

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 1, May 2016

An initiative of the Brown Hill Community Partnership, supported by the Brown Hill Progress Association and the City of Ballarat

Welcome to the Inaugural Edition!

Compiled by a small group of local volunteers, this newsletter aims to help connect the community of Brown Hill. With seed funding from the City of Ballarat through the Making Brown Hill Partnership (Engaging Communities Program), it will be produced bi-monthly and directly delivered to people who live and work in, or directly adjacent to, Brown Hill.

With a calendar of events, stories about local people, community groups, sporting clubs and businesses and information about local geography and history, we hope that there will be something interesting for everyone.

If you have something to share with others in Brown Hill, please email it to us. Submissions for Edition 2 are due by **Friday 24 June 2016**.

If you want to receive the newsletter via email, please send us your email address. For timely updates via Facebook, you can like the **Making Brown Hill** and **Brown Hill Community Pool** pages.

Our committee would be delighted to welcome new volunteers - particularly those with skills in writing, editing, design and/or photography. We are also keen to receive feedback and suggestions for future editions.

Contact **brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com** or visit the Caledonian Primary School Office, Thompson Street, Brown Hill during school hours.



Cr Belinda Coates presents a cheque for \$30,000 to members of the Russell Square Committee of Management. Source: City of Ballarat.

Brown Hill benefits from Partnership

The Brown Hill Partnership has invested \$67,300 of the \$100,000 available through the City of Ballarat to strengthen community links.

The Partnership has funded kitchen and storage improvements for the Russell Square Recreation Reserve through the Engaging Communities Program.

The Brown Hill Partnership group has also funded:

- \$5,000 as seed funding for the Brown Hill Community Newsletter and Service (Trade) Directory.
- \$2,300 for reverse cycle air-conditioning in the Multi-Purpose Room at Caledonian Primary School, a well utilised resource for the broader community.
- \$30,000 to install a BBQ and shelter in the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve (Progress Park, Humffray Street North). The City of Ballarat is also contributing to this project with the installation of park furniture.

Caledonian Primary School

“Our New Fence”

At Caledonian Primary School you may notice our new black fence. The fence makes our school safer, more secure and makes our school look better. We think you'll agree that Caledonian is even safer than before! The old fence was rusted, old and falling apart. It also had lots of cobwebs but now it doesn't. Our gates are locked during school hours. The Prep/1 children are now a lot safer. It is a lot harder to climb the fence or go out the gates.

Sincerely,

Connor, Madison and Madison-Lee (Year 5).

Caledonian Primary School has enjoyed a busy start to the school year. We are fortunate to have 213 of the best students in Ballarat, exploring their individual interests and sharing their talents in a safe and nurturing environment.

Recently, the school fence was upgraded to ensure safety for our students. In time, extensive planting, in accordance with our whole school Permaculture Plan, will take place around our boundaries.

New air-conditioning units will be installed in our multi-purpose hall, extending the usability of this facility in summer. The Brown Hill Partnership Group approved funding for this project. Contributions will also be made by Caledonian Primary School and the Ballarat Full Gospel Fellowship. The students will appreciate being cool next summer. The multi-purpose hall is available for hire to Brown Hill community groups.

This year our STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) program will continue to evolve. We are very fortunate to have a trained Primary Mathematics Specialist, Science Specialist and Literary Coach on staff. Specialist Science has complemented our extensive Technology program - RACV Energy Breakthrough, Lego Robotics and ICT (Information and Communications Technology).

Enrolments are now being accepted for the 2017 school year. Please contact the school office for a personal tour of our school.

Veggie Gardening for Kinder Kids

All of the children at Brown Hill Kindergarten were given a packet of broad bean seeds and a leaflet about growing healthy, sustainable food by Central Highlands Water. They learned what can be planted over the next few months:

AUTUMN: Broad Beans, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Garlic, Globe Artichoke, Lettuce, Nasturtium, Pea, Radish, Spinach, Spring Onion, Strawberry, Rocket, Turnip.

WINTER: Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Lettuce, Onions, Pea, Rhubarb, Strawberry, Turnip.

For more information visit: chw.net.au/grow



Caledonian Playgroup

Looking for an activity for you and your children on Wednesday mornings? Come to Caledonian Playgroup for a play, cuppa and chat.

The group provides a friendly, safe environment for parents and carers to bring babies, toddlers and pre-school children. It's an opportunity for the children to play and do craft activities and for the adults to socialise and connect with others.

Caledonian Playgroup meets at the Multi Purpose Room at Caledonian Primary School (Thompson Street, Brown Hill) every Wednesday, 9am to 11am, during the school term. Parents/carers are asked to bring a piece of fruit to share and a gold coin donation. There are no other costs as the group is a member of Playgroup Victoria and operates in partnership with Caledonian Primary School.

Contact: Caledonian Primary School on 5332 6955.

Progress Park Oval & Brown Hill Cricket Club

The creek. The hill. The swimming pool. Together they form our ground's stunning backdrop.

The Brown Hill Cricket Club's initiative in developing the Brown Hill Reserve, with its practice facilities and club rooms, has been an example to the Ballarat Cricket Association. Our picturesque ground has the reputation of being one of the best on which to play and watch cricket. This was achieved with hard work from club members and the local community, in terms of both voluntary labour and a commitment to fund raising. The assistance of the City of Ballarat and the Brown Hill Progress Association were also instrumental in the development of the ground.

By the end of the 1980s, the Brown Hill Cricket Club had a cricket facility of which they could be proud. Since then, agreements have been reached with the Athletics Club to share the clubrooms on a 50:50 basis during the off season and with the Pipe Band to have their rooms adjacent to the oval. A great example of community sharing.

The Brown Hill Cricket Club had its beginnings at a meeting of the Brown Hill Progress Association. In the 1947-48 season, the Club entered a team in the Ballarat Cricket Association. Within three seasons, they were playing in the top competition.

Many local families have had their sons playing for the Club. Names such as Woodward, Wilson, Whitcher, Norman, the Sullivans and the McCanns, were prominent over the years. It had a reputation as a family organisation and quite a number of brothers, cousins and local people have played for the Brown Hill Cricket Club.

Not only has the Club actively improved the facilities at the Brown Hill Reserve, but players have also been very successful on the field. Teams have won many premierships, from 1st Elevens down the grades to the junior teams. In recent years, the Club won another 1st Eleven premiership (2014-15) and were runners up (2015-16).

John O'Brien, long-time Brown Hill resident, life member of the Brown Hill Cricket Club and present Progress Association Committee Member



Brown Hill & District Lions Club

Lions Clubs International have been serving local – national – international projects for many years. In fact, 2017 will be our 100-year anniversary. The Brown Hill & District Lions have been working in the local community since 1984. It is always a pleasure to help where we can, both financially and with manual labour in our local area.

Lions Clubs do not work in isolation; they often join together in order to provide services to the community and to work together on fund raising projects. All funds raised go back into the community. As Lions members we pay a Lions membership fee every year. This fee covers the organisation and administration costs of each club. Just like all service clubs, we organise social events such as Lions Club dinners, youth activities and guest speakers for our meetings.

Locally you may know our club for projects including the Australia Day Breakfast, tree planting, working bees at the Brown Hill kindergarten and swimming pool. We have also helped with donations to needy causes and families. As you would imagine we are keen to encourage new members to join our club and help us to enjoy helping and meeting local needs by serving your community.

Enquiries can be made via our email address **brown.hill@lions201v1-4.org.au**.

Breathing life back into the Yarrowee River

The Leigh Catchment Group and City of Ballarat have been working together on the three-year project "Breathing Life Back into the Yarrowee." Since 2014, project activities and achievements have included: the planting of over 2700 indigenous plants, eight clean-up and working bee days beside the river, four community events including "walk and talks", bike rides along the river and engagement with 573 people.

Brown Hill has seen a change in its landscape with the installation and vegetation of the Brown Hill Wetlands just upstream from the Brown Hill Pub. Now would be a great time to head down there and see how much water has reached in and see or hear if there are any signs of wildlife. You are most likely to see water-birds and hear frogs!

Along the Yarrowee River at Bawden Street, the City of Ballarat installed a floodway, upgraded the access

path and installed new post and rail fencing.

Do you want to let us know what you think and what else you would like to see happen? Provide your feedback to help evaluate the work that has been completed along the Yarrowee River as a result of this project and suggest ideas for future investment. The survey will take approximately 5 minutes: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Yarrowee>

2016 is the final year of the project and you are invited to the following events:

National Tree Day Planting Event

When: Sunday 31st July, 10am – 12noon

Where: End of Ingle Street, Mount Pleasant

Yarrowee River Bus Tour

When: Sunday 18th September, 10am

Where: Departing from 407 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

Bus tour of the catchment highlighting the work that's been done, finishing with a picnic. RSVP's and queries: Jane via janelcg@inet.net.au or 0426 873 202.

Jane Bevelander, Yarrowee River Project Officer, Leigh Catchment Group



Before and after photographs of the Brown Hill Wetlands.

Brown Hill Public Hall

375 Humffray St North
Brown Hill
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FOR BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US.
*
Phone: 0455 86 2379
Email: brownhillhall@outlook.com
Web: brownhillhall.webs.com
Mail: PO BOX 4, Ballarat Vic 3353.

Brown Hill Service Directory

Coming in late 2016 will be the first Brown Hill Service Directory. With funding for printing and distribution from the City of Ballarat through the Making Brown Hill Partnership, the Directory will aim to help people living and working in Brown Hill to find local service and business operators.

If you own a business in Brown Hill, or live in Brown Hill and own a business in Ballarat, please get in touch with us via brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com.

Planning Alerts

Did you know that you can receive an email when there is a planning application within 2km of your address? Visit www.planningalerts.org.au to find out more.

Edition 2 – July 2016

Brown Hill Hall – 50 Year Anniversary

December 2016 marks 50 years since the Brown Hill Public Hall was opened on Humffray Street North. Celebrations will take place later this year. There will be an update from the Hall Committee in the next edition.

Calendar of Events

Do you have any dates for the diary to share with the Brown Hill community? Please let us know so that we can include them in our next edition.

Brown Hill Community Groups

Edition 2 will include a listing of community groups that meet in Brown Hill, with contact details, meeting times and venues. Contact us with your group's details.

Help us find a name

If you can think of a catchy name for our community newsletter, please let us know.

Contact us: via email

brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com or through the reception desk at Caledonian Primary School.

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

This publication is a community project of the Brown Hill Progress Association supported by the City of Ballarat through the Engaging Communities Program /Brown Hill Partnership. It is published bi-monthly.

Editorial Advisory Committee:

Alice Barnes, Brian Green, Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Andrew Parry, Megan Saunder and Ian Westerland.

Proof reader: Jock Freeman.

Distribution is via Australia Post to all businesses and residences in Brown Hill (except those with a 'No Junk Mail' sign). Additional copies will be available for collection at businesses and community hubs around Brown Hill or by registering for a PDF version by emailing brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com.

Contributions for Edition 2 must be submitted by **Friday 24 June** to brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com or in hard copy to the reception desk at Caledonian Primary School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill.

Contributions should not exceed 350 words and up to two photographs per item may be submitted (but may not necessarily be published). Material may be edited due to space, style, clarity or legal reasons.

The name and address of the person submitting any material must be provided (address not for publication).

The Editorial Advisory Committee reserves the right not to publish material considered to be offensive or inappropriate or that is not deemed to have community interest or relevance.

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Brown Hill Progress Association or the City of Ballarat, including any officers, members, agents or contractors.

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Summer fun at Brown Hill Community Pool

A big thanks to everyone who attended, helped and worked at the pool this summer. The Brown Hill Progress Association has now been managing the Community Pool for 10 years and most of the original committee and their assistants still put on their hats and sunscreen every year to help out.

This year we were blessed with a long and warm summer and had consistent crowds right across the season. We also had one of our best crew of lifeguards on board, making managing so much easier.

The pool's operation is supported financially by the City of Ballarat and the Brown Hill Uniting Church, which supports the Learn to Swim program each year.

Here are a few statistics for the 2015/16 season:

- Just over 8000 patrons came through the gate.
- 65 kids did free VICSWIM Learn to Swim Program.
- 180 people enjoyed free “Zumba” classes, thanks to Lorrene.
- Volunteers put in over 500 hours in the kiosk and doing general maintenance.
- Volunteers bagged up over 30kg of bulk lollies into small bags. That’s a lot of counting!
- We cooked up over 300 sausages for sizzles.

We now have a new Electric BBQ (so Total Fire Ban days are no longer an issue for cooking) and a large cantilever shade structure over the area, thanks to the City of Ballarat.



Aquatic Zumba at the Brown Hill Pool. Source: Brown Hill Progress Association.

So, a big thanks to all and sundry for their input to maintain a safe place for families to gather and kids to swim. Let's hope next summer we have a few more improvements and just as many hot days.

Brendan Stevens -Secretary, Brown Hill Progress Association



Historical Brown Hill

Did you know that across the road from the Brown Hill Barber on Humffray Street North, there used to be a milk bar, run for many years by three generations of the Bawden family? Or that Brown Hill used to have its own Police Station?

Do you have some stories to tell about people and places in Brown Hill? Perhaps some old photographs, letters, artefacts, videos or other paraphernalia to show?

The Brown Hill Progress Association is leading a project to collect information about the history of Brown Hill with the aim of putting a book together.

To get the conversations started, they are holding their first historical collection day from **10am to 4pm on Sunday 29 May 2016** at the Brown Hill Public Hall, 375 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill.

They will scan old photographs and letters and photograph any old artefacts that are brought along.

People who have stories to tell about living in Brown Hill over the past 100 years are invited to come along and share their stories over a cuppa. With permission, these conversations will be recorded to contribute to the oral history component of the project.

If you know people who live in Brown Hill who may be interested in sharing their stories, please pass on this information to them.

For more information, please contact the Secretary of the Brown Hill Progress Association, Brendan Stevens, via email: bhpasec@gmail.com or phone 0439 560 910.