

# HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community



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## Surprise farewell for long term Postal Officers

NOT many people in the Home Hill community would know what the Home Hill Post Office is like without Anthony Chiandet and Lorraine Connell behind the counter – but that will be the case from now on, after the well-known couple moved into retirement from Friday, October 25.

The long-term licensees of the Home Hill Post Office were treated to a surprise retirement party at the Post Office on their final day after they turned up for what they believed was their final official day of work – and customers who knew about it also came in to wish them well for their future (some bearing small gifts) after having staffed the Post Office daily for about 55 years in Anthony's case and 35 years for Lorraine.

Anthony's Post Office career started in Ayr, where he spent about 20

years in various roles before moving to Home Hill, where he became a Senior Postal Clerk and was second-in-charge to the then manager, Neville Edwards.

On Mr Edwards' retirement, Anthony moved on to the position of Postal Manager, where he has been serving the Home Hill community for a total of 35 years.

Lorraine Connell also started her career in the Post Office in Ayr, at first delivering mail and parcels around the town on a small motor scooter – in what she described as a difficult task having to carry large parcels on the small mode of transport.

Lorraine eventually also moved over to a position at the Home Hill Post Office, where she and Anthony have been providing Post Office facilities for the local community for a total of 35 years each.



Lorraine Connell and Anthony Chiandet on their final day at the Home Hill Post Office

**Cara takes over - Page 3 —**

## Dale Last returned as Member for Burdekin

THE Electorate of Burdekin will continue to operate with an LNP Member of Parliament after the sitting member, Dale Last was easily re-elected to the position on Saturday, October 26 – with the only change being he will be sitting on the Government side of the Legislative Assembly, following the

victory by the David Crisafulli-led Liberal-National Party coalition.

At midday on Thursday, October 31, the Queensland Electoral Commission counting of votes showed Mr Last with more than 50 per cent of total with 15,377 votes ahead of the ALP candidate, Anne Baker on

7706, Daniel Carroll (KAP) on 2484, Andrew Elborne (ON) on 2130, Amanda Nixon (FF) on 860 and Ben Watkin (QG) on 749.

The LNP were in a position where they will be able to form a government with at least 52 of the seats in the Legislative Assembly and leader David Crisafulli has already been sworn in as the new Premier as they look to name the new cabinet ministers.

In a "Thank You" to the electorate, Mr Last said the Burdekin Electorate was "the powerhouse of the Queensland economy" and for the 55,948 people who currently call it their home, "it is an electorate they can justifiably be proud of".



The Home Hill Polling Booth at St Colman's Primary School

**Continued on Page 7—**

MANY of the voters in the Burdekin electorate may have received a surprise when they fronted up at the Polling Booth on Saturday, October 26 to see so many candidates listed on the Ballot Paper, particularly because some of them had not even promoted themselves and their parties in the weeks prior to the election. In fact, it makes it a bit hard to decide on a suitable candidate, when the voter does not even know who they represent, let alone what their Party's intentions might be, should they be lucky enough to make it into parliament. It could be considered to be the same sentiment for the major parties, who spent the weeks running around the major cities throughout the state making billions of dollars worth of promises to city-bound voters, while those in the regional seats make good with whatever comes their way. No major party leader found their way to Home Hill or the Burdekin that we know of—although it was pleasing to see that the large numbers of young ladies of all ages that play netball in the Burdekin have something to look forward to with the promised \$3 million upgrade of the Burdekin Netball Courts, which will provide for their love of the game for many years to come. But what is to come of the Bruce Highway—no actual plans to upgrade what has been designated to be the worst section of the highway between Home Hill and Mackay—and another four years before another election and more promises can be made. Multi millions will be spent on an Olympics which will be of no benefit to northern regional areas and the south-east corner, where the majority of votes are located, will be expecting huge amounts to be spent in that area. Nothing seems to change no matter what election it is.

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

WE do not like to see any of the Ti-Trees removed from the Eighth Avenue median, but when it comes to the safety of motorists and other users of the Central Business District, then it becomes a necessity. Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort recently told a Chamber of Commerce meeting that one of the trees at the intersection of Tenth Street and Eighth Avenue was to be removed and that action was carried out during October. We spoke to the Officer-in-Charge of Home Hill Police, Sergeant Sam Pyke who advised that the tree was reported to the Council's Road Safety Committee and came after the investigation from a near fatal traffic crash that occurred some months back at the intersection. Sgt Pyke said "The tree/s were identified as a contributing factor to the crash, due to them inhibiting the view at the intersection". There were also public complaints received to QPS, which were forwarded to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). Sgt

Pyke said he was not on the committee, so he was not sure what the discussion surrounding it was. "QPS just advised the concern, it's up to council and/or TMR to rectify any safety concerns".



IT SEEMS Home Hill is in for a series of centenary celebrations in the future as the town comes to a point where the work of our Pioneers in the years after this area was opened up are building up the birthdays. The Malpass Hotel celebrated their centenary during October as the new owners recognised the work of Joseph Malpass, who built the hotel in 1924. With the south side of the Burdekin River being opened up in 1911, there was plenty happening in and around the town in the following years as the town opened up to businesses and more people moved into the area. The Home Hill Post Office is also due for recognition, with the plaques in front of some of the town's businesses acting as a reminder of what happened in the past. In fact, we received a reminder from Mrs Regina Lequerica of Gumlu of the Post Office celebration—and it could not have come at a better time as we are also able to recognise the valuable service provided by Anthony Chian-det and Lorraine Connell for the many years they worked behind the counter at the Post Office. And what better reason could there be for Cara Trindle to take over the role than to ensure Home Hill

has a Post Office into the future. And to carry on the centenaries, the Burdekin Race Club is also looking for information about the former Home Hill Race Club which, we understand, has a history dating back to around 1925. If anyone knows of any other long serving businesses or organisations with a centenary of service, please let us know.

ANYONE who uses a computer will be well aware of the many scams that find their way into our email boxes—but we have noticed one type recently, where someone has obviously been able to hack into someone's information and gather names and addresses from an address book. Those scammers then contact the people concerned and put across the story that they have a throat complaint and are unable to contact them and ask the recipient to make a call to their number. The best advice is do not accede to the request—and also advise the person who they are misrepresenting. You will probably find that the person concerned is receiving many warnings from other recipients. Be wary!

- DAVID JACKSON



# Fun times for festival finale

THE 2024 Home Hill Harvest Festival reaches its finale over the first nine days of November as a variety of events take place to bring to an end over a month of exciting activities enjoyed by a large number of people.

Leading the way in the next week will be a focus on the Home Hill Race Track as the Burdekin Race Club hosts Derby Day, with a large crowd of ladies enjoying the lead-in races to the 2024 Melbourne Cup.

The annual Festival Pet Show will take place on Wednesday, November 6 in conjunction with the Bolt for Bucks. Following that is the Home Hill Rotary Club's Festival Ball, where the seven Festival Queen entrants will be presented before the crowning of the Festival Personality Queen and the Festival Charity Queen.

Big crowds are then expected to fill Eighth Avenue from 5pm for the annual Harvest Festival Parade in which colourful floats and marching units will dazzle the crowds as they move through the Central Business District to the Post Office and Back to the Partying in and around Watson's Green in Ninth Avenue and Ninth Street.

A range of activities and entertainment will keep the crowd entertained late into the night to finalise the 2024 festival.

# Cara moves into a different career

THE Home Hill Post Office, which is marking the building's centenary, now moves into the hands of new Licensee, Cara Trindle, who has for 20 years been providing Wilmar Sugar and Renewables with the best of her increasing knowledge on everything to do with the Mill's Locos.

Cara started at Wilmar as a Loco driver and worked as a shop assistant in the slack season for the first few years of that career. However, as she increased her knowledge of the Mill trade, she stayed at the mill full time and moved on to being a trainer's assistant and then into the role of a trainer in her own right. She has also worked in a Safety Advisory position over the two decades at the sugar mill.

Putting the change in career down to "wanting to ensure a Post Office stayed in Home Hill", Cara was on the job from Monday, October 28, learning as much as she could of what was ahead of her.



ABOVE—New Licensee at the Home Hill Post Office, Cara Trindle and (BELOW) The plaque at the base of the Post Office steps marking its centenary



# 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 these coming events —

## Future meetings:

**Saturday, November 2, 2024**

Justin Scott Memorial Day

Ladies Day under the Fig Trees

**Saturday, December 7, 2024**



A large program of local races during each race day plus southern races—and with

# Chamber retains strong interest in meetings

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce continued to attract strong interest in their monthly social networking meetings, with another large crowd of attendees being present at the October meeting.

That interest was generated by the guest speaker, Ryan Jones with a number of Home Hill district farmers taking the opportunity to hear what the Chairman of the Burdekin Rivers Improvement Trust had to say.

Mr Jones, who took over the position from the previous long-term chairman, Matthew Patane, spoke of his role as a Helicopter Pilot and his involvement with the Burdekin River for many years. He said the role of the Trust was to look after the river and to protect the river banks.

He also referred to the removal of trees from the river and the fact that they grow so prolifically because the sand in the river is always wet.

Mr Jones also spoke of the major projects being undertaken by the Trust which were costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

However, he said there was a limit to the amount of funding that the River Trust had.

The interest in the River Trust also extended to the questions from the audience with a number of those present seeking answers to their queries about the River Trust work and also expressing their own opinions on the projects being undertaken.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort also informed the meeting of the appointment of two new officers with residential backgrounds in the Shire to key positions within the Council.

She said Kim Olsen had been appointed as Director Corporate and Community Services and James Stewart, had been appointed to the position of Director Infrastructure, Planning and Environmental Services.

The next meeting will take place at the Home Hill Community Sports Club on Wednesday, November 16 when the guest speaker will be a representative of the Copperstring Project in North Queensland.



Guest Speaker, Chairman of the Burdekin Rivers Improvement Trust, Ryan Jones (left) with Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Uli Liessmann and Ray Menkens



Interested attendees at the Chamber of Commerce October meeting were (from left) Laurie Rigano, Bill Lewis and Chris Cannavan

## Remembrance Day Service on November 11

RESIDENTS of the Home Hill community will once again have the opportunity to remember the end of World War I when a Remembrance Day Service is held at the War Memorial in the Home Hill Memorial Park.

Commencing at 10.50am, before the Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month, the service will

remember all those ex-servicemen and women who gave their lives in World War I, so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have today. The service will include a number of short speeches, the laying of wreaths and the playing of The Last Post and Reveille before refreshment are offered to the participants.

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# Home Hill Police Beat



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

THE Home Hill Police Division has seen a slight increase in overall crime in the last few months, which is usual at this time of the year.

Property crime in the division is down from the same time last year, with only a few break and enters reported in the last few months.

My officers and I are all committed to addressing crime in the division and when something occurs, we will always work diligently to investigate the matter to ensure offenders are held to account.

DOMESTIC and Family Violence (DFV) is still the highest call for service that Home Hill Police attend to in the division and makes up about 70 per cent of our work.

Home Hill isn't different from any other area around the state when it comes to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV). DFV is a serious and complex social problem within all communities, including our own.

If you call police to report a DFV incident that is happening now or has occurred, our first priority will be the safety of all parties involved. Police will conduct a holistic, victim-centric and trauma-informed investigation to:

- Maximise the safety, protection and wellbeing of people who fear or experience DFV and to minimise disruptions to their lives;
- Prevent or reduce DFV and the exposure of children to



The new Domestic Violence "Safe Space" that has been created at the Police Station for victims to disclose DFV and moves away from the typical clinical vibe of a Police Station.

DFV;

- Ensure people who commit DFV are held accountable for their actions; and
- Ensure referrals for appropriate support are made available for victim survivors, perpetrators and any person affected by DFV.

Home Hill Police are committed to keeping our community safe from DFV, collaborating with the DFV service sector and partner agencies to deliver integrated service responses that protect victim survivors and

hold perpetrators to account.

Home Hill Police recently received funding to create a DV 'Safe Space' in the station. This room creates a safe and comfortable space for victims to disclose DFV and moves away from the typical clinical vibe of a Police Station.

If you or someone you know is being impacted by DFV, please reach out to us at the station or request contact with police online.

IT IS also a timely reminder that the Home Hill Police Station has set office hours for Queensland

Police Service business, as well as specific times and days for drivers licensing.

Our administration officer, Josie, works hard at providing this service to the Home Hill community.

Office hours are 9am to 3pm each week day, except Wednesday, with drivers licensing hours from 9am to 12pm each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

The contact number for the Home Hill Station is 4782 1300 and we can also be contacted on email at [home-hill.station@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:home-hill.station@police.qld.gov.au)

If there are any policing issues in the community you wish to raise, my door is always open.



**Look out  
for those  
cane trains**



**wilmar**

# Positive progress for Race Club

RETIRING President of the Burdekin Race Club, Ricky Gudge has used his annual report to the Club's Annual General Meeting in October to look back on their successes since the current members took control in December, 2015, which has resulted in an organisation that was "broke" to having "over \$400,000 in the bank". As he appealed for more younger members to join the club to maintain the



Burdekin Race Club President, Ricky Gudge

fence (thanks to a small team who turned up to help) which brightened their look as well as supplying safety to viewers, horses and jockeys, while the acquisition of a spray boom had reduced a job that could take more than half a day to around an hour.

The Club President also reported on Racing Queensland's compliance demands including the Stewards Room which

success that they have achieved over the period of a decade, Mr Gudge acted on his well-publicised intentions to stand down from the club leadership in his report in which he said the 2023-24 racing "has been a very busy time" for the club with several TAB meetings, "another great Derby Day which continues to grow, an enormous Growers Day", as well as their normal race meetings that always brought strong nominations and produces strong, close racing.

He congratulated all those involved with this year's Growers Day, which he described as "huge".

"Leanne (Gudge) already has ideas on how we can continue to set the bar higher with this day . . . it is an event that many clubs are envious of".

Improvements also continued at the club, with Mr Gudge referring to the acquisition of a new watering system which "is a Godsend" as it guarantees consistent and even watering of the track and "eventually I would like to hook into this system, that would allow external watering of the track, then the grounds".

As well, the club had the installation of the patron

has insufficient area, the external fencing of the entire track, which must be chain meshed to a minimum height of 1.2 metres and the training track which requires an external collapsible running rail.

"Some significant costs . . . we will be applying for grants for some of these, but our club will need to continue spending to complete some of these requirements," Mr Gudge reported.

Adding to those needs, he reported to the members that apart from going from "being broke" to having over \$400,000 in the bank, "we have also spent over \$750,000 on needed improvements (approximately \$270,000 was grants), which leaves \$480,000 which has been spent by the club". "Can I say this was an amazing effort, congratulations," Mr Gudge said.

While Mr Gudge was ready to step away from the position, no nominations were received for a new President, which led to discussions among those members at the meeting about whether it was fair to elect him as "interim president" until a new leader was found.

## Extra race meeting for Home Hill

THE Burdekin Race Club has been allocated an extra race meeting in December.

The Club was advised recently that because the Charters Towers Club was unable to race on their track on Saturday, December 7, the meeting date had been allocated to the Burdekin Club.

That race meeting will follow a meeting on the Home Hill track on Saturday, November 2 – which is Derby Day featuring "Ladies Day" under the Fig Trees, as well as the "Justin Scott Memorial Day" celebrations.

The discussions led to the following officers being elected for the next year –

President: Ricky Gudge

Vice President: Ron Scott

Assistant Vice President: Damian Tapiolas

Treasurer: Leanne Gudge

Secretary: Leanne Gudge

Providore: Ron Scott

Club Steward: Doug Chappell

Kitchen: Helen Scott

Promotions: Leanne Gudge, Holly Davenport

# Council acknowledges mosquito concerns

THE ongoing concerns of residents of Home Hill and the Burdekin as a whole have been acknowledged by the Burdekin Shire Council with regard to the current mosquito infestations affecting most of the region.

Mosquito populations typically surge four to 14 days following significant rain events or tides exceeding 3.5 metres, as high tides can push water into salt flats and other usually dry areas, creating ideal mosquito breeding grounds.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort emphasised Council's focus on maintaining public areas for residents' safety and comfort through its permanent mosquito monitoring and treatment program, which targets mosquito larvae to limit adult populations before they spread.

"Our teams are working hard to reduce mosquito larvae around public spaces with barrier treatments, helping protect residents and families who visit our outdoor facilities," Cr Dalle Cort said. "Most of the mosquitoes currently affecting the Burdekin are salt marsh mosquitoes, a species known to travel up to 50 kilometres on prevailing winds. These mosquitoes have a lifespan of around 14 days and require saltwater conditions to breed." The Council has encouraged residents to consider protective measures for their own homes, including using insect repellents, wearing long sleeves and possibly implementing barrier treatments. Further information on Council's mosquito control efforts is available from the Council's Customer Service Centre on 4783 9800 or by visiting burdekin.qld.gov.au.



# Christmas flavour for Craft Spectacular

A DESIRE by many of the previous Burdekin Craft Spectacular's stall holders and patrons for the popular event to return with a special Christmas flavour has been met, with the event to be held on Saturday, November 30, 2024.

In what has been a wish by many of those involved in past years that the Burdekin Uniting Church hold a Christmas Craft Spectacular, the amazing event on November 30 will be "bigger, brighter and better" with more and varied stalls, displaying a large variety of items suitable to purchase as gifts for anyone on your Christmas List - or even for yourself.

The event will be held on the last Saturday in November - November 30 - at the Burdekin Memorial Hall in Ninth Avenue, Home Hill, from 9am to 2pm.

The entry fee will remain at \$5 per person, with payment being Cash Only. Children under 12 will be free of charge.

Three Lucky Spot Draws will take place between 12.30pm and 2pm and the winning entry must be present to accept the

prize.

Free demonstrations that will be running throughout the Craft Spectacular will include - Diamond Art Pens; Christmas Decorations using fabric Yo Yos; and Christmas Felt Pouches and bags.

Children will be well catered for, with entertainment including a Treasure Hunt, with each child participating receiving a prize. Food and drinks will be available in the beautiful dining room, with the ever-popular High Tea Trolley tempting patrons with some very special treats.

A Cake Stall and a Second-Hand Book Stall will also be operating during the day.

Burdekin residents have been urged to "come along with your family and friends" and make it a special day for themselves.

Take the time to view the large range of stalls and share in a beautiful dining experience with home-made curry and rice, sandwiches, quiches, cakes and the High Tea Trolley delights, along with cold drinks and tea and coffee.

The Burdekin Craft Spectacular will be the perfect place to purchase gifts for everyone on your Christmas List - from family and friends to work colleagues or even something special for yourself. Adults and children have been encouraged to "get creative" and enter the competition to hand-make a very special "Christmas Card".

The Entry fee is \$2 and all entries will be at the entrance to the hall on the day.

The Entries will be judged by the public with a gold coin donation. Your \$2 entry fee will be the first vote for your entry - and all money raised from the competition will

go towards supporting the Burdekin School Chaplains.

The most popular entry in the Junior and Senior Section will receive a prize.

Entries should be delivered to the Memorial Hall between 3pm and 7pm on Friday, November 29 - and they must be received by 8am at the latest on the day of the Craft Spectacular.

Patrons are reminded not to forget to vote for their favourite and support the district's wonderful chaplains at the same time.

Any enquires about the Craft Spectacular should be emailed to [burdekincraftspectacular@gmail.com](mailto:burdekincraftspectacular@gmail.com) or by phoning Judy Berryman (0428 877 883).



Amanda Daley with some of her craft items at an earlier Craft Fair

## Member for Burdekin returned in State Government

Continued from Page 1—

He said he was incredibly honoured to not only be able to call this great electorate home, "but for a fourth time to be elected as your representative in the Queensland Parliament".

"I want to say a big thank you to all those residents who put their faith in me during the recent election.

"I would also like to take the time to acknowledge the countless volunteers who took time out of their day to support my campaign during challenging conditions and I'd also like to thank my staff in my electorate office and my family for their support."

Mr Last said that for years, this electorate had given more than its fair share

of the pie, from our industries to our communities and you deserve to continue to have a strong voice in your corner.

"As the Member for Burdekin, my focus is to continue delivering for this electorate and that starts with keeping my promises to you.

"I know how much it will mean to emergency patients at the Ayr Hospital to access potentially life-saving CT scans without needing to be transferred 100km up the road, or for our grassroots netball players to experience a game on new courts, under bright lights and with a new club house.

"I've watched this community get behind our firefighters as we called for a

new fire station so I know how much it will mean to each of you to see our frontline staff finally have the home they deserve," he said. "There is certainly plenty of work to be done and the LNP have committed to getting to work with plans to legislate Making Queensland Safer laws including Adult Crime, Adult Time and putting victims first. "As always my electorate staff and I remain committed to helping you with a wide range of issues, so please do not hesitate to contact the Burdekin Electorate Office if you need assistance."

# Quick response needed to avoid pipeline delays

THE Bowen Pipeline Company is hoping for a quick response from the incoming Queensland State Government Planning Minister to avoid any more delays to the proposed water pipeline connecting the Burdekin River to Bowen and all the agricultural lands in between.

A spokesman for the Company said they were pleased to see Dale Last re-elected, particularly given his strong support for their community-led project.

"All we need is a letter from the incoming Planning Minister with a single sentence permitting us to lodge our Ministerial application," the spokesman said.

"We have been held up 15

months by the outgoing government and delays are no longer acceptable, as this impacts gravely on our construction start date and the start of employment for 200 people in the local communities.

"If we were to obtain the letter we seek from the incoming Government in November, we could have our State approvals by June and be turning soil in late 2025, early 2026 and be operational in 2028."

The Company spokesman said that every month's delay was another 100 years of lost wages for the Burdekin and Bowen communities, that will never be recovered.

"We have secured the entire 182 kilometres of

trunk and branch lines, with the exception of 40 metres under an open channel (Lower Burdekin Water 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.

"We have also secured the land for all five pump stations plus the laydown areas," he said.

"We are now in discussions for an in-principal agreement with Lower Burdekin Water for this final tiny piece of the pipeline alignment," the Company spokesman said.

"For completeness, we would like to have this

closed out so nothing prevents us lodging the Ministerial application." The Company spokesperson said it was interesting to see the Cane growers February 2024 submission to the QCA looking to hand back up to some 150,000ml of water to Sunwater, the water allocated for wetting the open channels. "Add this to the available water allocations in the BFD and we have some 350 billion litres of water and BPC only needs a fraction of that," he said.

"When the dam wall is raised, the total available water could reach 500 billion litres, that's half a trillion litres."

## Disaster preparedness—Free waste disposal

DISASTER season preparedness is being encouraged by the Burdekin Shire Council, as local residents are offered the opportunity to dispose of their waste for free on Sunday, December 1, 2024.

The Free Waste Disposal Day is aimed at encouraging residents to clean up around their homes, removing any potential hazards and reducing the risk of damage during severe weather events.

The initiative not only supports residents in their disaster readiness efforts, but also fosters a sense of community by bringing people together to work towards a safer and more resilient Burdekin.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the Free Waste Disposal Day is a great opportunity for everyone to take simple, yet effective, steps towards safeguarding their properties.

"As we approach the cyclone season, it is crucial that we do everything we can to prepare for potential disasters," Cr Dalle Cort said.

"The *Let's Get Ready Burdekin - Free Waste Disposal Day* is an important part of this process, allowing residents to safe-

ly dispose of sorted waste and help prevent the build-up of debris that could pose a risk during severe weather.

"This initiative is about more than just cleaning up - it's about coming together as a community to ensure we're all prepared," she said.

"By taking the time to clear your properties now, you're helping protect not only your home, but your neighbours' and the wider Burdekin community. I encourage everyone to get involved."

Residents can take advantage of the Free Waste Disposal Day by taking sorted waste to the Council's Waste Transfer Stations and Landfills.

Usual operating hours will apply and residents are being encouraged to check the list of acceptable waste materials for each site in advance.

More information on the Free Waste Disposal Day or tips on how to prepare for the upcom-

ing disaster season can be found on the Council's website or by calling the Council's Customer Service Centre on 4783 9800.





# Centenary of service by the Malpass Hotel

THE Home Hill community turned out in force to help the Malpass Hotel and its relatively new owners to celebrate a centenary of service to the town through its bars and restaurants. A crowd of over 130 people filled the hotel and its surrounds for an evening of quality food and musical entertainment on Friday night, October 18 as they enjoyed a feast of a Philippines-based menu and live music from popular North Queensland duo, the Gottani Sisters. After taking over the ownership of the hotel in 2023, Lilibeth and Jun Myles have devoted the past year to upgrading the hotel's accommodation and public areas to a higher standard, resulting in much of the work being completed in time for the recognition of the historic hotel's centenary of its opening in 1924 by Joseph

Malpass. Helping to celebrate the hotel's centenary in an address to the crowd, Burdekin Shire Mayor, Pierina Dalle Cort asked the question . . . "If only walls could talk?" And suggested there would be some great stories to be told . . . whether they were true or not. Cr Dalle Cort said the stylish Malpass Hotel first opened its doors in October, 1924 by Joseph and Jan Malpass, who had managed hotels across North Queensland and had found it fitting to build one in Home Hill as well.

"The Malpass Hotel has contributed significantly to this town and the Malpass name holds a strong legacy with many connections to the community," she said. "While the hotel's rich history could keep us talking all night and many publicans have come and gone over the years, tonight we pay tribute to Lilibeth and Jun."

Cr Dalle Cort said the couple had admired the building for years as they drove past, until they eventually decided it was the perfect place to invest and call home. "A tour of this charming old hotel reveals the love and pride they have poured into restoring it," she said, "making it not just a business, but their cherished home here

in Home Hill." She wished Lilibeth and Jun all the best as they continued to breathe new life into the historic building and creating a space that honoured its past, while building a future filled with warmth and community."

With the Mayor's brother, Gus Dalle Cort leading the way as MC, the crowd also heard from Home Hill Chamber of Commerce President, David Jackson while also being entertained well into the night by the Gottani Sisters.



New owners of the Malpass Hotel, Lilibeth and Jun Myles (centre) with the President of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce David Jackson (left) and Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort



Home Hill Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Uli Liessmann (left) with Peter and Lyn Sheehan at the celebrations



The Gottani Sisters entertaining the crowd at the Malpass Hotel Centenary Celebrations



Erin Brennan (left) and Lina Antoniazzi were part of the crowd at the Malpass Hotel celebrations



Annette and Richard Kelly were also present at the Malpass Hotel night of celebrations



Sally Saunders with the "Burdekin Range" of products on display in the new business that has opened in Home Hill's Central Business District



Mandy McKeagg with all of the "little bits that you need" in The Little Craft & Gift Shop that has opened up in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill

# New craft shop now open in Home Hill

WITH so many crafters in the local community, two innovative young ladies have combined to open a new business in the centre of the Home Hill Central Business District to cater for the local crafting needs.

Mandy McKeagg and Sally Saunders are the two ladies behind The Little Craft & Gift Shop, which has opened at 100 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill on the western side of the median (in the shop previously occupied by Lilly May Florist).

Mandy McKeagg found it difficult to guarantee any prospective employer she could attend work to set hours, because of her ongoing health issues as a Leukaemia patient.

"Combined with my love of crafting and fundraising, I decided that working

for myself was the best option," she said.

Sally Saunders was a Gold Coast resident until two years ago.

"Moving up here was a no brainer," she commented. "Life is way too hectic down there."

She said that with her family, they moved up here – "New jobs, new home and a new town."

The Little Craft & Gift Shop was planned by a simple conversation starting with "Hey, what do you think about opening a shop in Home Hill?" Mandy asked.

"The conversation happened, decision was made and The Little Craft & Gift Shop became a reality," she said.

"With so many crafters in town and not having to always go to Townsville, we

decided to keep business local."

Sally said that after leaving her job to start study next year to become a teacher, she needed something to do and her love of creating personal gifts for every-day people with every-day lives was just a starting point.

As a result, the Little Craft & Gift Shop has opened its doors from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and from 9am to 3pm on Saturday.

And they have started with their shelves stocked with a variety of products ranging from being stockists for craft products to innovative items that have been made locally.

They are stockists of Flavourista, as well as hand-made craft items including beads and crochet cottons, lace yarn, assorted craft items, gifts and hand-made beaded pens.

They also have personalised items including coolers, t-shirts, aprons, mugs and bags – and many with Burdekin themes.

That 'Burdekin' range includes T-shirts, caps, aprons, totes, mugs (personalised, if required), tumblers and drink coolers.

The two new business owners are strong supporters of the Cancer Fund – starting their new operation in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October

The two ladies are hoping for the support of the local community to ensure a positive future for the new business.

"Trying to bring together a business isn't easy, but hopefully, with the support of the local community, The Little Craft & Gift Shop in Home Hill may actually succeed," Sally Saunders said.

"We need to promote local towns, local businesses with enough word of mouth . . . you can't fail for trying.

"Creating your imagination is easy to achieve and you can do it with small steps until you take that giant leap.

"If you think it, Create it, Simple!"

To contact The Little Craft & Gift Shop, phone 0473 865 712.

**IN THE FUTURE**—Coming by mid-November the shop will stock a range of cottons, quilting equipment and machine oils and needles.

**IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT** to pre-order your requirements for Christmas.

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# Keen competition in Festival Town of Origin Games



Andrew Ballin (left) received the Trophy for the winning Ayr Cricket Team, as well as the Man of the Match Award from Mark Vass



ABOVE—Captain of the Home Hill Team, Bryce Stockdale received the winner's trophy from Mark Vass



ONE of the most well-supported additions to the Home Hill Harvest Festival Program in recent year has been the Town of Origin sporting competitions between teams from Home Hill and Ayr, which brings out the strong competitive nature between the two towns.

The teams first took the field in rugby league competitions, but in recent years, that has also extended to Cricket and Netball as well as the league combatants.

There was once again a strong attendance of spectators at the Home Hill High School sports fields, where Home Hill batted first in the cricket and scored what seemed to be a competitive 5 for 153 in the 20 overs.

Brendan Williams top scored for Home Hill with 49 not out.

However, consistent batting from the Ayr team led by man of the match, Andrew Ballin, who retired at 50, they were able to pass the total with three wickets down.

Home Hill came back in the Netball, taking the Honours with a 27-16 victory.

The Best and Fairest Trophy was awarded to Demi Smith.

The Rugby League provided keen competition between the two teams, with neither team gaining a winning lead. Ayr led for most of the match but Home Hill came back with minutes left on the clock to take a six-point lead.

However, Ayr were able to score in the final minute, but the conversion from out wide swung away from the posts, giving Home Hill a narrow two-point win, 24-22.

Man of the Match was Dom Arrate.

LEFT—Festival President, Mark Vass (right) with Man of the Match in the rugby league, Dom Arrate



ABOVE—Festival President, Mark Vass presented the winner's shield to the Home Hill Captains, Tayah Gibson and Kate Wilkie



ABOVE—The Best and Fairest Award in the Netball competition went to Demi Smith, with Festival President, Mark Vass presenting her with her trophy

## Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

**My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart**

*Psalm 6, Verse 10*



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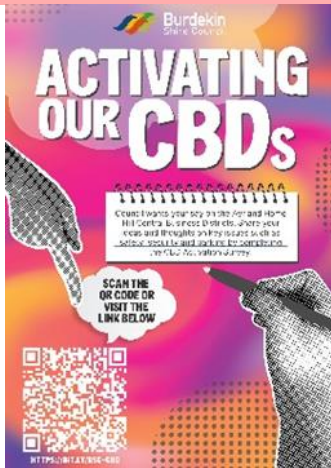
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# Activating our CBD's campaign

BUSINESSES and residents of the Burdekin Shire are being urged to participate in the Council's latest community initiative, an 'Activating Our CBDs' campaign, aimed at enhancing the Ayr and Home Hill central business districts (CBDs). The campaign will give residents the opportunity



vibrant spaces, that reflect the needs and aspirations of our community," she said. "This is your chance to have your say on what improvements are needed, whether it's better parking, enhanced security or something else entirely.

to share their thoughts on improvements to the CBD's, with a focus on key issues such as safety, security, parking and other potential enhancements to make the CBD's more vibrant and welcoming.

As part of the campaign, Shire Councillors and officers will hit the streets in the coming weeks to engage directly with residents and businesses and to encourage them to complete the CBD Activation Survey.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the council welcomed input from the community on what they believed would help breathe new life into these critical areas.

"Our Ayr and Home Hill CBDs are the heart of our towns and we want to ensure they are safe, attractive and

to working with residents and local businesses to make our CBDs places where people want to spend time, shop and socialise."

The CBD Activation Survey will be available online and in person, with councillors present in both Ayr and Home Hill CBDs to gather input from locals.

All residents and businesses have been invited to fill out the survey and contribute their ideas for revitalising the town centres.

The feedback collected through this process will inform the development of a detailed action plan aimed at addressing the community's top concerns and priorities for both CBDs.

Fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/863CMT8>.

# Be a part of a weekly Park Run

A REGULAR "Park Run" is not something that Home Hill has within this community – but there are town residents – and visitors - who do take the time each week to participate in the Plantation Park Run, that is held in Ayr every Saturday morning.

Park Runs are held around the world every Saturday morning and have devotees who participate in the five-kilometre journey, no matter where they are at the time.

Co-Ordinator of the Plantation Park Run, Steve Crouther said participants can run or even walk the journey, which is held over a set course in Plantation Park from 7am every Saturday. He said the "free" Park Runs were

started by five guys in England and they recently celebrated their Twentieth Anniversary – while the Ayr event held their 300th run on October 19.

While the "runs" are not a race, those taking part are encouraged to keep moving, even though they may walk all the way. Park Runs cannot just be started by anyone – a course has to be set, a risk assessment has to be undertaken every year and they have to abide by set guidelines.

Mr Croether said that "all sorts of people" take part locally and some try to find where a Park Run is being held when they are on holidays. He said the Park Run was organised by volunteers and they averaged about 20 participants.

# Burdekin Region Mills Weekly Production Figures

## For week ending October 26, 2024

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	144,445	2,226,449
Pioneer	80,135	1,042,503
Kalamia	68,968	1,196,209
Inkerman	74,931	1,327,863
Burdekin	368,479	5,793,024

## CCS

Invicta	14.54	14.33
Pioneer	14.47	14.31
Kalamia	13.75	13.90
Inkerman	14.33	14.08
Burdekin	14.33	14.18

## Comments —

### For week ending October 19, 2024

THE Burdekin mills processed just under 265,000 tonnes of cane for the week. Throughputs were down at all mills this week due to either wet weather impacts or unplanned stops. Inkerman experienced a significant stop following an Ergon power outage. The season-to-date total is now 5.42M tonnes, which represents 66 per cent of the Burdekin region's crop forecast of 8.20M tonnes. The average weekly CCS was 14.20, which is well below budget due to the wet event and subsequent burnt cane left in the paddocks. The highest CCS, of 17.1, was from a rake of Q240 1R in the Leichardt (Inkerman) productivity district.

### For week ending October 26, 2024

THE Burdekin mills processed just over 368,000 tonnes of cane for the week. Pioneer had its best weekly throughput for the season, exceeding 80,000 tonnes. Invicta also exceeded the budgeted throughput while Kalamia and Inkerman just met the weekly budget due to a number of unplanned stops. The season-to-date total is now 5.79M tonnes, which represents 70 per cent of the Burdekin region's crop forecast of 8.20M tonnes. The average weekly CCS was 14.33, which is still below budget due to the crop recovering from the wet weather event, but CCS is improving as conditions dry up. The highest CCS, of 17.3, was from a rake of Q240 4R in the Leichardt (Inkerman) productivity district.

Remember to always use your train brain and give way to trains at road crossings



John Tait,  
Cane Supply Manager,  
Burdekin Region



## Uli Liessmann comments . .

NEXT month, being the eleventh month of the year, we will commemorate Remembrance Day on the eleventh day at the eleventh hour - the war that was to end all wars. To get an understanding of what the young Australian troops went through, you should take the time to have a look at the Australian Movie called "Before Dawn", a five star movie and you will get a better understanding of the horrors of what humanity will put itself through.

BY NOW, we will have a new Government and the only person to address the Home Hill Chamber was Anne Baker, who spoke very well on behalf of the Australian Labor Party. The rest of the candidates were either too busy or we locals were not worth the time or effort.



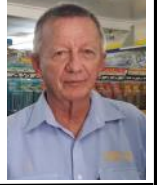
STRIKING Council union workers—and there are a few unions involved—who are in dispute with Council in regard to better working rights, deliberately timed their strike meeting to coincide with Council's Tuesday general meeting. Both sides are hoping to resolve this ongoing dispute for an early resolution, to the betterment of all concerned.

ON A not-such-a-good-note, Home Hill's Lloyd Mann Gardens need a unisex toilet sooner than later as more people are using the park's trees for their business, as well as drinking and leaving a mess with the many empty beer bottles. This park needs to be patrolled on a regular basis, at least at weekends.



THE tree at the end of the Eighth Avenue medium strip has been removed (pictured) for a better visual of the ongoing traffic flow on Eighth Avenue. Now that the tree has been removed, I can report that the visual improvement is amazing and the safety factor has never been better for motorists.

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



THE artwork for the Comfort Stop is well on its way, with the upgraded design as well as including the Chamber of Commerce logo, which is the Home Hill logo. It will be placed on the footpath entrance to the Comfort Stop. Gardeners were hard at work recently with new planting in the garden bed between the Queensland Country Bank and the Comfort stop.



THE launch of the Harvest Festival in conjunction with the opening of the Ephemera in Lloyd Mann Gardens was a huge success. The Harvest Festival Queens were introduced to the public and the winner of the Ephemera was a Townsville resident. The eleven art installations were of a high quality. You can also vote for your favorite piece of art by scanning the QR code and the result will be announced at the Harvest Festival Street

Party. Pictured is another of the Ephemera entries entitled "We Are watching You".

THESE are my opinions and views only. To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064.

- ULI LIESSMANN

# Feedback sought on sport and recreation plan

MEMBERS of the Burdekin Shire community have been invited to participate in the consultation process for the Draft Update of the Burdekin Sport and Recreation Plan.

Following extensive community consultations held earlier this year, a draft plan has now been completed and the Burdekin Shire Council has sought feedback to ensure the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the Burdekin community.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said community involvement was crucial in shaping the future of sport and recreation in the Burdekin.

“Sport and recreation are vital to the health and wellbeing of residents at all ages,” Cr Dalle Cort said. “This draft plan provides a strategic vision for enhancing our facilities, programs and services to better meet the needs of everyone. Now is the time for residents to have their say to ensure the final plan aligns with their expectations.”

The Council encouraged all residents to review the draft plan via their website, <http://www.burdekin.qld.gov.au> and share their thoughts through a feedback form, which could be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DraftSportRecPlan>.

## 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](mailto:homehilltennis@gmail.com); Facebook: Home Hill Tennis; To book a court: [play.tennis.com.au/homehilltennis](http://play.tennis.com.au/homehilltennis))

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

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

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

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

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

**Home Hill Service Clubs**—The **Home Hill Lions Club** meets at the Crown Hotel on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The

**Home Hill Rotary Club** meets at their Club House (58 Thirteenth Avenue, Home Hill) on the first Tuesday of each month and at the Malpass Hotel, Home Hill at 6.30pm on each other Tuesday night of the month. Visitors are welcome at both clubs.

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

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

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

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

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

*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)*