique exhibits such as the “large” Sardine Can, which is featured on Facebook and other social media sites, as travellers question what the reason is for the display and take photos of friends inside the can. The Chamber of Commerce sought a commitment from the previous council for toilets to be built there, but

with a need for such facilities in other parts of the town, such as Watsons Green, which hosts the Festival street party, it was rejected. The Chamber

then asked for a small sign to be erected in the Gardens to point motorists towards other toilets in the town, after requests from the nearby Lollypop Ladies, who saw the need, but the answer was that “it would affect the aesthetics of the park”. The request has now gone to the new council for a sign in the same form that other towns use to direct people to their public toilet facilities. With the flags flying, the facilities for a rest and more displays, there is always going to be a need for such facilities, no matter where they are.

they try to park in the deep kerbing. Now such projects may work towards attracting votes if people know they are ever likely to happen. Voting will take place on Saturday, October 26, although many people are likely to take the opportunity to vote earlier as has been the case in recent elections.

SUPPORT for Home Hill Chamber of Commerce meetings reached an all-time high at the September social networking meeting, with up to 24 members and guests in attendance—a total number that has not been seen for many a year. The numbers in attendance at meetings this year have been growing steadily as more people take the opportunity to listen to the interesting speakers who are accepting invita-

tions to address the chamber and those present have the opportunity to ask questions during the meeting. Membership of the Home Hill Chamber is open to businesses throughout the Burdekin and anyone is welcome to attend a meeting and become a member.

IT IS a busy time of the year with school under way for the final term at the same time as the annual Harvest Festival starts for another year. The annual Festival Ephemera started at Lloyd Mann Gardens last Sunday with an official introduction of the Queen entrants and the announcement of the winner of the competition—although local residents can still have a say in a popular choice section by entering through the Festival Facebook page.

- DAVID JACKSON

# Cane beetle inspires winning Ephemera entry

THE 2024 Queensland Country Bank Home Hill Harvest Festival program officially commenced on Sunday, September 29 at the launch of the annual Canefields Ephemera in Lloyd Mann Gardens in Home Hill's Central Business District.

The opening event allowed the crowd of interested spectators to inspect the 11 entries in the Ephemera, before the Festival President, Mark Vass took the opportunity to highlight the festival's major sponsors before he introduced and presented the sashes to the seven Festival Queen entrants.

Home Hill Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Uli Liessmann explained how the judging was carried out with three unknown and individual judges each made their decision before handing it to the Chamber Secretary, Robert Antoniazzi who announced the winner, Katya Venter, with her entry entitled "What A Grub". In an attached statement, the artist explained that "Having lived in North Queensland for the past decade, I have come to deeply appreciate its seasonal contrasts—from the cooler winters to the intense heat of the rainy season, alongside its diverse fauna. During this time, I have cultivated a profound admiration and reverence for the region's insects and wildlife. In particular, my fascination with the beetles, such as the *Dermolepida albohirtum* (commonly known as the cane beetle), has inspired me to create an artwork that addresses the significant issue of cane larvae and their detrimental impact on sugar cane crops. Titled 'What A Grub', my artwork takes the form of a dual-headed and dual-bodied metal sculpture, symbolising the

intricate relationship between native insects and introduced species, particularly in the context of agricultural ecosystems. Through this piece, I seek to evoke contemplation on the complexities of ecological harmony and the unintended consequences that arise when natural balances are disturbed. 'What A Grub' aims to provoke dialogue on the coexistence of species within North Queensland's diverse ecology, shedding light on the challenges posed by invasive species while celebrating the resilience and beauty of native wildlife.

Unfortunately, the winner was from Townsville and was unable to be present to collect her \$1500 First Prize cheque from Harvest Festival President, Mark Vass.



Billy and Anna Muilwyk's entry highlighted the tradition of "Family Game Night"



Harvest Festival President, Mark Vass (left), Krystal Payne and Chamber of Commerce secretary, Robert Antoniazzi (right) with the winner's cheque during the presentation ceremony.

## 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

## Nominations sought for Australia Day awardees

NOMINATIONS are now open for the Burdekin Shire Council's 2025 Australia Day awards that offer "a unique opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding individuals and groups in the Burdekin community, who have made significant contributions throughout the year".

Burdekin Shire Mayor, Cr Pierina Dalle Cort has encouraged Shire residents to nominate those who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to make a positive impact.

"Australia Day is a time to reflect on what it means to be Australian and part of that is acknowledging the incredible contributions of those who work tirelessly to enhance the lives of others in our community," Cr Dalle Cort said.

"Surely, there is a group or individual you know in our community deserving of a nomination."

The Mayor said the process was simple and the impact of recognising someone's hard work and dedication was immeasurable. Nomination forms are available on the Council's website by visiting [bit.ly/AusDay2025](http://bit.ly/AusDay2025) or they can be collected from the Council Chambers. Nominations close on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

Winners will be announced and celebrated at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony to be held on January 26, 2025, as part of the Shire's official Australia Day celebrations. More information on the awards or the nomination process is available by contacting [commdev@burdekin.qld.gov.au](mailto:commdev@burdekin.qld.gov.au) or by phoning 4783 9800.

## Rising numbers in Chamber attendance

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce is continuing to attract an increasing interest from the Burdekin Business community as it welcomes more members to its monthly social networking meetings.

The Chamber welcomed two speakers to its September meeting, with the Co-ordinator of Selectability Burdekin, Bryn Hicks explaining his role in the organisation which operates from their offices in Edwards Street, Ayr (the former Caledonian Hall). Mr Hicks spoke about their role in supporting many local residents with Mental Health problems from their venue, which is open to everyone who just wishes to talk to someone. The new Burdekin Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Matthew Magin was also introduced to the meeting as he returned to the position he had held previously.

Also addressing the Chamber meeting was Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort, who spoke about a new Christmas Tree that was planned for the Comfort Stop in Home Hill.

Cr Max Musumeci also advised the meeting that the Burdekin Shire Christmas Carols would be held in Home Hill this year at the Home Hill High School grounds.

The next Chamber meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16 at the Burdekin Community Sports Club with the Guest Speaker being Ryan Jones, the Chairman of the Burdekin River Improvement Trust.



Cr Max Musumeci (left) with the regional Co-ordinator of Selectability Burdekin, Bryn Hicks and Burdekin businessman, Paul Benvenuti



LEFT—Home Hill Chamber of Commerce President, David Jackson (left) with the new Burdekin Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Matthew Magin

## 30 years of Youth Council

THE Burdekin Shire Youth Council will be celebrating 30 years of existence from 3pm on Saturday, October 12 and the local community has been invited to participate in the celebrations.

As they reflect on the last three decades, the Youth Council has played a pivotal role in providing a voice for young people from all high schools and townships in the Burdekin and often guide the Council's decision-making around matters related to youth.

The Burdekin Shire Youth Council was founded in 1994 under the leadership of then-Mayor, Cr Beth Honeycombe and it has continued to thrive under the guidance of the Community Development Department. Over the years, the Youth Council has played a pivotal role in a range of community initiatives.

## HOME HILL NEWS

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

# Home Hill Police Beat



—In association with **Sergeant Sam Pyke**,  
Officer-In-Charge of the Home Hill Police Station

LIFE is nearing an end for the Watch House cells situated at the rear of the Home Hill Police Station unless a local organisation would be interested in shifting it to a new home.

Rather than demolish it, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) is still looking to donate the building to a local organisation, due to its historical significance.

However, it has been pointed out that “there are some health and safety elements with the building” which need to be worked through before it could be shifted.

The history of the building includes reports of “mosquito infestations” and an alleged suicide in the watch house in its early years as it started out as a single cell and was then increased to two cells as more members of the local community found themselves “locked up” as the pioneering town grew in size and population. In one case, the Government Medical Officer (GMO) reported in 1973 that when he was required to examine a drunk-in-charge case, “the beetles, moths and other insects were in such plaque proportions that I found it almost impossible to perform the examination on the person”.

The GMO said “the mosquitos were in thousands and what with brushing mosquitoes out of my eyes and neck and clapping at mosquitoes, I found that the whole episode to be extremely distracting making it difficult to give a fair opinion”.

“In addition, for what its worth, I



The old Watchhouse building at the back of the Home Hill Police Station, which has a long history behind its existence in the town

feel that the officers working at the station under these circumstances must find it extremely difficult to perform their duties efficiently,” the GMO said.

He subsequently asked for the building to be gauged.

After the land was developed on the southern side of the Burdekin River following its opening up in 1911, Constable William Roche was transferred from Queenon to Home Hill and he opened the Home Hill Police Station on February 17, 1914, with a tent and fly being initially supplied from Ayr for use as Police Station accommodation.

The Liontown Police Station in the Charters Towers District closed in February, 1914 and as the building was in good condition, it was found to be suitable for relocation to Home Hill at an estimated cost of £355/12/-.

It was subsequently relocated to

the new Home Hill Police Station Reserve by Farmer and Lane whose tender for the work was accepted at a cost of £316/-/-, with the building consisting of two bedrooms, living room, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom office and verandahs at the front and back – and a one room cell was also erected.

Constable Richard Kidby was transferred to Home Hill from 1915 to 1917 and he applied for material to build a stable and feed room at the station for a young horse, for which he was having to keep the feed in the cell.

A quote was received from Mr E.E. Turnbull of Home Hill for the iron, timber and nails for £13/3/3 with the constable prepared to cut the posts and main timber in the bush. The stable and feed room were completed in January, 1916. In January, 1918, it was found necessary to station an extra

constable on a temporary basis in Home Hill, especially for the duration of the sugar season, when the population would reach approximately 1600.

In 1927, the Police Commissioner approved the appointment of a second constable to be permanently stationed at Home Hill, rather than continue to send temporary constables for the duration of the crushing season.

With only one hotel in the town, the duties of the constable to a great extent were taken up with supervision of those premises and the mill workers who patronised that place.

In 1922, a deputation went to Bowen to wait on the Honourable W. Forgan-Smith to present a case for the cell accommodation at the Home Hill station to be increased as the existing cell measured 10 feet by eight feet and the total number of arrests for 1922 was 99, with offences covered including drunkenness, obscene language, creating a disturbance, resisting arrest, indecent exposure, on suspicion of unsound mind, breach of Licensing Act and wife desertion. Correspondence indicated that at times, with up to two prisoners confined in the two cells from 24 hours to 14 days, principally for “train jumping”, to ensure their safe confinement, a hard wood latticed-in verandah with a door at the entrance should suffice and would be more modern and less expensive than the old form of stockade.



Look out  
for those  
cane trains



wilmar



New licensees of Home Hill's Malpass Hotel, Jun and Lilibeth Myles with the Foundation Stone for the building, which was laid on March 13, 1924.

## Centenary Celebrations for Hotel

CENTENARY celebrations will take place at Home Hill's historic Malpass Hotel on Friday, October 18, as new owners, Jun and Lilibeth Myles recognise the major milestone, which is only days on from when the hotel officially commenced operations on October 8, 1924.

The hotel was built by Tickle and Maddison in 1924 for Joseph Malpass at a cost of £10,799/10/-. The one hundredth anniversary celebrations will feature a Buffet Dinner with well-known guest artists, the Gottani Sisters, performing during the evening.

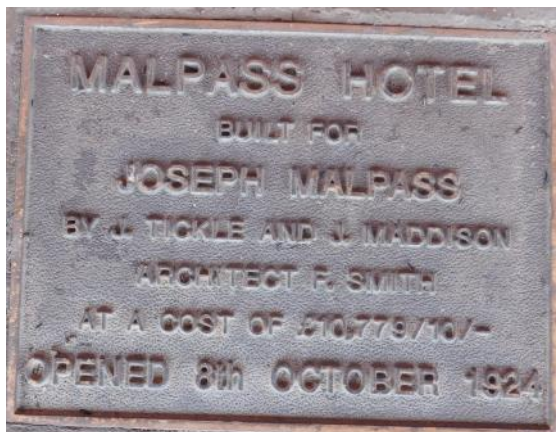
The Malpass Hotel, a large and historic two-storey building, was described in sales documents as "a majestic local icon that overlooks the main highway through Home Hill north and south between Townsville and the southern regions of the State".

The imposing property was first opened in 1924 by local identity, Joseph Malpass and while having had many publicans over the years including one of its earliest being

Reg Begbie, it was in its 99th year that it farewelled the most recent licensees, Phil Campling and Sandra Morton to welcome Lilibeth Myles and her partners into the next phase of its life.

Lilibeth and Jun Myles have been upgrading the hotel over the past year including making substantial improvements to the accommodation area upstairs and there is more to come as their current project tackles the restaurant area which will be part of the anniversary celebrations.

Anyone wishing to participate in the anniversary celebrations should phone the hotel on 4782 1600 as bookings for the function are essential.



The historic market on the footpath at the front of the hotel

## Wilmar employees accept mill EA offer

A SUGAR Industry dispute, which was described as "a challenging and long-running negotiation and associated disruptive industrial action", came to an end during September with a majority of Wilmar Sugar and Renewables employees voting in favour of a new enterprise agreement (EA).

Fifty-five per cent of eligible employees who participated in the ballot voted in favour of the company's three-year offer of an upfront \$2500 bonus and 16 per cent in wage rises.

The two-day ballot closed at 3pm on Friday, September 13.

The majority 'yes' vote means that more than 1320 employees will receive the bonus and a 12 per cent increase in pay by Christmas, with a further 4 per cent increase next December.

A Wilmar spokesman said the positive ballot result brought to a close a challenging and long-running negotiation and associated disruptive industrial action.

"We thank everybody who participated in the ballot, particularly those who voted to accept the company offer," he said.

"It draws a line under a period that impacted not only our business and our people, but the growers and harvesting operators, who are so critical to the sugar supply chain.

"The focus now is on getting this year's crop harvested and producing high-quality sugar for customers in domestic and export markets."

As of September 13, Wilmar's eight factories had processed about 6.3m tonnes of sugar cane, representing about 40 per cent of the estimated crop.



Wilmar Sugar and Renewables' Inkerman Mill at Home Hill, which was part of the industrial dispute in the north

# Festival Queen entrants introduced at Ephemera

THE 2024 Home Hill Harvest Festival is under way, with the official launch and the opening of the annual Canefields Ephemera on September 29 at Lloyd Mann Gardens

The program now continues with the following events—

**October 4**, 6pm: Students Ball;

**October 20**, 1pm: Town of Origin sporting events;

**Danelle Laubscher—Home Hill-Ayr Lions Club** is 18 years of age and is currently attending the Burdekin Christian College as a Year 12 student. She was born in South Africa and has resided in the Burdekin since 2022, where she has grown to love the closeness and beauty of the community. She is eager and honoured to represent the Lions Club and is enthusiastic about meeting her fellow Queen entrants and learning more about the Burdekin community. Danelle has seen much of what the Burdekin has to offer and is ecstatic to experience even more of its uniqueness, making her all the more excited to participate in the Harvest Festival and all the events leading up to it. Danelle enjoys spending time with her friends and loved ones, as well as indulging in her hobbies of reading and studying.



**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.

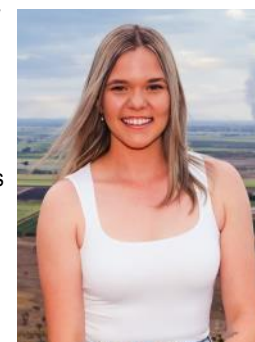
**Harmony Fletcher—Home Hill Rotary Club** is 18 years of age and graduated from the Home Hill High School before working full-time in the Bakery Department at IGA. She is honoured and thrilled to be representing the Rotary Club, who she regards as such a generous and kind-hearted organisation. Harmony is excited to use this experience to get to know and form connections with not only her fellow Queen entrants, but also with the wider community. In Harmony's free time, she can be found at the gym or at home with her dog, Hazel.



**Madison Mainwaring-Samwell—Burdekin Netball** is 20 years of age and is an administration officer for Muirs. She is excited to be involved in the 2024 Home Hill Harvest Festival and is proud to represent Burdekin Netball, a club she has been involved with from a very young age as a player, umpire, coach and committee member. She also serves as the Social Media Officer, creating content and managing the club's social media accounts. Madison decided to participate in the Harvest Festival Queen program to fundraise for the Netball Association and give back to a club that has been a significant part of her childhood.



**Marnie Skipper—Home Hill Community Kindergarten** is 19 years of age and is in her second year of working at the Home Hill Community Kindergarten. After finishing her traineeship and receiving her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, she has now started her diploma – one of her three jobs, also being an assistant educator at Big Birds Nest on Fridays and a dance teacher for Burdekin Beats on Monday afternoons. Marnie is very passionate about her jobs, as she has been dancing and surrounding herself with young children all her life. She danced with Karen Healy Dancers for 13 years and was lucky enough to teach the younger children in her senior years. Marnie is grateful for the honour of supporting the Home Hill Kindergarten and raising money for a service that is very close to her heart, having attended the kindergarten herself.



## **Martina Bojack—Home Hill Community Sports Club**

is 18 years of age and is a university student, studying a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Accounting and Financial Advising at James Cook University



in Townsville. Martina also works part-time at Cormack and Company, Accountants in Ayr. She is very excited to be involved in this year's Harvest Festival Queen program, to build relationships with the other Queen entrants, while also connecting with her wider community. Martina decided to represent the Home Hill Community Sports Club, because her grandad thinks it will be a great bonding experience. In her free time, you will see Martina on her laptop studying or watching the NRL all weekend.

## **Sophie Brosnan—Get Fit Home Hill** is 27 years of age and

made the Burdekin her home at the age of 22, when she moved from Germany to build a life with her now husband, Clinton. She came to Home Hill as a backpacker, working at the Crown Hotel before moving on to work in the local fitness industry. She now works at Regis Home Hill and at the local hospitals as a student nurse and by the end of the year, she will be a qualified registered nurse. Thanks to her career choices, she has met many different people from all over the Burdekin and they have welcomed her with warmth and kindness. She says the people here are what makes the Burdekin special and have helped her make a home away from her childhood friends and family. When Sophie is not working or studying, she spends her time at the gym preparing for bodybuilding competitions or with her animals - three cats, three dogs and two horses. Her dog, Oreo, joins her for shifts at the aged home where she is known as "the girl with the dog".



## **Teagan Johnson—Burdekin Rugby League**

is 28 years of age and attended Burdekin Catholic High School. She has lived in the Burdekin region all her life, enjoying the tight-knit community. Her



love for fashion led her to establish her own hire business in 2019, which serves many local girls as well as interstate clients. Teagan started playing rugby league two years ago and enjoys the friendly atmosphere at the club, where she has made many new friends by being welcomed into the Hen's team. She also enjoys playing soccer, shopping for new clothes and fishing. Teagan is excited to be involving herself in the 2024 Harvest Festival and representing the Burdekin Rugby League.

## The changing faces of Dr Tata's team

THE faces at Dr Sarat Tata's Home Hill Surgery at 67-69 Eighth Avenue have changed in recent times, with the prominence of male doctors being overturned completely. Whereas Dr Tata had been supported by four male doctors, that situation has changed over the past year, as Dr Tata is now supported by his wife, Dr Pavani Ganapathi and three other female doctors, including the most recent arrival, Dr Mounika Cherabudla. Unlike many other small regional

towns who do not have the services of qualified doctors available, the people of the Home Hill community have the immediate services of the team at the Home Hill Surgery seven days a week—from 8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and from 10am to 4pm on weekends.

The Surgery has available Women's Men's and Children's health services, Indigenous Health, Skin Cancer Management, Coastal Radiology-Ultrasound services and the Burdekin Hearing-Audiology.



The team of doctors serving the people of Home Hill and the surrounding community comprise Dr Mounika Cherabudla, Dr Pavani Ganapathi, Dr Sarat Tata, Dr Dwija Karumanchi and Dr Priyanka Rapelli

The Home Hill Surgery has 5000 active patients and the dedicated work provided by Dr Tata and his team of doctors has been recognised on a number of oc-

casions including in 2020, when Dr Tata was named Queensland's GP of the Year. New patients and walk-ins are always welcome.

## Positive progress towards successful pipeline project

Continued from Page 1—

“The outcome of the delay is that this adds another five-plus months to the process, when we have already been delayed for 15 months.

“A speedy approval by an incoming government would see the project built and operational in 2028, during the next State election term.”

### Project Firsts -

Mr Brown said there were numerous project firsts including -  
Traditional Owners will have equity in major water infrastructure and will own water rights;  
Australia's first Net Zero pipeline;  
Using world leading Australian technology to manufacture on-site the high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) in lengths of 100 metres (used in New Zealand and the USA) and saving over five million kilometres in B double truck movements;  
All 15 major rivers and creeks will be under-

restricted flood irrigation will not be permitted.  
The Bowen Pipeline Company has -  
Secured the entire 182 kilometres of trunk and branch lines, with the exception of 40 metres under an open channel (a Water Board easement). All the private land has been secured and we have support from both the Whitsunday Regional Council and Burdekin Shire Council to use their road reserves. They have also secured the land for all five pump stations plus the laydown areas;  
Lodged the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation application (March 2024) for endorsement by DHLGPPW and Minister Scanlon - endorsement delayed (DHLGPPW letter September 23, 2024);  
Secured all agreements with the Traditional Owners - they have equity in the Project;  
Lodged the Detailed Business Case with DRDMW for review in March 2024, funded by a \$5 million Commonwealth Grant;  
Secured new Directors,

Shareholders and Board Members with the relevant expertise to take the Project to the next Phase;  
Forty-one private investors (the majority of whom are based in the Burdekin and Bowen regions) who to date have invested some \$2.5 million;  
Completed Engineering design and costings (Class 2);  
Provided Common User Infrastructure engineering designs to EDQ, Han Ho and HyNQ for the APSDA Green Energy Hub;  
Completed a Nation first Integrated Sustainability Study for Indigenous Prosperity, Net Zero, Carbon Emission Reductions (KBR, October 2023);  
Lodged a Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) application (Sep 2021) which has been updated recently;  
Lodged an Initial Advice Statement (IAS) with the Office of the Co-ordinator-General for review (May 2023) - the OCG uplifted the Project to the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process;

Engaged a Project financial advisor to arrange equity and debt sources;  
Negotiating with a US funds manager with US\$250 billion under management; and  
Is seeking to negotiate an In-Principle Agreement with Sunwater for the supply of water for the Project.  
(Sunwater has nearly 200 billion litres (195,000 ML) of water in the Burdekin Falls Dam that has not been used since the dam was built 40 years ago. This volume does not include another 150,000 ML with the raising of the dam, or the BRIA proposed hand back of up to 100,000 ML (QCA submission Feb 2024).  
With the lodging of the MID draft and the DBC, Mr Brown said they were fortunate to receive over 50 letters of support and indications of support from the Bowen Chamber of Commerce; Home Hill Chamber of Commerce; Bowen Gumlu Growers Association; Bowen Collinsville Enterprises; Whitsunday News; Home Hill News; and many companies and individuals.



**MALPASS HOTEL**



# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Friday 18 October 2024

# Buffer

**Starts at 6.30PM**

**\$36.99 per person (Adult)**

**(5-12 y/o – half price)**

**(0 - 4 y/o FREE)**

**50**

**SEATS  
AVAILABLE**

**Booking essential**

LIVE Music By

**GOTTANI SISTERS**



**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**4782 1600**

# LNP election boost for netball in the Burdekin

THE future of the sport of netball in the Burdekin will receive a huge boost if a Liberal-National Party (LNP) Government is elected at the October State Election, with the announcement of “a \$3.5million boost to secure the future of the game in the Burdekin”.

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP has announced the grassroots funding, which, he said, would deliver the Burdekin Netball Association’s goals of installing new courts, the upgrade of lighting and the construction of a new clubhouse and seating. Mr Last said the infrastructure upgrades at Burdekin Netball was part of the LNP’s focus on working harder for Queenslanders, “while under Labor, Queensland was heading in the wrong direction”.

“The LNP will restore a government that works for you, with the Right Plan for Queensland’s Future,” Mr Last said.

“The Burdekin Netball Association has a plan to ensure the health and mental health benefits that come from net-

ball are available to people in the Burdekin for the next 50 years and that’s a plan the LNP is proud to support.

“Labor’s failures have overseen \$20 billion-plus in project cost blowouts that could have instead gone towards projects like this that provide enjoyment and a pathway for local young people.

“Queenslanders should have a government that delivers the programs and services needed for the State’s future, supporting our communities.”

Mr Last said Queenslanders could vote for infrastructure upgrades at Burdekin Netball and a government which worked for them, by voting LNP at this election.

“I am proud to support grassroots sporting clubs like the Burdekin Netball Association, who have worked tirelessly to secure further opportunities in the sport for regional players,” he said.

“Queenslanders must show Labor the door in 2024, to ensure the right focus on delivering the programs, services and communities for our state.

“Only the LNP stands ready to deliver a fresh start for Queensland.”



Burdekin Netball Association leaders who were on hand to welcome the LNP announcement were (from left) Cailin Gosling, Kelly Loizou and Sandra Danziger with Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP and Sheree McKaig and Sharon Gibson.

Burdekin Netball Association officers who were present at their existing club house building for the announcement, were ex-

tremely delighted with the election promise, which will guarantee the future of their sport in the Burdekin District for many decades to come.

## Seniors offered mobility scooter

ATTENDEES at the 2024 Burdekin Shire Senior’s Expo and Luncheon are being offered the opportunity to take home a brand-new mobility scooter, which will be given away at the event on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 with each ticket holder automatically entered into the draw.

The incredible prize, donated by Justin Luke at local business, Equip U, will be drawn from a pool of the luncheon attendees, adding to the excitement of the day. Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the council was excited to share the special opportunity with attendees at the Senior’s Expo and Luncheon.

“We are incredibly grateful to Equip U for their very generous donation of a brand-new mobility scooter,” Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said.

“This thoughtful contribution will undoubtedly enhance the independence and mobility of one of our local seniors, making a meaningful impact.

“I look forward to seeing you all at this year’s Senior’s Expo and Luncheon,” she said.

For a chance to win the mobility scooter and to be part of the event, purchase your tickets and be at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 from 10.30am to 1.30pm for a day that will be filled with valuable information, delicious food and great company.

Tickets are \$15 per person, which includes a roast lunch and dessert. For more information and/or to purchase tickets, go to [burdekintheatre.com.au](http://burdekintheatre.com.au) or phone 4783 9880.

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# Labor candidate pledge to 'do better for Burdekin'

THE ALP candidate for the seat of Burdekin in the forthcoming State Government elections, Anne Baker has pledged "to do better for Burdekin" and is standing by her word with the support of the Miles Labor Government, as she announced six key local funding commitments, to the sum of \$173,792,000.

The Labor candidate said the funding was approved commitments to the Burdekin Electorate, to be rolled out across a range of regional and remote communities that make up the Electorate.

She said the funding would help regional and remote communities where it counts – in their own backyard - with commitments covering critical infrastructure, as well as education, health, sport, and recreation.

"Under an Anne Baker-led Burdekin, Labor will engage with local communities to deliver the critical funding and see the investments through from start to finish," she said.

The ALP's commitment includes a Burdekin Netball Association facilities redevelopment of \$3.5m; Burdekin Men's Shed of \$40,000 and a TAFE pilot program of \$10m.

"I've pledged to be Better for Burdekin . . . and I stand by

my word," the ALP Candidate said. "I will be delivering \$173,792,000 in funded, approved commitments to the Burdekin electorate.

"These commitments increase and improve the liveability of our region and will deliver better roads, better facilities, better health care and better futures for the community.

"These are not just promises. They are funded and this money will go to our region."

The ALP candidate said the Miles Labor Government was also investing over \$1 billion to deliver world-class health facilities in Queensland's rural and remote communities through the Building Rural and Remote Health Program.

"More than 20 key projects will be delivered through this program to enhance or replace aging infrastructure and to ensure facilities meet the needs of both the community and staff," she said.

"Work will soon begin on the design and scope works for four sites including Home Hill, with contracts now locked and loaded.

"The Miles Labor Government is investing in health infrastructure, that will last for generations to come right across Queensland."

The Building Rural and Re-

mote Health Program (BRRHP) is a more than \$1 billion investment to upgrade or replace ageing infrastructure in the regions.

Johnstaff and Architects, Conrad Gargett have been respectively awarded the Project Management and Principal Consultant contracts for the sites including Home Hill.

The projects will now work through the detailed scoping and options for the replacement and upgrade at Home Hill Health Service.

Ms Baker said the TAFE Pilot program \$10M contribution was especially great for Home Hill, as they will be training Health Workers and Aged Care workers in their home towns.



The ALP candidate for the State Seat of Burdekin in the October election is Anne Baker

## Get ready for disaster season

"GET Ready" and take proactive steps to ensure you are prepared with the disaster season just around the corner.

That is the warning from the Burdekin Shire Council to encourage readiness, as it offers residents a chance to win a Yamaha EF2200iS Generator. To enter, residents of the Burdekin community can collect their 'free' ticket throughout October at the Ayr and Home Hill Libraries or visit the Customer Service Centre at the Council Chambers.

To learn more about disaster preparedness and further increase your chances of being ready for an event, visit the 'Get Ready' stalls at the Ayr and Home Hill Libraries on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 (Home Hill Library from 2pm to 4pm). Council's Disaster Management team will be on hand to provide valuable information and answer any questions residents may have about staying safe this season.

## Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

**With man this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible**

*Luke 4, Verse 12*

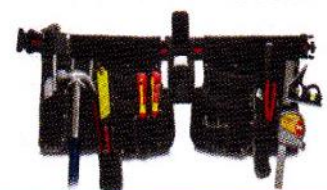


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# Football team from the 1925 era

BACK in the pioneering days of the Burdekin District, games were played regularly in most codes, with some very good footballers displaying their talents in local competitions. Over the years, we have had a lot of photos supplied of teams that represented the Home Hill district, especially in rugby league, in their local competi-

tions and also against teams from other districts. However, this week, Brad Perry of Ayr has provided us with a photo of a "Home Hill Rep team" from a football (soccer) competition from the 1925 era. It may bring back memories for those who knew family members who played in local competitions almost a century ago.



The 1925 Home Hill Representative Football Team comprised (from left, back) P. Allen (secretary), J. Cooper (vice president), L. Molyneux, A. McColl, A. Rennie, N.R. Wickens (president); (middle) A. Foote, R. Horwood, W. Kilpatrick, J. Stewart and L.E. Clark; and (front) A. Kent, W. Wilkie (captain) and W. Cooper

# Woody weed program success

ROUND one of the Burdekin Shire Council's Woody Weed Program - a key initiative under the Reef Guardian Council's Program - has been successfully completed, with significant achievements in the removal of invasive woody weeds across the region.

In a community update on the progress of the Program, which concluded at the end of May, 2024, the Council advised that it involved 25 days of intensive woody weed removal across five properties, with approximately 93.28 hectares of land in total being treated.

"As a Reef Guardian Council since the program's inception, the Burdekin Shire Council has been dedicated to enhancing the Reef's sustainability through various initiatives," Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said.

"The Woody Weed Program is one of five funded projects under the

'Activating Local Council's Reef Action Plans' initiative, with efforts spanning from 2023 to 2026."

Cr Dalle Cort said the success of the Woody Weed Program in round one was a clear reflection of the community's dedication to protecting the environment.

"By removing invasive species, we are taking crucial steps to preserve the natural beauty and health of our region, ultimately benefiting the Great Barrier Reef," she said.

"I encourage all residents to continue supporting these efforts as we prepare for Round Two."

The second round of the Woody Weed Program will commence on September 9, 2024, with Council remaining committed to working closely with local landholders and stakeholders to ensure the program's continued success.

## Burdekin Region Mills Weekly Production Figures For Week ending September 28, 2024

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	147,063	1,686,241
Pioneer	76,592	782,611
Kalamia	72,725	922,346
Inkerman	79,050	1,026,332
Burdekin	375,431	4,417,530

### CCS

Invicta	14.90	14.19
Pioneer	14.60	14.25
Kalamia	14.23	13.83
Inkerman	14.48	13.96
Burdekin	14.46	14.07

### Comments —

#### Week 15 — ending September 21, 2024

The Burdekin mills processed just over 395,000 tonnes of cane for the week, which was the highest weekly throughput for the season to date and also the highest weekly throughput for Invicta, Pioneer and Inkerman mills. Kalamia Mill achieved its budgeted throughput for the week despite some unplanned stops and a planned stop for a factory clean and necessary maintenance. The season-to-date total is now 4.04m tonnes, which represents 48 per cent of the Burdekin region's crop forecast of 8.20m tonnes. The average weekly CCS was 14.46, which is still below budget, but improving with the ongoing dry conditions. The highest CCS, of 17.4, was from a rake of Q240- PL in the Fredericksfield (Inkerman) productivity district.

#### Week 16 — ending September 28, 2024

The Burdekin mills processed just over 375,000 tonnes of cane for the week, which was just over the budgeted weekly throughput. Throughput at Pioneer, Invicta and Kalamia was impacted by a number of unplanned stops, while Inkerman had an extended maintenance and clean. The season-to-date total is now 4.42m tonnes. This represents 54 per cent of the Burdekin region's total forecast crop of 8.20M tonnes. The average weekly CCS was 14.62, which is still slightly below budget but improving with the ongoing dry conditions. The highest CCS, of 17.3, was shared between a rake of Q183 1R in the Mulgrave (Invicta) productivity district and a rake of Q240 PL in the Lower Clare (Invicta) productivity district. It is pleasing that there were no reports of collisions or near misses at cane rail crossings in the Burdekin over the school holiday period. Remember to always use your train brain and give way to cane trains.



**John Tait,**  
Cane Supply Manager,  
Burdekin Region

## Uli Liessmann comments . .

OKAY, Home Hill is a nice place to live (well I think so) - there are nice parks, which are well looked after by the Council's gardening crew.



THE next move is the building of a raised garden bed between the Comfort Stop and the Queensland Country Bank (pictured above) which will soften and green up the appearance in an otherwise concrete surround. I would suggest a couple of red bottle brush trees, as they attract native birds, which in itself could be a minor attraction.

WHILE I'm mentioning the green-ing up of the place, I think all the trees (not Eighth Avenue) in the side streets need a bit of a trim up to get them into some sort of shape, as they all look a bit ragged and are not



growing as they should. Now is the time to do it, before the trees get too large. Remember, the cyclone season is upon us and I would hate to see any of these established trees get blown over, because the trees are top heavy. A similar job was done to the trees in Queen Street Ayr and now they are taking on a much better shape.

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



REMEMBER the seed pod mosaic and water feature that never worked properly and was only a drink spot for numerous pigeons. In line with the re-



furbishment of the Comfort Stop, the Council is suggesting the placing of a texture coat application on the concrete that people can walk over etc., with a design of flowing water (above) or the Home Hill Logo (above right). Have a look at these designs and let me or the Council know which one you would prefer. It is up to you to voice an opinion on a choice of your liking.

I have put a lot of pictures in the newsletter this month to help my friends.

### **AN observation on life—**

**Q:** Why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small?

**A:** Because our past is not as important as our future.

So, look ahead and move on in life, because only you can do it if you want to.

These are my opinions and views only.

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

- ULI LIESSMAN

# Funding committed to new Ayr Fire Station

The LNP has committed funding to make a new Fire and Rescue Station in Ayr a reality in the short term, if elected in October.

The current 65-year-old facility has been plagued with issues, due to the site being affected by carcinogenic materials, one of many issues the new station will address.

Current LNP MP for Burdekin, Dale Last said the \$2 million to get the project started was part of the LNP's focus on working harder for Queenslanders, while under Labor, Queensland was heading in the wrong direction.

"The LNP will deliver a new Fire and Rescue Station in Ayr as a

priority to ensure our first responders have the resources they need to keep our community safe," Mr Last said. "Locals have spoken out on behalf of full-time and auxiliary firefighters and were demanding action.

"These are the people we rely on in our time of need and making their safety a priority is part of the Right Plan for Queensland's Future."

Mr Last said it has been five years since the PFAS issue at the site was identified but, as recently as July, the Commissioner confirmed there was no funding for a replacement.

"Our commitment means the delays will end and a new station will be built as a priority," he said.

## 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](mailto:ddjacko@bigpond.com) or [secretary@homehillchamber.com](mailto:secretary@homehillchamber.com)*