

HOME HILL NEWS

A welcome from the Home Hill Business Community - No. 44, April, 2019

Ceremonies commemorate ANZAC Day



ANZAC Day services for 2019 in Home Hill will once again make use of the new facilities in the Home Hill park between Ninth and Tenth Avenues (pictured), following the Dedication Ceremony held on the site in December.

While the cenotaph and other equipment were in the process of being relocated from its former Tenth Street site last year, everything is now in place for the later ceremonies to be featured in the pleasant surroundings of the park.

The ceremonies will commence with Coffee Royal at 5am, followed by the Dawn Service at 5.25am in front of the School of Arts Honour Rolls in Ninth Avenue.

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Home-made upgrades for Inkerman Mill

More than \$70 million will be invested across Wilmar Sugar Australia's four Burdekin sites ahead of the 2019 crushing season, as part of the company's ongoing investment in the Australian sugar industry.

The team at Inkerman Mill is currently working through hundreds of individual projects, focused on further improving site safety, performance and reliability.

The largest of these projects involves the replacement of a boiler dust collector, the components for which were fabricated on site by the team at Inkerman Mill workshop.

Work Execution Superintendent Justin Cursio said the decision to build the dust collector in-house was part of an ongoing strategy to bring large-scale manufacturing back to the Burdekin.

"This is a specially-designed item of plant, worth about \$4.1 million all up, so to be able to build some-

thing of this scale in our own workshop is a real positive for local engineering," Mr Cursio said.

"For the past few years, Wilmar has been working to increase its in-house fabrication capabilities, creating more local jobs to ensure we have a large enough skilled workforce to be able to take on jobs of this size.

"We've installed the top half of the new dust collector and inlet ducting already, and will lift the second half of the collector into the factory in the coming months."

Equally important is the long list of maintenance jobs that need to be done before crushing kicks off mid-year.

"We've got crews working to overhaul our 10-megawatt steam generator, which is the item of plant that converts steam produced in the boilers into electricity to power the site," Mr Cursio said.

"There's also a new cane elevator being installed, inspections and maintenance being carried out on

milling equipment and process vessels, as well as electrical and pump upgrades.

"We're about halfway through maintenance season at the moment, and work teams have been doing a great job, keeping on schedule to make sure Inkerman is ready to go for the 2019 crush."



Rigger John George, Fabrication Leading Hand, Deon Darr, and retired Production Superintendent, Glen Griggs with part of the new boiler dust collector

ARE we second class citizens?

- that is the question that has been asked about Home Hill residents by Cr Uli Liessmann in his column this week—and it has got to the stage where many members of the community on the south side of the Burdekin River would be starting to ask the same thing.

The Home Hill councillor referred to Council spending “big dollars” undertaking two major works projects in Ayr - one being the Adventure Playground currently under construction in Plantation Park as well as the site of the new Tourist Information Centre to replace the one recently demolished near the entry to Plantation Park.

On top of that, a master plan is also being developed for Ayr’s Anzac Park to guide future planning and development priorities for the 17.5-hectare precinct, with suggestions of it becoming a destination park for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

That means that, at some stage, there could be three major projects being constructed in Ayr around much the same time.

What about the rest of the Shire?

Yes, there is money allocated to smaller projects around the shire—but unless the council starts looking at diverting budget funds towards major projects that give Home Hill a boost, there will be nothing left of the town to boost.

While there are small communities around the nation suffering in the same way, with businesses closing and empty shops dominating central business districts, at least some councils are sharing the money around to try to make the areas look as though they are lived in.

There is no argument that Ayr did need a new Tourist Information Centre—if nothing more than to offer a warm welcome

The finer points of Home Hill . .

HOW different could all our comments on this page be if there was a more regular and organised transport system in place throughout the Burdekin?

If the Home Hill community had regular access to bus services (as in Bowen and Proserpine), taxis on the doorstep and/or trains, (which those in the cities take for granted), where projects are built would have little bearing on the support they would receive and the cost to local councils would be far less, because there would be no need for double-up to ensure everyone receives similar benefits.

However, there seems to be little chance of that happening, taking into account a suggestion in Townsville recently for a train service to operate in an around the city was rejected by the State Government the next day—it must have been a record time for such a rejection.

How much support could there be for a train service from Mackay to Townsville next year when the new Stadium opens for Cowboys games—stations already in place for pick-up of passengers and QR must have trains sitting idle that could be brought into use for that specific purpose—and for local events like the festivals and the Grower Race Day to allow city people to enjoy what we can offer.



Bus services have been tried in the past without success

to tourists who stopped,

But what regular benefit is there to be for Home Hill residents with the new adventure playground in Plantation Park, which was flooded in the recent heavy rains that hit the district?

Young people in Home Hill just cannot get on a bicycle and ride to the playground and working parents will not have many opportunities to get their rates worth out of the council spending. There probably are young residents in Home Hill who would love to make use of the facilities offered by organisations such as the PCYC—but again, the lack of transport to get there is a significant disadvantage.

Similarly any development in Anzac Park will be wonderful for Ayr residents—but what benefits will it offer to those in the rest of the Shire?

And the council then hits residents south of the Burdekin River with a “Special General Rate” to help pay for the upkeep of Ayr’s central business district.

What is going to happen when the new valuations are applied and the variations in rise and/or fall are taken into account?

Does that mean residents being hit with the Special General Rate will find an even greater rise in their rates bill to help pay for all the new projects under construction or being planned in Ayr?

If council is going to continue to under-

take major projects just on the Ayr side of the river, maybe they should revert to using valuations for rating purposes, as it was many years ago, so that the major beneficiaries of the projects contribute the most to the finished products.

IT IS disappointing to see a press release from the council pointing to the election of a new Executive for the Burdekin Youth Council.

Over the years, Home Hill students have always been prominent in the decision making of the youth council and leading the way amongst those who put their names forward.

However, the latest release shows that there are representatives of the Ayr High Schools and the Ayr, Brandon and Clare State Primary Schools and St Francis Primary School, with one working member—but no-one from a Home Hill school.

There would be benefits for students to participate in the debates and decision-making that would be a benefit towards their future careers and it is to be hoped that at some time in the future, some students will put their hands up to play a part.

OR—could it be that transport is again a problem to get interested students over to Ayr for the meetings?

DAVID JACKSON

Local racing back on track for Bush Boys

RACING will be back on track in Home Hill on Saturday, April 13, as the Burdekin Race Club hosts its first meeting of the year.

The heavy start to the 2019 wet season resulted in the club's February race meeting being cancelled because of the state of the track after two weeks of consistent rain.

However, the Burdekin Club now has the track back in first class order for the April meeting, which will feature the successful "Boys from the Bush" promotion that was introduced last year.

Tickets are now available for the promotion, which will draw strong interest from around the nation as champion Australian race horse, Winx will race at Randwick for the last time in what is expected to be its thirty-third victory in succession.

Huge crowds will be expected in Sydney as Winx takes to the track in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes and interest will also be high in Home Hill, where the club's recently upgraded facili-

ties will allow punters to watch the race on larger television screens in the betting ring.

The April race day will be the lead-in event to the Burdekin Club's biggest race meeting of the year, the Burdekin Growers Race Day, which is also expected to attract a huge crowd to the track on Saturday, May 18.

Punters will also be treated to excellent racing locally on the day, as they sit under the fig trees on the Home Hill track.

NEW race dates announced recently for Home Hill - July 6, 2019; November 2, 2019; January 11, 2020 (Magic Millions); April 18, 2020; and May 16, 2020 (Burdekin Grower Race Day).



We Found It (Peter Cullen) easily wins the Les Sibson Handicap ahead of Kennynopas, with Hyper Drive in third place; and (Above) Jockey Peter Cullen returns to scale on We Found It after the victory at the December race meeting.

Small business workshop

SMALL businesses in Home Hill have the chance to learn how to leverage Facebook as a marketing tool during an informative workshop to be held on Tuesday, April 9. The Basics of Facebook for Business workshop will discuss Facebook business pages, tools and how and when to effectively post content during the two-hour session. The workshop is being held between 9am and 11am on April 9 at the Burdekin Shire Council Chambers.

Ashes Cricket Carnival

THE fifteenth Annual Eugene Pagotto Memorial Canefield Ashes Carnival in Home Hill will be held on April 27 and 28, kicking off at 7.45am on Saturday, with games running all day and finishing at 5.45pm. The festivities will then continue long into the night. Two more sessions will take place on Sunday morning before the finals in the afternoon. This is the Home Hill Cricket Club's major fundraiser from which they also donate 25 per cent of profits to the Cancer Council Queensland. Go along and watch some great cricket

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Chamber networking concerns

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce invited its members to a networking meeting at Ashworth's Rock Shop recently.

The networking meetings, which are held on each alternate Wednesday monthly meeting date at the workplace of a chamber member, allows members to participate in general discussion on the activities of the chamber and subjects of interest to those in attendance.

The recent meeting took the opportunity to raise a number of issues of concern, including the poor quality of banners in the main street, with some falling apart and the need for work to be carried out to clean up areas of the town that are untidy and affected by the droppings of the pigeons roosting in and around the buildings in the Central Business District.

That also included the cleanliness of footpaths in front of many of the empty shops throughout the central business district.

Members also discussed the apparent lack of communication that came during the recent flood emergency, when Home Hill was cut off from Ayr and some businesses prepared for any eventuality by having sandbags on standby and lifting

stock, just in case of possible flooding.

Those present also discussed proposed plans by the Ayr Chamber to change their name to "Burdekin", although it was believed they had set aside any decision for the time being.

The Home Hill Chamber has been happy to work with members of the Ayr Chamber on subjects of similar interest but many do not favour amalgamation at the present time.

The new Land Valuations for the Shire were also raised with concerns expressed over future rates for the district, with valuations reportedly being down by 20 per cent in the Home Hill area but only seven per cent in the Ayr district.

The next meeting of the Chamber will be a general meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 17 at the Memorial Hall meeting room.



Participating in the Chamber of Commerce networking function recently were (from left) Mikayla Mayoh and Uli Liessmann.



Networking with the Chamber of Commerce were (from left) Lloyd and Lisa Shepherd and Lyn Collins.

Where you can get your coffee fix in Home Hill . .

WITH the recent closure of two business operations in Home Hill that offered locals and visitors alike a coffee when they were in need, last month we asked the town's businesses, who provide a coffee service, to let us know, so that we can each month provide a reminder to coffee drinkers of where and when they can fill their requirements.

Unfortunately, the response was not good, with only one current business and one with plans to offer a new service contacting us.

However, residents of the Home Hill community can be assured that if they want a tasty coffee when they are in need, they can visit **Dee & Vee's Takeaway** in their newly-upgraded premises on the western side of Eighth Avenue (between Seventh and Eighth Streets).

In fact, the coffee will complement the menu that the business offers in their seven-day-a-week operation.

Operated by two sisters, Debbie Stevenson and Veronica Melvin, they were quick to point out that they were a small business in Home Hill that have been in operations for the past five years and "you have always been able to get a coffee and meal at our business".

They said they had relocated and spent a lot of money doing the business up.

Meals and coffee are available at the following times -

- * Monday and Tuesday: 10am till 2pm;
- * Wednesday and Thursday: 10am to 7.30pm;
- * Friday: 10am till 8pm;
- * Saturday: 11am till 7.30pm;
- * Sunday: 4pm till 7.30pm.

They have advised that the times only vary "if we have a family matter, as we are a family-run business".

Dee & Vee's Takeaway menu offers Crumbed, battered and grilled mackerel together with chips in various quantities, while salad trays, again in varying sizes, are also offered.

Then there is the choice of Burgers that will meet all tastes at competitive prices.

Debbie and Veronica can be contacted by phoning 4782 2293 or customers can also like them on Facebook.

IN THE FUTURE, coffee drinkers in Home Hill can look forward to obtaining a relaxing coffee in the pleasant surroundings of the Home Hill Pool. Watch for details of the new facility that will be opening soon!



Debbie Stevenson (back) and Veronica Melvin offer an excellent coffee and a delicious menu in their newly-upgraded business in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill.



Grant Applications Now Open

Grants of up to **\$30,000***
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Apply Now - Queensland Country Good for Good Community Grants

The Queensland Country Credit Union Good for Good Community Grants invite eligible Queensland community groups to apply for funding of \$5000 - \$30,000* to complete a project that will facilitate inspirational stories in the every-day lives of people. Successful community groups will be asked to pay forward the goodwill by fundraising 10% of their grant amount for charity.

In other words, 'Good for Good'.

At Queensland Country Credit Union, people matter most and community is in everything we do.

Being customer-owned, our profits go back to our Members through reduced fees and rates, technology and of course by giving back to your community. The Good for Good Community Grants are about projects that make a practical difference to the lives of people within Queensland communities. Queensland Country are looking to support projects that enable people to participate, experience, grow, learn, reach out, connect, make a difference or be safe. In other words, projects that facilitate inspirational stories in the everyday lives of people.

Applications close 3 May 2019.

Visit www.goodforgood.com.au for full details.

*Terms and conditions apply.

Visit www.goodforgood.com.au

On-the-spot real estate display for visitors



VISITORS to Home Hill will be able to gain an on-the-spot view of real estate offerings in the region, through a new two door display box installed on the back wall of the Queensland Country Credit Union. The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce installed the display unit and it was quickly snapped up by Landmark McCathies Harcourts. Mrs Lyndy McCathie (pictured) said the display would focus on Home Hill, Groper Creek and other parts of this district and it would be changed every two weeks at the most, to highlight the potential available in the area.

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ANZAC Day services

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At the completion of that service, participants will move to the Home Hill Cemetery, where they will remember all those local ex-servicemen and women who have passed away since the conflicts they were involved in and are now interred in the Cemetery. The service will commence at 6am, with the names of all those interred to be read out, while poppies are laid at the cenotaph as the sun rises.

Participants will then move to the Minor Hall of the School of Arts for the Gunfire Breakfast commencing at 7.30am.

The main ceremonies will commence with assembly of marching units in Tenth Avenue at 10.45am, prior to the street parade, which will lead into the Cenotaph Service, commencing at 11.20am, at the new War Memorial in the Home Hill Park.



Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch president, Richard Kelly lays a wreath during the Dedication Ceremony for the new Cenotaph in Home Hill.

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*.

Councillor comment . .

Cr Uli Liessmann reports on council activities –



THIS upcoming budget, 2019, will be a hard call, with the Government's new valuations and land values slumping across the residential areas of the Burdekin Shire while, on the other hand, rural land went up. You will have to ask yourself—will it be a fair deal for all in this community?

At present, Council is undertaking two major works in Ayr, one being the Adventure Playground and (two) the new Tourist Information Centre—all relating to very big dollars.

These projects are not the run-of-the-mill infrastructure programmed works, plus two more similar works, which are also placed in Ayr and also big dollars!

So where does Home Hill and the rest of the shire come in—are we second class citizens?

What is being done to help Home Hill, with almost three quarters of the business area empty?

So why is a very large proportion earmarked to be spent in Ayr and Ayr alone, as the rest of the shire looks on?

The old argument that Ayr has a bigger population just does not wash.

In the meantime, some residents have waited half a life time to get proper drainage and kerbing and channelling in front of their home.

Is this a fair deal for all?—I don't think so.

A suggestion only—Council could do a major upgrade on



Work under way on the new Adventure Playground under construction in Plantation Creek Park near Ayr.

the Memorial Hall!

This is used by all the people in the shire.

We could also build a Museum and, not forgetting, Charlies Hill and Beachmount. They all could use an upgrade, which would help to attract more tourists to stay just a little longer.

These are my views only.

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



Work being carried out on one of the major projects under construction on the Ayr side of the river. The question has been asked: "Are we (Home Hill and the rest of the Shire) second class citizens?"

Government funding for Home Hill pool

THE Burdekin Shire Council has been successful in receiving \$48,000 to assist in the construction of accessible unisex toilet and change-room amenities at the Home Hill Swimming Pool and in Ayr.

The current amenities at the two pools were built more than 50 years ago. "While the council has made recent improvements to the pools, such as the introduction of accessibility ramps and mobility chair lifts,



George Christensen
MHR

the construction of accessible amenities is the next step in ensuring that everyone in our community has equal access to our swimming facilities," Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said.

"The unisex amenities will include accessible toilet and change-room facilities, as well as private cubi-

cles for showering," she said.

"They will improve visits for people with disabilities, their families and carers and will make the swimming pools a more inclusive place for our community."

After meeting with Federal Member for Dawson, George Christensen, Cr McLaughlin thanked the Australian Government for investing in the Burdekin through their Community Sport Infrastructure Program.

New opening times for Artisans

THE Burdekin Artisans have made changes to their operating hours with a view to improving times for local residents to view their products, while also making best use of the volunteers they have available to keep 170 Arts on the Avenue open to the public.

The various forms of arts and crafts on display are created by the members of the Artisans community, who also put the hours in to ensure the works are available for sale when the business is open.

The organisation would welcome more arts enthusiasts to come forward and become members, even if it was just in volunteering their time, so that longer opening times were available.

At the present time, 170 Arts on the Avenue (adjacent to Ashworth's Rock Shop) is open at their new times from 9am to 5pm, Wednesday to Saturday.

Visitors can inspect the large array of arts and crafts available, while also making arrangements to participate in varying craft classes by contacting the Artisans president, Sandi Milani (0427 821 065) or secretary Desley Jackson (0497 356



President Sandi Milani with some of the arts and crafts produced by local Artisans members.

355). Home Hill's many visitors are also welcome to visit 170 Arts on the Avenue and inspect the large display of products available.

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

2019 Eugene Pagotto Memorial Canefield Ashes—Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28, at Home Hill Cricket Association grounds
Racing at Burdekin Race Club (Boys from the Bush)— Saturday, April 13 — Enjoy country racing at its best on the Home Hill Track.

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 9am to 5pm each day from Wednesday to Saturday.

Sing Along with the Home Hill Choral Society — every Wednesday 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;

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 9.30 am. Contact Secretary (4782 2368) or President (4783 5529).

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.

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 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); 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