

HOME HILL NEWS

A welcome from the Home Hill Business Community - No. 39 - October 2018

Festival sculpture opened up for ideas

BEFORE the first Harvest Festival Ephemera took place in Lloyd Mann Park in Home Hill in 2017, a question mark appeared which drew the attention of passing motorists, even though it was not part of the Ephemera entries.

Now a second permanent fixture has been installed in the park—a partly opened sardine can—which advises local residents and visitors to the area that the Festival is “open for ideas”.

The sardine can was unveiled recently prior to Harvest Festival President, John Woods announcing the winner of the 2018 Ephemera.

Mr Woods said the second sculpture was a permanent feature of the park and had been developed by Vass Engineering and sign writer, Sam Scuderi, with funding from the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) and the Burdekin Shire Council.

With tongue firmly planted in his cheek, he said people didn't know that sardines were once canned in Home Hill.

He said that each year, the committee looked for sponsors and the Queensland Country Credit Union had come on board as a naming rights sponsor and would continue next year, while Wilmar and the Council were also sponsors.

In introducing the four Festival Queen candidates to the crowd at the launch, the Festival President pointed out that a lot of young people were involved in the Festival Committee.

He said the Ephemera had begun last year and it had been a big rush be-



Gavin Falco with his winning entry in the 2018 Queensland Country Credit Union Harvest Festival Ephemera—**TRI-BALLZ**—“Reminiscent of times gone by, these three rustic metal spheres have been constructed from scrap metal as a tribute to our local agricultural industry. The metal discs have spent many hours cultivating paddocks on the Burdekin River. The rustic barbed wire once served as fences to secure and raise livestock at Grop-er Creek. Metal loops used to construct the smallest sphere were used many years ago as fittings in a local engineering store. Together, these metal scraps are transformed into sculptures bringing new life to once discarded scrap metal.”

cause it was a big task.

The Festival was offering a \$2000 prize to the winner and he had

been amazed at the things that had come forward from the entrants.

— Continued on page 3

**Medical services in
Home Hill upgraded**
Full story—Page 5



THE advent of women into all areas of modern life has been very much in the news lately—from politics to the workplace and in sport.

And that is the case with the attendance at Home Hill Chamber of Commerce meetings, with women outnumbering the men by three to one amongst the 11 attendees at the September networking meeting.

Now it could have been that the male members of some local business partnerships may have been carrying on the business while their opposite half was taking up their interests in the Chamber – and that is great to see that they are working together in their business roles.

Women are more than welcome to attend Chamber meetings, but it would also be good to see more interest from the males of our community, especially those businesses that are members but do not attend to express their point of view.

The next meeting of the Chamber is on Wednesday, October 17 at the Memorial Hall meeting room and it would be great to see more having an input into what is happening in the Central Business District and the town as a whole.

A reminder also that memberships for the new financial year are now due—with no change to the amount payable.

HOWEVER, is the need for the women's voice to be heard being taken too far by some government decisions — especially when suitably qualified men are being denied places on boards of local statutory bodies because governments insist that more positions should be filled by women — whether they hold the necessary qualifications or not?

We have been told of changes

The finer points of Home Hill . .

THE Harvest Festival Committee have tried to get their message across that they want new ideas for the festival program—and they have not been too subtle about it.

During the launch of the second Festival Ephemera, another permanent addition to Lloyd Mann Park was officially unveiled to accompany the question mark, which led the way into the successful first attempt at an Ephemera in 2017.

Every time anyone drives past the park, they will be reminded of the fact that they should come forward with new festival ideas.



Festival President, John Woods with the sardine can which was unveiled at the launch of the Festival Ephemera with the theme of opening the festival up for ideas.

made which relate to the composition of the board of directors of a Burdekin Statutory Body, which insists that certain positions be filled by women.

There has been a lengthy argument over bullying in political parties recently and that should never be the case, whether it is in politics, business, local organisations or wherever else debate takes place. However, in the same vein, should there be targets for numbers of one gender or the other, when people from either gender may not be up to the standard required to fill the needs and desires of members or the voting public, which are not being met?

THE people of Home Hill and the Burdekin as a whole have always been renowned for their artistic talents and this year's Harvest Festival is again giving local residents a chance to display those talents in a different area—through their fashion ideas.

The Burdekin Artisans, who have opened the way for artists of all persuasions to display their wares at "170 Arts on the Avenue" (adjacent to Ashworths Rock Shop), are sponsoring the "Rags to Runway" event leading into the Festival, with entrants asked to

create a high fashion garment on a limited budget using pre-loved or discounted clothing.

The initial judging will be carried out at a dinner planned for October 27 at the Bridge Restaurant, with the finalists being displayed on the main stage at the festival, where the winners will be announced.

Sewing talents are not as evident as they were many decades ago, but there are sure to be many people throughout the district who would know how to turn new or second hand clothing into something Runway worthy.

With substantial prizes available, entrants have to redesign an item, with components used not to exceed \$40 and the finished product must comply with public decency.

The two sections are for Students 18 years and under and an Open Section, while there will be an encouragement award for using all locally-sourced products. Proof of purchase has to be provided as well as a before and after photograph of the product. Time to get out the sewing machines.

- DAVID JACKSON

All eyes on Harvest Festival

ALL Burdekin eyes will be on Home Hill for entertainment in the next month as the annual Harvest Festival activities commence on the weekend of October 6 and 7 and continue through to the Festival Street Party on Saturday, November 10.

Following the launch of the Festival and announcement of the winner of the Ephemera on September 14, planning has moved forward to where everything will come together to provide entertainment for all ages for the next month.

The feast of entertainment will start on Saturday, October 6 with a Queen Judging Brunch at the Malpass Hotel, before the popular Town of Origin Tri-Series takes place on Sunday, October 7.

The Tri-Series was planned to be moved to the Saturday, but a clash of similar events has resulted in it transferring back to Sunday.

The annual clash between teams from Home Hill and Ayr will commence at the Home Hill High School with the cricket at 12 noon, followed by Netball and Rugby League games, which draws a huge crowd of parochial supporters of both teams from each side of the river.

Other events planned for October include the Mercantile Relay at the Home Hill Swimming Pool on

Saturday, October 13 and the innovative Rags to Runway event, which will take place at the Bridge Restaurant on Saturday, October 27.

The Students' Ball will lead the Festival into November, as students from the District's High Schools "glam up" for a night of festivities at the Burdekin Memorial Hall.



Festival President, John Woods

The Burdekin Race Club's Derby Day Races will feature "Ladies Day at the Races" at the Home Hill track with fashions being to the

fore as well as an afternoon of racing in conjunction with the Spring Carnival in Melbourne.

Sunday, November 5 starts with the Canefields Fun Run at the Home Hill Golf Club from 6am to 8am followed by the annual Golf Ambrose competition starting at the Golf Club at 12 noon.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Church Service will also take place at the Burdekin Memorial Hall from 9am to 11am on Sunday.

Festival activities will continue through to the crowning of the Festival Queens at the Gala Ball at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Friday night, November 9.

The Street Parade will take place from 5pm on Saturday, November 10 followed into the night by the Street Party on Watson's Green and Ninth Street.

Ephemera winner

Continued from page 1 -

"People look at something that looks like a bit of junk," he said, in referring to one entry which he said he would have walked past, but the artist saw something in it.

He thanked the sponsors of the event, Brennan's Tyrepower and Complete Health Pharmacy who were both supporting it again this year.

Several sponsors had also come forward for exhibits.

The entries had been judged by three independent judges who did not know how the others judged the exhibits.

The Ephemera entries will be in Lloyd Mann Park until the beginning of November.

Mr Woods said he totalled the points and there had been only one point between first and second and only four and a half points between first and last.

He said the people's choice award would be announced at the Festival Mardi Gras.

He also announced that they had already received two entries for the 2019 Ephemera.

After being presented with his award, the winning artist, Gavin Falco explained the difficulties he had in placing his display in the park, to avoid damaging the grass.

He said he backed a trailer in to roll the balls into place, but they took off down the ramp and ended up towards the other side of the park.

He then had to roll them back to the position where it is now displayed in Lloyd Mann Park.

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Visiting authors to 'Ignite the Mind' of local readers

LOVERS of reading and writing from throughout the Burdekin will have their world opened up to them over the weekend of October 12 to 14 as authors from around the country visit the district for the 2018 Ignite Your Mind Burdekin Readers and Writers Festival.

Following an Author's Dinner on Friday night (ticketed event), the weekend will provide an interesting range of individual discussions with many of the visiting authors.

Some authors will also combine with others in separate discussion groups during the weekend.

Local and visiting personalities have accepted the roles of moderators to open up the author's thoughts behind their various publications.

Authors who will be featured in the discussions on Saturday and Sunday include David Hunt, Nyunggai Warren Mundine AO, Natasha Lester, Tess Woods, Roly

Sussex, Chris Masters and Matthew Condon, Stephen Roche, Rachel Armstrong, Holly Wainwright, Michael Rowbotham, Caroline Overington and Fiona McCallum, as well as local authors, Don Douglas, Lee-Ann Holmes, Denise Neville and Frank White.

The discussions sessions will commence at 8.30am on Saturday and 9am on Sunday and will take place in various parts of the Burdekin Theatre Complex including the Theatre auditorium and stage, the foyer, The Theatre Loft and the Burdekin Library.

Another ticketed event will take place on Saturday evening, while the Readers and Writers Festival will draw to a close at 1pm on Sunday.

Home Hill residents should check out the program timetable on both days to see when they can hear their favourite authors.

Burdekin Region Mills

Weekly Production Figures

Weeks 14 and 15, ending September 22

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to date
Invicta	119,580	2,080,163
Pioneer	65,951	1,149,169
Kalamia	80,916	1,120,492
Inkerman	78,338	1,172,338
Burdekin	344,785	5,522,162
CCS		
Invicta	15.80	14.77
Pioneer	15.63	14.80
Kalamia	15.06	14.57
Inkerman	15.40	14.64
Burdekin	15.50	14.71

Comments —

WEEK 14— More than 381,000 tonnes of cane were crushed by the Burdekin's four mills in a week that included scheduled stops for Invicta Mill's B-side and Kalamia Mill.

Kalamia passed the one million tonnes crushed milestone last week, while the district as a whole passed the five million tonnes crushed mark. In the following week, there were scheduled stops at Pioneer Mill and Invicta Mill's A-side.

Average CCS for the district remained high at 15.57. The highest CCS sample for the week was 18.15 from a rake of KQ228 plant cane, recorded in the Inkerman area. The Burdekin crop estimate has been revised down from 8.04 million tonnes to 8 million tonnes.

WEEK 15—The Burdekin's four mills crushed a reduced throughput of just un-

der 345,000 tonnes of cane last week.

There were scheduled stops for Pioneer Mill and Invicta Mill's A-side, as well as major stoppages at Pioneer and Invicta following blackouts caused by external sources. In the coming week, there will be scheduled stops at Inkerman and Invicta's B-side. Average CCS for the district remained high at 15.50. The highest CCS reading for the week was 18.1 from rakes of Q240 plant and first ratoon cane, and Q183 first ratoon cane. All samples were from the Invicta area. With school holidays having commenced last Friday, parents and guardians are urged to remind children about the importance of staying well clear of train corridors and agricultural operations

Peter Luke
Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region

Queensland Country Home Hill Harvest Festival



TOWN of ORIGIN TRI SERIES

Home Hill State High School

Sunday, October 7, 2018



Gates open 11.30am

T20 Cricket starts 12 Noon

Adults \$3

Children \$2

Family \$10

Home Hill medical services upgraded

MEDICAL services in Home Hill are to improve dramatically with the relocation and expansion of the Home Hill Surgery .

The practice will move into 67-69 Eighth Avenue, the building previously occupied by the former Home Hill Discount Pharmacy in early November.

Owner of the Surgery, Dr Sarat Tata, has indicated that the practice is planning to move into their new premises from early November, with expanded hours and another passionate doctor joining the existing medical team.

Dr Tata said that the practice will be open seven days a week. Patients will be bulk billed and offered essential allied health services, including pathology services, psychology, podiatry, physiotherapy, dietitian and a visiting dentist.

The practice currently has over 3000 patients in the area from Gumlu to Giru.

Dr Tata came to Home Hill towards the end of 2014 after previously serving at the small Western Australian town of Merredin. Prior to that he lived in several small rural communities in southern India. His father was an education officer and moved position every 10 years.

Dr Tata completed his medical degree in India. During the course of his medical school, he received a number of awards, being presented with 'The best outgoing student of the university' in the first year of his medical school, as well as receiving seven gold medals over the six and half years of study.

Convinced by his sister to move to Australia, he then spent 12 months gaining valuable experience in the wheat belt of Western Australia.

Married to his "darling wife", Pavani in India in 2014, Dr Tata started searching for a new home. He looked at 12 different practices before finding "our generous Home Hill community".

He bought the practice without hesitation from Dr Griffiths and has quickly become a treasured member of our community.

Dr Tata's wife is also a doctor and is clearing her Australian exams, so that she can practice in Australia.

Most recently, Dr Tata won the prestigious award of Northern Queensland Primary Health Network GP of the year, for 2018 amongst all GP's in Far North Queensland. The nominations spoke highly about Dr Tata and his passion for medicine and



Owner and developer of the Home Hill Surgery, Dr Sarat Tata

general practice.

His main priority is holistic health care with a view to improved patient care with an overall objective to achieve a high degree of patient satisfaction.

With a newly renovated practice

and an expanding medical team, he will offer a high degree of quality patient services to his growing patient base.

The new expanded Home Hill Surgery is planning to open in the second week of November.

The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce acknowledges and appreciates the support of Wilmar Sugar's Inkerman Mill with the printing of the *Home Hill News*.

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Year of improvements for Race Club

EVEN with a long list of improvements and purchases over the past year, the Burdekin Race Club is in an excellent position and the most financial it has been in the club's history, according to President Torrie Davies.

Reporting to the recent annual meeting of the club, Mr Davies said he "had the privilege of working with a dedicated group of people who are all

passionate towards horse racing and keeping the Race Club venue functioning in the Burdekin".

Improvements carried out at the club in the past year include -

Unisex jockeys' rooms divided and renovated into male and female rooms at the request of Queensland Racing Stewards and an air conditioner installed in the female room;

A large storage container purchased;

Upgrade of track communications and sound system and connecting all new speakers the length of the straight, resulting in a clearer racing broadcast;

A new power pole and lighting pole and upgrade of the electric power boxes;

Two new 75 inch television sets together with padlocked cabinets to secure them;

New roofing for horse stalls has been approved but is yet to be erected;

Repairs to the running rail, along with unloading tons of top dressing six metres out from the rail and evenly grading it;

Major work and many hours of manual labour to compliment the fashion marquee by constructing floor panels from existing materials from 2017. (The club now boasts a 20m x 10m lacquered parallel flooring).



Ladies day under the Fig Trees at the 2017 Derby Day Races

Apart from the February race meeting, which had to be cancelled because of rain, when it looked like it was going to be well attended as "Memorial Day", Mr Davies said the other four meetings were well supported.

Derby Day was the "Ladies day under the Fig Trees" swelled numbers, while the Christmas December meeting was always uncertain as to what attendance numbers

could be.

The April meeting was moved from Anzac Day to earlier in the month and the introduction of the "Boys from the Bush" promotion was very successful.

The Growers Race Day in May was not hindered by rain this year and the lead-in and set-up was smooth and well organised. While sponsors were down, which was a sign of the district's portrayal at the time, the attendance was reasonable based on the final income and with the exceptional nominations, the number of races was increased to seven.

Mr Davies reported that nominations for the past five race meetings were definitely up on previous years. He offered his thanks to Vice President Rick Gudge for organising and keeping the track in peak condition; Secretary Simone Brennan who plays a very important role on race days and records minutes, as well as other club functions and Treasurer Leanne Gudge, who works on the club's finances and puts in countless hours.

He also recognised the work of provider, Ron Scott, Kitchen convenor, Helen Scott and Promotions officer Holly Davenport.

All officers were returned to their positions for the ensuing year.

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Secretary wanted

THE Burdekin Race Club is on the lookout for a new secretary after Simone Brennan tendered her resignation at the September meeting.

Ms Brennan advised that she was relinquishing the position for personal reasons. Because of the late notice, she said she would stay on until the end of the year.



Secretary Simone Brennan has resigned

Councillor comment . .



Cr Uli Liessmann reports on council activities –

Hello everyone - I'll start at the deep end in regard to rates.

In this present state, with high unemployment and rising costs, it is not a happy subject at the best of times, but it is a subject a large part of the community is talking about. So, what to do? Everyone has to pay their rates and council requires payment of rates and charges by the due date. Now I have had many ratepayers speak to me on this subject and one of the major concerns has been the rate of interest charged on overdue rates, which is 11 per cent compound interest charged on daily rest from the day they become overdue.

I brought this concern up in council on the September 14, 2018 and now it has been flagged for discussion in the next budget. At present, this is the best I can do. Every property in the Shire benefits in one form or other from the facilities and services provided by council plus the administering costs to run the shire.

Also, the half yearly water meter reading will happen some time in October or November, so make sure and check your water piping for leaks, as this will add to your cost. An easy way to check for leaks is to make sure all taps are turned off and then check your water meter to see if it is clicking over. If it is, you have a leak.

I was told it's only 12 weeks to Christmas and I said tell someone who wants to know. Anyway there are other important events coming up before that happens.

The 2018 Home Hill Ephemera in Lloyd Mann Gardens is on until the Harvest Festival and congratulations to Gavin Falco who won this year's Ephemera competition prize in the order of \$2000. Take the time and trouble to have a look at some great local art work and while you are putting your two bobs worth in, you might get an idea for next year's competition.

You may also ask why bother with the Ephemera or in fact any form of art? Because people enjoy and visit the park



Cr Uli Liessmann with his entry in the Harvest Festival Ephemera. With the festival looking for sponsorships, what better way than for a copy of this photo to be sent to the brewing company with a hint of supporting the 2019 Ephemera? Look at the advertising they are getting this year!

it's a free visitor's attraction stop and Home Hill will benefit in the long run.

The next big event on the calendar will be our Harvest Festival and by what I've heard, it will be the best one yet. So much to do and so little time.

These are my views only.

To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or email councillor.liessmann@burdekin.qld.gov.au

- ULI LIESSMANN

The Burdekin's 2018 crushing season is under way

Cane trains are on the move
24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

ALWAYS GIVE WAY TO CANE TRAINS

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EQUIPMENT CLEAR OF
CANE RAILWAY TRACKS

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CANE RAILWAY CROSSINGS
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wilmar

Lions Club welcome for new Governor

THE newly installed District Governor of Lions, Allan Hansen recently visited the Home Hill Lions Club as part of his yearly visit to all of the clubs in his district. Allan's district extends from Papua New Guinea in the north to Sarina in the south and out to Mount Isa in the west.

Allan lives in Halifax and is originally from Bundaberg, where he was a member of Apex for many years.

Pictured (from left) are District Governor Allan Hansen, Home Hill Lions Club president Nyree Woods and the DG's wife, Ellie.



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

Home Hill Harvest Festival—A variety of events for all ages throughout October and early November, culminating in the Procession and Mardi Gras on Saturday, November 10.

170 Arts on the Avenue—The Burdekin Artisans Community invite you to inspect their display of various arts and craft forms at the Ashworths Rock Shop complex from 10am to 4pm each day from Tuesday to Saturday.

Sing Along with the Home Hill Choral Society—every Tuesday evening at the Choral Society Hall in Ninth Avenue—from 7pm to 8.30pm. Everyone 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.

Old Time Dancing at the St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Tenth Avenue, Home Hill every Saturday evening;

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. The narrow road has recently been widened in sections and a number of new safety barriers have been installed. Recommend visiting as there are outstanding views of the surroundings such as cane and other farms.

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;

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

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

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;

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.

Home Hill Swimming Pool (Eleventh Avenue) is open throughout the winter months.

For the sports man and woman - Join in the friendly atmosphere at the **Home Hill Golf Course** (4782 1632—amongst the cane fields on Iona Road), at the **Home Hill Bowling Green** (4782 1185—in Ninth Avenue) which has also diversified into soccer; or at the excellent **Home Hill Tennis complex** in the centre of the Home Hill Race Track.

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.

Burdekin Toastmasters hold their dinner meetings at The Crown Hotel on the first and third Thursday of each month.

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