

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 20, August-September 2019

*A project of the Brown Hill Progress Association, supported by the Brown Hill Community Partnership.
We are proud to walk this land with the Wadawurrung people and all other First Nations people.*



Trent Zuidland and Andrew Day, Brown Hill locals and long-time Ballarat Fire Brigade volunteers. Photographer: Linda Day

Diary Dates

See brownhill.vic.au for details.

AUGUST

Saturday 24: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm,
Brown Hill Market, Brown Hill
Hall (p.5).

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1 - Sunday 8: Legacy
Week (p.15).

Sunday 1: Fathers' Day.

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Our local fire heroes at Ballarat Fire Brigade

Two Brown Hill families are dedicated to volunteering with the Ballarat Fire Brigade. Both have fathers and sons on the team.

On Saturday, 3 August, at the Ballarat Fire Brigade's Presentation Night, Brown Hill local Trent Zuidland received his 15-year CFA service medal and a National Medal for 15 years diligent service to the CFA.

Trent says, "I was very proud to receive the awards. CFA has taken me across the state and I have had lots of great experiences over my 15 years of service."

Many Brown Hill locals will recognise Trent and his family as regulars at the Brown Hill Pool. In fact, they volunteered over the last two summers to run the Kiosk at the Pool, for which many of us were very grateful!

When he is not in training to

become the Pool Pump Operator at the Brown Hill Pool, Trent's eldest son, Ben, is practising moving water around with intricate systems of pipes and hoses. Earlier this year, Ben joined the Junior Brigade. Ben says, "I enjoy the activities and squirting water from the truck."

Another Brown Hill local, Andrew Day, was recognised in 2018 for 30 years of service to the CFA. Andrew joined the Ballarat Fire Brigade in 1988 as a volunteer and is now a Life Member. He is also a member of the Rescue Unit and has held various leadership roles over the years, including Lieutenant and Communications Officer.

Andrew became a staff member of the CFA in 2000, getting involved in practical training. Throughout, he has continued his volunteer service. He says, "I enjoy serving

the community."

One of Andrew's sons, Jordan, is in Grade Six at Caledonian Primary School and last year also joined the Ballarat Fire Brigade. He had been waiting patiently to be old enough to become a junior member. Through the training, Jordan has achieved his first aid qualification. He says, "I enjoy meeting new people and I enjoy the things we learn during our training nights. I look up to my dad and my brother Nick."

Andrew's older son, Nick, was also a member of the Junior Brigade years ago. The CFA started Nick's career path as he now works as a Project Fire Fighter with Forest Fire Management at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The Ballarat Fire Brigade is a fully volunteer emergency service and

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Monday 2: Applications for the City of Ballarat's Community Impact Grants program due (p.15).

Tuesday 3: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting and AGM, rear room, Brown Hill Hall, all welcome.

Wednesday 4: 7.00 pm, Caledonian Primary School Concert, Wendouree Performing Arts Centre (p.8).

Friday 6: 1.30pm, Healthy Minds Workshop, Brown Hill Uniting Church (p.12).

Monday 9 to Wednesday 11: Royal South Street 'The Arts for All', RACV Goldfields Resort, Midland Hwy, Creswick. See: royalsouthstreet.com.au/new-in-2017/

Friday 20: End of Term Three.

Saturday 21: 7.00 pm - 2.00 am, White Night Ballarat. See: whitenight.com.au/ballarat

Friday 27: AFL Grand Final public holiday.

Saturday 28: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm, Brown Hill Market, Brown Hill Hall (p.5).

Saturday 28: AFL Grand Final.

OCTOBER

All month: 2019 Victorian Seniors Festival (p.13).

Tuesday 1: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, rear room, Brown Hill Hall, all welcome.

Monday 7: Start of Term Four.

Monday 7: Submissions for

Edition 21, Brown Hill Community Newsletter due (see below).

Friday 18: Delivery of Edition 21 begins across Brown Hill.

Friday 25: 5.00 pm - 7.30 pm, 2019 Brown Hill Community Festival, Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and Cricket Oval (p.5).

Saturday 26: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm, Brown Hill Market - at **Lake Wendouree. One-off move** (p.5).

NOVEMBER

Friday 15: Caledonian Primary School Trivia Night (p.8).

Sunday 17: Eucalypts of Slaty Creek Walk and BBQ. See: brownhill.vic.au/directory/wattle-flat-pootilla-landcare-group/

For updates, visit: brownhill.vic.au

About our Newsletter

This publication is a community project of the Brown Hill Progress Association.

It is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and November.

Editorial Advisory Committee: Ange Davies, Geoff Dickson, Brian Green, Christine Berry and Sarah Greenwood-Smith. **Proof reader:** Peter Morton. **Editorial Support:** Sally McAlpin. **Social Media:** Rachael Houtsma. **Brown Hill Directory:** Hazen Cleary

Local volunteers distribute the newsletter to all businesses and residences in Brown Hill with additional copies available at local businesses and community hubs. Electronic copies are available on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/

or you can subscribe by emailing us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au.

Contributions are welcome from the Brown Hill community. Articles are due by the first Monday of the month in which the edition is published to newsletter@brownhill.vic.au or in hard copy to the reception desk at Caledonian Primary School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill during school term and school hours.

Edition 21 articles are due by **Monday 7 October 2019**. Please read the editorial policy regarding contributions before submitting an article: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter.

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee or the Brown Hill Progress Association, including

any officers, members, agents or contractors.

Occasionally, some content included in our newsletters may be upsetting for some readers. If you need support, contact numbers are available here: brownhill.vic.au/new-to-brown-hill/need-some-support/

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In this edition

It snowed in Brown Hill this month! Thanks to those people who shared photos on the Newsletter Facebook page. There were some great shots. I like this one of Brian and Wendy's chicken!

We are very proud to be bringing you the 20th edition of the Brown Hill Community Newsletter. Starting in May 2016 with a group of four people and a six-page publication, the project has certainly grown! We now have a volunteer team of over 25 people (including our 20 delivery volunteers), a well-utilised website (brownhill.vic.au) and editions up to 24 pages long. The newsletter is also financially self-sufficient through the support of our generous advertising sponsors and we have released the 'Brown Hill Business and Service Directory' twice (and it is kept up to date online).

Feedback about the newsletter from the Brown Hill community and those who live near and far, receiving it via email, is resoundingly positive. It helps people to feel connected to this wonderful community and to share their stories. Thank you to our readers who continue to provide feedback and ideas.

Silver sponsor:



It snowed in Brown Hill on Sunday 11 August. Photographer: Brian Green

In mid-October, several members of the Newsletter Committee will head to Lilydale for the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria Conference. It is always a great chance to meet others working on similar projects and sharing ideas.

Thanks again to our sponsors:

Silver: Brown Hill Hotel and Brown Hill Market. **Bronze:** ALDON Tutoring Centres Ballarat, Ballarat Health Foods, Ballarat Treeworks, Bakers Delight Bakery Hill, Dazzlin' Doggie Country Village, Jigsaw Puzzles Australia and The AFL Store - Ballarat.

We would also like to thank Juliana Addison for her support.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Volunteer Editor, Brown Hill Community Newsletter and Directory Committee

Our Local Area Plan

Program review will benefit Brown Hill Local Area Plan

"In 2028, the Brown Hill Community will continue to be close-knit and proud of the area in which they live. Moderate growth will be accommodated and the public realm will be improved but the intrinsic qualities of Brown Hill such as the feeling of space, the country atmosphere and bushland backdrop will be ever-present and protected."

This broad community vision is helping to shape Brown Hill's future. Through extensive consultation following the Draft Scenarios Paper released earlier this year, a number of key themes are emerging which will inform the Local Area Plan.

These include:

Appropriate development: new development to integrate with landform and existing vegetation and reflect the partially rural character in "Emerging Brown Hill" and respect the existing heritage character in "Established Brown Hill".

Memorable and functional streets: a more interconnected

...continued p.4

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|  <p>BROWN HILL HOTEL YOUR LOCAL PUB</p> | <h2>New Chef New Menu</h2>  <p>385 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill</p> | <p>Open 7 days a week 12pm - late</p> <p>Bistro open Tuesday - Sunday Lunch 12pm - 2pm Dinner 6pm - 8pm</p> <p>Bookings preferred 5331 3037</p> <p>www.brownhillhotel.com.au</p> |
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road network with improved safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

Quality open space and public

realm: ensuring a network of trails to connect Brown Hill's natural and recreational assets to the neighbourhoods.

Country town character and

rural setting: protecting treelines and bushland backdrops and respecting historical development, patterns and features.

Natural environment and

heritage: identifying key areas for vegetation protection and habitat restoration while ensuring bushfire management is fully addressed.

Planning for growth: making sure infrastructure needs are understood and provided for in key areas.

Across the Ballarat municipality, community members and Councillors have recently raised concerns about how landscape and neighbourhood character is managed as the city grows, particularly in the Geelong Road corridor, Mount Helen and other areas experiencing significant growth.

As a result, the strategic planning program has been reviewed and new projects added to the program to ensure character management objectives can be achieved. This program of work, which will be of great benefit to the Brown Hill Local Area Plan includes:

1. Neighbourhood character study - identifying character across the city and how it should be protected

2. Compact City Housing Plan - identifying priority growth areas, limited growth areas (including capacity, location and character) and how growth will be managed

3. Living Corridor Protection Review – including a planning scheme controls review relating to vegetation and environmental significance, including the koala overlay and how these relate to bushfire overlay controls

These projects will provide extremely useful information to guide character and environmental values management as the city grows.

The findings will also be incorporated into other projects that are underway and progressed through a planning scheme amendment to introduce new controls.

Due to the benefit of having this additional work undertaken first, a decision has been made to delay the Brown Hill Local Area Plan's completion until this new program of works has been finalised.

It is expected the draft Brown Hill Local Area Plan will now be released for consultation in mid-2020.

John Dyke, Strategic Planner Heritage, City of Ballarat
mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/brown-hill-lap

Connecting Ballarat businesses online

The City of Ballarat has partnered with Localised, GROW Ballarat, Commerce Ballarat and Highlands

LLEN to create Localised Ballarat, an online network for local businesses to promote and support business activity.

A free platform, 'Localised Ballarat' connects businesses, supports business-to-business activity and promotes spending locally.

With more than 80 per cent of local businesses looking to support other business but often not knowing how to find and connect with these experts, Ballarat Mayor Samantha McIntosh said the aim of 'Localised Ballarat' is to connect local businesses to each other, to local events, experts, knowledge, news, projects and buying opportunities across the Central Highlands.

“As a network member you will have an opportunity to share your business stories, find local suppliers and hopefully discover other local businesses you didn't know existed, as well as find relevant training opportunities and promote your expertise, goods and services,” she said.

centralhighlands.localised.com.au/ballarat

Brown Hill Community Online Hub

Loads of information about Brown Hill's: businesses, kindergarten and schools, community groups, sporting and other activities is available free of charge online:

brownhill.vic.au

To add or update details, please contact us:
directory@brownhill.vic.au

Our Festival

The 2019 Brown Hill Community Festival will be held on **Friday 25 October from 5.00 pm to 7.30 pm** at the Brown Hill Reserve.

We are excited that these groups will perform: Sing Australia, Brown Hill Kindergarten, Caledonian Primary School, Federation University Pipe Band, Ballarat Highland Dancers and more.

Our Emergency Services contingent will be strong again this year with vehicles from both Ballarat and Glen Park Fire Brigades and the Forest and Fire Management Team from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

We are proud to be a Children's Week event and have the following activities for children: AFL Goldfields and Western Bulldogs football activities, Brown Hill Cricket Club, 11th Ballarat Girl Guides activities and more.

We are looking for volunteers to help with planning and running the Festival. If you have or would like some experience in event management, please get in touch.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Brown Hill Community Festival Committee
festival@brownhill.vic.au

Silver sponsor:



The Ballarat Toy Library has a new set up at Barkly Square. Image supplied.

Toy Library's new home

The Ballarat Toy Library has finally done it! After more than 15 months of looking for a new site and a few set backs, the Toy Library team has found a new home at Barkly Square (the old Secondary College on Barkly Street, East Ballarat). The opening hours will continue as usual, from **10.00 am to 12.00 noon on Tuesdays and Sundays**. Come and take a look at our new exciting home. With a cafe downstairs and a number of community groups on site the opportunities for the Toy Library are stronger than ever!

Stephanie Freeman
Ballarat Toy Library Committee

One-off Market move

Due to another booking at the Brown Hill Hall, the **October 26 Brown Hill Market** will be held at

Lake Wendouree.

This is a one-off and the Market will be back at Brown Hill on Saturday 23 November. For October only, you'll find the market set up on Wendouree Parade, opposite the Botanical Gardens (between Pipers Restaurant and the Childrens' Playground). Times are the same, 9.00 am until 1.00 pm and we hope Brown Hill locals will come across and support the stallholders as solidly as you have been doing!

The stallholders are very grateful for the way the Brown Hill community has adopted the Market and made it your own. It's great to see many local stallholders who have joined the Market in the last 12 months and we look forward to the Market continuing to grow and serve the Brown Hill and wider community.

Steve Burns, Market Manager
0409 551 539

Ballarat Farmers Market:
2nd Saturday of the month
Brown Hill Market:
4th Saturday of the month

BROWN HILL MARKET

Aug 24 Sept 28 at the Hall

9am – 1pm

OCTOBER 26 Market will be at LAKE WENDOUREE – one time only!

Brown Hill Hall 375 Humffray St Nth, Brown Hill

www.ballaratmarkets.com.au

Brown Hill Playgroup

Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School offers a unique experience for our little ones.

Each week, friendly and familiar faces share cups of tea while our little people make their first friendships, experience the challenges of sharing toys or just run! For many families, playgroup is a short time in life, a stepping stone before beginning pre-school and because of this we rarely pause to think about the many years before us.

Brown Hill playgroup has been operating since the late 1980s, connecting families and easing the transition into pre-school.

Countless families have shared in the early memories created at our Playgroup, a valuable service of which all of the Brown Hill community can be proud.

Thank you to all those who have contributed over the years and here's to many more to come.

Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School meets from 9.00 - 11.00 am every Wednesday during school term in the multi-purpose room at the School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill.

Sarah Spaven, Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School Committee Member

playgroup@brownhill.vic.au
5332 6955 (contact via Caledonian Primary School)
brownhill.vic.au/directory/brown-hill-playgroup-caledonian-primary-school/



A Brown Hill Kindergarten Red Group child holding a bird's nest. Image supplied.

Brown Hill Kindergarten

Everyone at Brown Hill Kindergarten is very busy this term.

Blue Group were fortunate to have two of our Dads come to talk to us about their job as paramedics. They told us the story of 'Stretch the Bear' who had an accident and broke his arm. We helped to act it out. They brought an ambulance for us to have a look in. Our favourite part was everyone having a turn of the siren! Since the visit we have turned our 'home corner' into a hospital and there have been lots of budding paramedics and doctors in our class!

Red Group enjoyed working with the Council team to plant trees in the area between the kindergarten and the bush kinder site. After we had planted the trees, John showed us some of the bird's nests he has collected – little tiny mud nests to great big untidy magpie nests.

Red Group were also lucky to have a visit from a policewoman who talked to the children about what police wear and what they do. Her timing was great as the children have been very interested in building police stations with the big blocks and playing police games outside.

Red and Yellow groups have been learning French words with Val. They have enjoyed playing games and singing songs using French words.



Planting trees! Image supplied.

Kindergarten in 2020

Place offers for 2020 kindergarten were sent out in early August. Please make sure you have enrolled your child for 2020 so you don't miss out on a place. This is done through the City of Ballarat. Children currently attending the pre-kinder group also need to be enrolled for pre-school next year. Make sure you have ticked the four-year-old box on your council enrolment form!

Please also remember that children can be enrolled in the year they turn two. Places are allocated based on date of enrolment so the earlier you enrol the more likely you are to get an offer at the kindergarten of your choice. Please pass this information on to others with young children.

Kindergarten for all three-year-old children

Victoria will be the first state or territory in Australia to introduce a subsidised kindergarten program for all three-year-olds. Subsidised kindergarten means the government will help the kindergarten service with the cost of your child attending. This helps keep your fees low.

Subsidised kindergarten for three-year-olds will become available in stages, Ballarat starting in 2022. That year, all three-year-olds

Bronze sponsor:



TutoringCentres

0417 593 416

www.aldonballarat.com.au



A Brown Hill Kindergarten Blue Group child in an ambulance. Image supplied.

across the state will have access to at least five hours in a qualified kindergarten program led by a teacher. The hours will then increase up to the full 15-hour program by 2029.

Recycle your bottle caps

Did you know that bottle caps are fully recyclable? Unfortunately, as reported on ABC's 'War on Waste', they aren't being recycled.

So the kindergarten is collecting bottle caps for the worldwide community to recycle into 3D printed bespoke aids. They will then be donated to children in need in under-served countries.

We have a box in the foyer and can accept caps with a "2" or "4" printed on them - sometimes in the little triangle, but often not.

Christine to retire

I will not be returning to Brown Hill Kindergarten in 2020 as I have decided to retire from my position at the kindergarten at the end of 2019. It has been a privilege to meet and get to know so many children and families over the years I have been here.

ECKA will advertise the position in Term Four and will appoint a wonderful teacher with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to take on the role.

*Christine Sullivan, Educational Leader and Jacinta Johnson, Teacher, Brown Hill Kindergarten (a Eureka Community Kindergarten Association [ECKA] Kindergarten), 5332 7973
brown.hill.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au*

Bronze sponsor:



0417 370 312

WWW.BALLARATTREWORKS.COM.AU

YOUR TREE CARE & MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONALS



Alexis cooking soup for all Caledonian Primary School students on the new stove, as part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. Image: Kate Bond

Caledonian Primary School

From the Principal's desk

Here we are already half-way through Term Three. We started the term with Science Week. A whole range of experiences were held for the students. Some staff and students from Woodmans Hill Secondary College came over and conducted a science lesson with the Prep students. We also had incursions at school and excursions to Melbourne (see page 9).

Coming up in September, we have our biennial concert to showcase our Performing Arts curriculum. Staff and students have been

working on this for the past couple of months and the students will get to perform on stage at the Wendouree Performing Arts Centre. This is a great opportunity to bring our whole school community together for a very special event.

Our Kitchen Garden Program is producing great results. We have new garden beds in the hothouse, so we'll be able to grow more produce for use in the kitchen all year. We have also added a new stove for the students to use. Thank you to the Ballarat East Men's Shed volunteers who made and donated a series of new signs for our garden.

We have 12 students who will be competing in the state Robotics competition, 'Robocup', at the

Melbourne Showgrounds at the end of August. This is a great opportunity for students to engage with digital technologies.

The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book Week ran from 17-23 August. Each year, schools and public libraries across Australia spend a week celebrating books, Australian authors and illustrators. The theme this year was 'Reading is My Secret Power'. We enjoyed a whole host of engaging activities to celebrate literacy.

Our enrolments are open, so please pop into the office and enrol your child at Caledonian Primary School for 2020. We will be beginning transition activities during Term Four. School Tours can be booked at the office.

Geoff Dickson

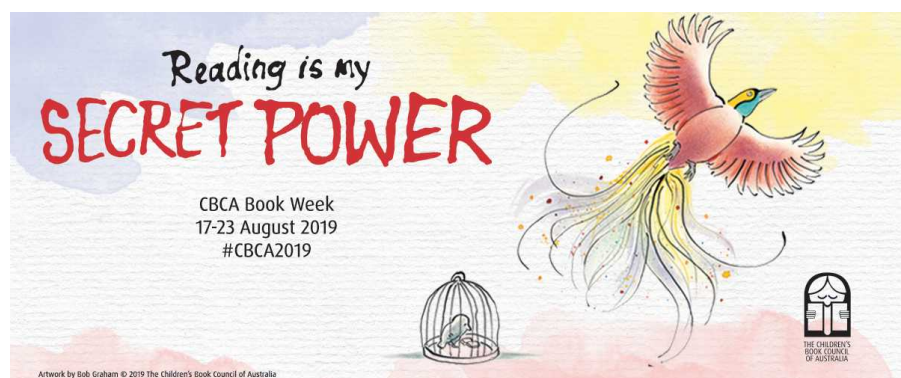
Acting Principal, Caledonian Primary School

5332 6955, caledonianps.vic.edu.au
caledonian.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kitchen Garden Delights

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (SAKG) Foundation is a fantastic program for children of all ages at Caledonian Primary School. In our SAKG sessions, we get to create delicious meals such as soup and carrot cake. We also help in the garden, planting vegetables, pulling out weeds and making things for the garden. This week, we were busy moving a delivery of soil into our garden beds.

On 16 August we had our Term Three Soup Day. We prepared and cooked pumpkin and potato soup and vegetable soup for all of our students. We used the new stove that we have just had installed in





Caledonian Primary School students, Harry, Jack and Cassandra, enjoying a free cup of soup and a bread roll for lunch on a cold August day. Image: Kate Bond

the kitchen. The stove was funded by the money we raised through the 'spud drive' in Term Two.

We have one Soup Day each term and all students are offered a cup of soup (with seconds available) and a bread roll, free of charge. We appreciate the support from Baker's Delight Bakery Hill and the Brown Hill Progress Association for our Soup Days.

We are looking forward to some lovely Spring weather for our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program!

Alexis, Jordan, Tamara and Angelo, Grade Five and Six students, Caledonian Primary School

Science Week

On the first week back at school this term, we had Science Week. It is a week where students do science-related activities and experiments. For our Science Week we had 'Terrific Teams' day

and went to VSSEC (Victorian Space Science Education Centre) at Strathmore, Melbourne.

Terrific Teams Day

On the first day back at school we had Terrific Teams Day which is when we go to a different class with people we never usually work with and do fun activities. In one class, we got to play with Dash and Dot (robots). The other activities were: catapult making, paper plate marble run, towers and flight school. It was a lot of fun.

Victorian Space Science Education Centre

The next day, the Grade Fives and Sixes hopped on the bus at 7.15 am and went to the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). We watched 'Beauty and the Beast' on the way there.

When we got there, one group did maths and studied space while the

others were split into two groups, mission control and astronauts.

The astronauts went to a science bunker in space. They had to do experiments and some got to wear headsets to communicate with Mission Control. After a while we got a message from them and they said we had to evacuate and we only had a couple of seconds to leave. We had a limited time because someone thought it was a joke and didn't tell us for a while! Meanwhile, Mission Control was trying to keep us safe by sending the astronauts messages to tell us what was happening.

Everyone had a go of each activity and then we left. On the way back to Ballarat, we watched 'Paddington'.

We had lots of fun during Science Week. We thank the teachers at our school for running the Terrific Teams Day. A big thank you to Miss Mathieson for organising all the Science sessions and to all the people at VSSEC.

Alexis and Millie, Grade Six students, Caledonian Primary School

Bronze sponsor:

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Bakery Hill Shopping Complex
*Valid at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill only.
Subject to availability.*

Woodmans Hill Secondary College

From the Principal's desk

Whilst we may all fall guilty of having the 'Winter Blues', at Woodmans Hill we are very much aware that Spring is around the corner and we are entering a season associated with new life and growth. A sense of expectancy seems to be present within our college and this can be most clearly felt within our more senior students.

For Year 11 and 12 students, we are very much at the 'business end' of the year when they realise that every second of every minute counts. For our VCAL students, they are hard at work developing employability skills that will give them an advantage over their peers across Ballarat. It gives me enormous pleasure to go into our VCAL classes and hear the ideas that they have to change their immediate and wider community. When I hear our students' plans to support the most vulnerable members of our society and then see them work hard to follow through on these projects, I am filled with pride in what they have achieved and will go on to achieve. Two students, Jasmine and Rhiannon fundraised for the WRISC Family Violence Support organisation. This is just one example of how our students care for others. I believe our students will go on to make a massive difference within our society as they come from a position of good values, a belief in social justice and a willingness to look after others. In supporting a wide range of

causes, our VCAL students are developing the skills that are transferable and critical in the world of work. They continue to act as ambassadors and role models to our younger students whilst learning to grow and learn.

At the same time, many of our VCE students are in the process of applying for university places. Through the work of the senior team, they have been given the opportunity to meet with representatives from some of the top universities to get a sense of the range of opportunities that are available. I have been impressed by our students' ambition and their commitment to finding ways to visit as many university open days as possible to choose their right destination. As someone who has taught in the private sector, I know 100% that our students are more than a match for their peers across the state and have the same entitlement to pursue the highest qualifications that can open doors for them in the future.

We are also working hard to improve our provision for them so that they can be successful in their final examinations. Our students have received ongoing support from 'Elevate' (who specialise in providing study skills seminars across Australia) and targeted assemblies from our own staff. Our current crop of senior students are assessment-ready. We wish them well in the final stage of their journey with us.

As a community who believe that the sky's the limit for our students we need to continue to work together to help realise every dream.

Stephan Fields, Principal
woodmanshill.net.au

Simone's Greatest Shave

On Sunday, 21 July, Brown Hill local, Simone Berry, participated in the World's Greatest Shave at the York Street Church Youth Hall. So far, Simone has raised over \$1,650 for the Leukaemia Foundation on her mission to help "shave" the world from blood cancer.

Every day another 35 Australians are diagnosed with a blood cancer. That's one Aussie every 41 minutes. Although research is improving survival, sadly an Australian loses their life to blood cancer every two hours.

Simone says, "I have heard so many amazing testimonies since I decided to shave for a cure and also many heartbreaking stories. This is something we all need to care about as in most cases, if detected early, people can have a good outcome."

Donations are still being accepted: **worldsgreatestshave.com**, click the green 'Sponsor' button, then search: Simone Berry.



Simone and her daughter, Tiarnah, preparing for Simone's Greatest Shave. Image supplied.



Brown Hill Uniting Church

Thought for the month

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7

Prayers for members of the community

Each Sunday we pray for those members of our congregation who are unwell or facing difficulties. As a member of the Brown Hill community, if you would like a prayer for a member of your family or yourself in a particular situation, please drop a note into the letterbox at 16 Thompson Street before 9.15 am Sunday. The Uniting Church has a privacy policy, so it is up to you how much personal information you give us. It would be helpful to know if there is a timeframe for your request. Examples of requests could be: "Please pray for my mother Jan who is unwell this week. (signed) Mary." "Please pray for the next three weeks for my sister Ella who is to have a serious operation. (signed) Tony."

We have morning worship from 10.00 am each Sunday and Holy Communion on the first Sunday each month. On the fifth Sunday, we visit other churches.

Midweek Communion is held in the Church hall each Wednesday at 1.30 pm. It is followed by afternoon tea. All welcome.

Community speaker

Encouraged by good community response to our afternoon talk on stress we have organised another session on "Healthy Minds" in September. See below.

Craft Group

Our Craft Group meets from 1.30 pm until 3.30 pm in the Church hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Bring along anything you are working on or just come for a chat.

Op. Shop

The Church Op. Shop is open 9.30 am until 12.30 pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

Liz Mason, Brown Hill Uniting Church

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday 12 October.

Louise Wright, Brown Hill Uniting Church

Do you feel you may have mental health issues such as concerns, anxiety or forms of depression which may be linked with your time management, diet and mood swings?

Following on from our previous event in June, Katrina from Ballarat Community Health will speak on: **"Healthy Minds"**

at Brown Hill Church Hall
16 Thompson St. Brown Hill

Friday 6 September at 1.30 pm,
followed by afternoon tea.

Enter through the door next to the Op. Shop at the back of the Humffray Street North Car Park.

This free community event is sponsored by:
Brown Hill Uniting Church

Brown Hill Seniors Club

The Brown Hill Seniors Club held its AGM on Monday 5 August. The following committee was elected.

President: Dianne Eden

Secretary: Pauline McCausland

Treasurer: Laurel Eden

Vice-President: Jan Maher

Committee: Ruth Stokes, June Morcom, Tom Eden, Shirley Martin, Reg Eden and Barry Goodall.

On Thursday, 15 August, members had an enjoyable lunch at the Prospect Restaurant, SMB Campus. This is a training restaurant with many new taste experiences to enjoy.

On Wednesday, 11 September, Club members are having a bus trip to Kyneton as part of the Kyneton Daffodil Festival.

We meet weekly on a Monday at the Brown Hill Hall from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm. Indoor bowls and euchre are played. On the first Monday in the month community singing and bingo are held instead of euchre.

New members are always welcome.

Dianne Eden

President, Brown Hill Seniors' Club
5331 1769

Outstanding Seniors

Nominate an outstanding senior for the 2019 Senior of the Year Awards.

Do you know an older Ballarat person who makes a difference in our community? It could be a leader who inspires others, a

behind-the-scenes volunteer or a person who does the hands-on work to deliver services.

Nominate them for the City of Ballarat's 2019 Senior of the Year Awards!

Each year, the Awards recognise those residents, aged 55 years and older, who have made a significant contribution to the Ballarat community.

The 2019 Senior of the Year Award categories are:

- * Volunteering Award
- * Healthy and Active Living Award
- * Diversity Award

From these categories, the winner of the overarching 2019 Senior of the Year Award will be chosen.

Nominations for the Awards are now open and close on **Sunday 15 September, 2019**. Complete the nomination form available online at mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au or collect a nomination form from The Phoenix Customer Service, Armstrong Street South, or from Lucas Community Hub, the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre and from Ballarat Libraries.

The winners will be announced at a reception held at Ballarat Town Hall on Thursday 3 October - the opening event of the 2019 Ballarat Seniors celebrations.

2019 Victorian Seniors' Festival

The 2019 Victoria Seniors' Festival will run in October with many free or low-cost activities available.

As part of the City of Ballarat's 'Growing Older Well in Ballarat Strategy', the City of Ballarat's Active Ageing team will host a free Seniors Pop-Up Hub on **Wednesday 2 October** at Lucas Community Hub.



Brown Hill Lions Club members Barry Davis, Bryan Craven and Darryl Button running a sausage sizzle at Coles Bakery Hill. Image supplied.

Free public transport for Victorian Seniors Card holders runs from **Sunday 6 October to Sunday 13 October** and includes all metropolitan and V-Line.

For more information, see: seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards

Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Clubs

Our new office bearers for 2019/20 are:

Brown Hill Lions Club
President: Darryl Button
Secretary: Barry Davis

Brown Hill Lioness Club
President: Raelene Drew
Secretary: Kath Button

Both clubs look forward to working with the local community and helping Lions Club International with national projects.

We continue to have a sausage sizzle at each Brown Hill Market. Come along for a chat and a snag.

Both Clubs will again be involved in the Brown Hill Festival on

Friday 25 October - a great event bringing the local community together.

Planning is underway for the second 'Carols in the Park' to be held on **Thursday 12 December**.

Our Lions and Lioness Clubs recently held successful sausage sizzles at Coles Bakery Hill raising funds for the Childhood Cancer Foundation.

Contact Lioness Secretary Kath on 5331 4718 or Lions Secretary Barry on 0418 580 971 for more information.

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Ballarat Society of Artists members, Brian Lawrence and Linton Horsfield in the Brown Hill Uniting Church Hall. Image supplied.

Warmth of a Winter's day in art making

Creating with others is a great way to spend a Saturday. In the Winter months, members of the Ballarat Society of Artists gather in the Brown Hill Uniting Church Hall on a Saturday afternoon, just to paint and share their skills with each other.

Being a member of the Society brings the benefits of workshops, exhibitions and community involvement. You not only develop your own love of art but share it with others at monthly meetings and the various events.

For further information look at our website: ballaratartists.asn.au or Ballarat Society of Artists Inc Facebook page.

Susan Clarke, Membership Secretary,
Ballarat Society of Artists
0409 431 960
bsamember16@gmail.com
ballaratartists.asn.au

Australia Day Awards

Celebrate Brown Hill's outstanding achievers – nominate them for the 2020 City of Ballarat Australia Day Awards.

Do you know a community-minded person, an outstanding young person or a fantastic community activity you would like officially recognised for their positive contribution to the community?

Nominations for the Awards are now open and will close on **Friday 1 November 2019**.

These prestigious annual awards are in three categories:

- * Ballarat Citizen of the Year
- * Ballarat Young Citizen of the Year
- * Community Activity of the Year.

Nominees for the Citizen of the Year must be 25 years or older on 26 January 2020, while nominees for the Young Citizen of the Year must be under 25 years of age on 26 January 2020.

The Community Activity of the Year Award is presented to the group or person who has staged the most outstanding community activity, either small or large, between 30 October 2018 and 29 October 2019.

The Awards will be presented on Australia Day 2020.

For more information or to apply visit:
mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au

Bronze Sponsor:

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Do you own a pool or spa?

Have your say on proposed new laws around private pools and spas.

The Building Amendment (Swimming Pool and Spa) Regulations 2019 will introduce mandatory requirements for owners of private swimming pools or spas to register their pool or spa with their local council.

Under the changes, owners will also need to engage a registered building surveyor or building inspector to inspect and certify the compliance of their safety barrier every three years.

The regulations aim to reduce the number of young children drowning in private swimming pools and spas by improving compliance with safety barrier requirements and are expected to start on **1 December 2019**. Private swimming pool and spa owners are required to take necessary action by **14 April 2020**.

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning is seeking feedback on the proposed changes by **Friday, 6 September**.

Visit:
engage.vic.gov.au/new-safety-standards-private-swimming-pools-and-spas

Community Impact Grants

Applications are now open for Round 1 of the 2019-2020 City of Ballarat's Community Impact Grants Program. They close at **5.00 pm on Monday 2 September, 2019.**

What's it for? Encouraging organisations to address community needs by being innovative and creative.

How much? Up to \$20,000 across four rounds (dependent on funding availability).

Who can apply? Local, not-for-profit organisations which have their own bank account, ABN, are incorporated or have an auspicing organisation.

Need more info.?
ballarat.vic.gov.au/city/my-community/grants

The City of Ballarat Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh says, "The Community Impact Grants program is a great opportunity for not-for-profit community groups to apply for funding for a range of projects or equipment upgrades."

"We've been able to supply groups with funding to purchase remote video-conferencing equipment,

provide training and purchase uniforms and an automated external defibrillator."

The City of Ballarat recently adopted changes to the Program, making it easier to apply. There is a new streamlined application form for requests of under \$2,000, excluding GST.

Other changes include:

1. Raising the maximum grant allocation from \$10,000 to \$20,000, excluding GST, where applicants include a cash contribution based on a 2:1 match ratio for all requests over \$10,000. This change is designed to broaden the potential scope and impact of the program.
2. Accepting funding requests for minor capital projects to upgrade infrastructure at venues not owned by the City of Ballarat or the Victorian Government. This will support minor capital projects where accessibility and sustainability improvements can be implemented at community venues.
3. Accepting partnership applications between local community organisations and schools that demonstrate broad community benefit. This is designed to boost the number of children's and youth-based applications.

Bronze sponsor:



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Legacy Week

Ballarat and District Legacy is dedicated to caring for families of Australian Defence Force veterans who have lost their lives or health serving their country.

There is an increase in the number of contemporary veteran families seeking the support of Legacy. Once more we are focused on the needs of children in their education and general development.

The annual Legacy Week appeal, from 1 - 8 September, seeks financial assistance from communities to enable our services to continue. They include relief from financial hardship, advice and referrals to support services and advocating for entitlements and services.

Please buy a badge during appeal week. Small badge but big impact. Wear it with pride and show your support for the work of Ballarat Legacy now in its 94th year.

Legatee Ron Fleming
Legacy Appeal Co-ordinator 2019

If anyone can use shredded paper please contact Reg and Dianne Eden on 5331 1769.



Juliana Addison MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE
17 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350
P: 5331 1003
 [JulianaAddisonMP](https://www.facebook.com/JulianaAddisonMP)
 [@juliana_addison](https://twitter.com/juliana_addison)
 [julianaaddison](https://www.instagram.com/julianaaddison)



Authorised by J Addison, 17 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat. Funded from Parliamentary budget.

Ivy &
Coco

Our Local Market Stalls

We wanted to share the stories of Brown Hill locals who have stalls at the Brown Hill Market - so our community can get to know them and help to support their businesses.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your business.

My name is Bridget and my business is Ivy&Coco. My business has been operating for almost 12 months.

I paint pots and planters and source plants and succulents to go with them. All of my pot designs are my own. I want each pot to be unique and special in its own way.

How "hands on" to the creation of your products are you?

I paint all of my pots from scratch, from undercoat, paint colours, dots, lines and sealants. My favourite colour is pink and I love pastels, but I try to create as much variety for a wide audience.

Tell us about the person you are in everyday life and why you love to create your product.

I live in Brown Hill with my partner, two beautiful boys and two dogs. I started this little business because I was feeling I was missing my creative side. Being a mum of two young



Bridget and one of her beautiful Ivy&Coco pots. Image supplied.

children and running a business where I am very much on my own, I have often struggled with the idea of where 'Bridget' fits within this. I have spoken to a lot of mums who feel this way and was determined to find something to help reignite my creative passion and sense of purpose and wellbeing.

Tell us about the space you work in to create your products.

My dining room table is my workplace! I have pretty much taken over our whole house with pots, paints and plants. My verandah is my storage space, I love when the neighbours walk by and chat to me about my projects.

Where can we find Ivy&Coco pots and what's next for the business?

I have a regular market spot at the wonderful Brown Hill Market which is on the fourth Saturday of the month at the Brown Hill Hall. You can also find me on Facebook and Instagram and at Nonee & Co in Sturt Street, Ballarat.

In the future, I want to continue to build a strong following on Facebook and Instagram, attend more markets and create beautiful

gifts for customers, especially in the lead up to Christmas. I want to continue to enjoy what I do and feel proud of my creations. I love to have an evolving range of stock so keep an eye on my socials to see the latest updates!

Bridget, Ivy&Coco
ivycoco.square.site
ivyand_coco@outlook.com

Beyond the Plastic Bag

Brown Hill local, Liz Mason, attended the 'Beyond the Plastic Bag' seminar at Federation University Business School on 9 July 2019. A legal ban on lightweight single use plastic bags will come into effect in Victoria on 1 November 2019. Liz took the time to share what she learnt with the Brown Hill community.

In opening, the Dean of Federation University Business School, Professor Lim, reported that researchers have been looking at consumption and production practices and decided to share their findings with the general public.

A Global View

Dr Vicki Little, a marketing researcher from Monash University in Malaysia, described how Malaysia tried to develop plastic bag policies due to waste being washed down into the rivers as the result of tsunamis. They looked at the global incidence, its effects and what they tell us about the way the world works. A plastic bag tax failed in Malaysia. Charges for plastic bags were rejected by consumers which they saw as an annoyance and subversive. Everyone switched to shopping on Saturdays when it was made a

“free bag day”, which resulted in unhappy retailers. Consumers felt that litterers were responsible for the problem, not the bag itself.

Thinking Outside the Bag

La Vergne Lehmann, Executive Officer of the Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group, spoke about plastic wrapping as a major waste.

Soft plastics are recyclable but not in your kerbside recycling bin, only through the Redcycle bins in Coles and Woolworths.

The average plastic bag is used for 12 minutes and takes up to 1000 years to break down, even though it is a modern convenience. She said that shopping habits changed in the early 1980s and plastic waste became a manufacturers, market and consumer problem.

Ms Lehmann spoke about 'Boomerang Bags', which is a global movement where volunteers make cloth bags for people to share. There are many social media groups focusing on recycling issues which is creating a social movement. People have started to take bags with them to the shops/market and changing our ways like this affects retailers. With consumer awareness increasing, reusable bags are now for sale. Some retailers still offer used cardboard boxes. South Australia will soon ban plastic cutlery, straws and stirrers.

What's Happening in Ballarat?

Councillor Belinda Coates from the City of Ballarat gave a local perspective. She said there has been a significant shift around environmental and economic issues in political spheres. The City of Ballarat supported the

Victorian State Government to ban single use plastic bags in October 2017.

The City of Ballarat has strategic waste management actions. Cr Coates said that community education minimises waste and encourages avoiding single use plastic bags. Promotion by the City of Ballarat has included reusable wallet bags being handed out at events and school visits.

There is an A-Z waste guide on the City of Ballarat's website: www.ballarat.vic.gov.au and the 'My Ballarat' magazine (delivered to 40,000 households) recently had an article titled, 'Putting a Stop to Plastic Pollution'. This article was highlighted in the ABC's show 'War on Waste'.

The City of Ballarat also conducts kerbside audits which show a high level of contamination in recyclables, especially when they are bagged (they should be loose). Sometimes bagged garbage is put in recycle bins.

Also, not everything that is recyclable can go in the kerbside recycle bin. For example, E-waste (anything with an electrical plug), globes etc. However, paper, cardboard, glass jars and clean pizza boxes (no food) are OK.

How the Ban Affects Retailers

Emma Jennings from the National Retail Association spoke on behalf of retailers, saying a volume of one billion plastic bags are used per year with 10 million being discarded as rubbish. The effect of this includes damage to the food chain. I was horrified to hear that, on average, we each consume a credit card amount of microplastic per week.

Some reusable plastic bags do not comply with standards. There can be a \$9,700 fine for an individual retailer and \$48,000 for a corporation. They can be audited by the EPA (Environment Protection Authority) or the NRA (National Retailers Association).

Five steps for business:

1. Find alternatives to plastic bags.
2. Charge bag fees.
3. Phase out existing stock.
4. Train the team.
5. Inform customers.

Retailers are encouraged to use stock up by **31 October 2019** (or recycle via Redcycle bins).

vicbagban.com.au

Bag free hotline: **1800 817 723**

Charity food stalls and Op. Shops cannot accept used plastic bags.

6 steps for businesses to going plastic free:

1. Place signage near the counter explaining the change and reminding customers to bring their own bags (posters are available).
2. Always ask customers whether they need a bag before giving them one.
3. Provide a reusable bag for sale and encourage your customers to use them.
4. Replace plastic bags with paper or accepted reusable bags. Have used cardboard boxes easily available to your customers.
5. Consider introducing a fee for the paper or accepted reusable bags to encourage customers to bring their own bag or introducing an incentive for bringing their own.

Take the next step and look at replacing any other disposable plastic items used in your business.

Liz Mason, Brown Hill Progress Association and Brown Hill Uniting Church

...continued from p.1



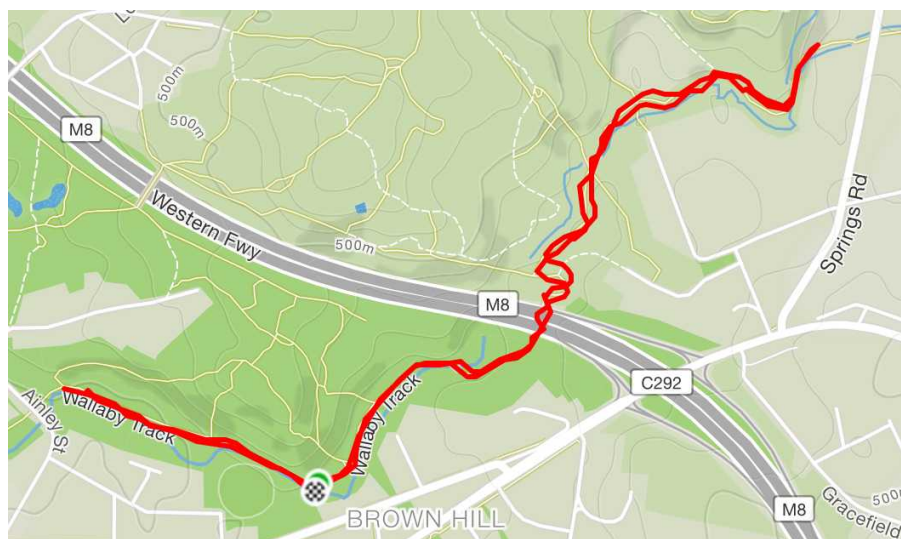
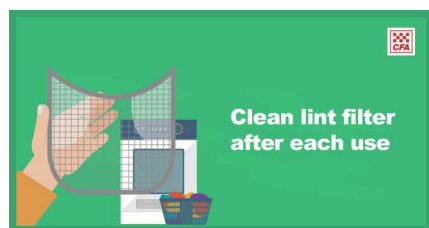
Jordan Day and Ben Zuidland,
Ballarat Fire Brigade Juniors.
Photographer: Linda Day

was formed in 1856. Members of the Junior Brigade are aged from 11 to 16 years, after which they can join the Senior Brigade.

For more, contact the Ballarat Fire Brigade:

cfa.vic.gov.au

facebook.com/BallaratCFA/



The proposed route for a parkrun in Brown Hill. Image supplied.

Proposed Brown Hill parkrun

Around the world, parkrun organise free, weekly, five kilometre timed runs. The events are open to everyone, free of charge, and are safe and easy to participate in. parkrun takes place in pleasant parkland surroundings and we encourage people of every ability to take part, from walkers or those taking their first steps in running to Olympians. From juniors to those with more experience. We welcome you all!

Ballarat has one parkrun operating from Victoria Park each Saturday morning at 8.00 am. It has been running for over four years. With numbers regularly exceeding 300 people during the

Spring, Summer and Autumn months, it has been hugely successful. This has prompted the idea of a second parkrun in Ballarat to help with managing numbers at Victoria Park and to give runners and walkers a different type of parkrun experience.

We know the Yarrowee River Trail/Wallaby Track in Brown Hill is a wonderful location to run and walk and it has been identified as the preference for our second parkrun.

We are in the process of applying for grants and approvals through the City of Ballarat to get a Brown Hill parkrun started. We hope to have confirmation in mid-October and be able to launch before the end of 2019. Stay tuned!

Aaron Coulter

parkrun.com.au/ballarat/

ballaratoffice@parkrun.com



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Dancing Friends

Dancing friends Inc. was formed around ten months ago with a view to running a dance weekend in the Ballarat area. Our statement of purpose is: *To promote physical and mental health, fun, friendship and enjoyment for the dancing public in Ballarat and surrounding areas.*

We ran a successful Autumn Dance Weekend in early March 2019 at the Invermay Hall from which we donated to three charitable organisations a total of \$1,000.

Our involvement with the Brown Hill Hall came about after a request from the Wendouree Dance Club (who were closing down) for us to carry on their established dance night formats and provide continued entertainment to the dancing regulars they had served over the past 26 years.

We have accepted the challenge and are working towards running sequence dance programs to suit all skill levels with the use of two dance circles for each bracket of dance music.

Our dance routines include: Rumbas, Tangos, Jives, Mambos, Sambas, Swings, Saunters, Quicksteps, Two steps, Foxtrots, Blues, Cha Chas, Modern Waltz and New Vogue Waltz (Australian dances are all New Vogue - Old Time Ballroom).

Our music is provided through the use of high quality CDs.

If anyone would like to come along and join in or have a look at proceedings then you are welcome at no charge.

We dance every Monday evening

from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. The cost is \$5.00.

We also dance every fourth Saturday of the month from 7.30 pm to 11.00 pm and the cost is \$8.00.

On Saturday 24 August we will be presenting a cheque to representatives from the Invermay CFA to help them fit out their new Fire Truck.

Graeme Cheesman
Secretary, Dancing Friends Inc.
0427 598 284
dancingfriendsinc@gmail.com
ballroomdancing.sportingpulse.net
(Navigate: Victoria-Central
Highlands-Dancing Friends Inc)

Brown Hill Cricket Club

Junior Cricket Blasters

Brown Hill Cricket Club's 'Woolworths Junior Blasters Cricket Program' will commence on **Tuesday 8 October at 4.30 pm** at the Brown Hill Cricket Oval. This program is recommended for children aged five to seven. All new and returning participants will need to register online (playcricket.com.au). The cost is \$90.00 per child, which includes:

- * One hour of fun each Tuesday for 10 weeks (all of Term Four)
- * Learning new skills including catching, throwing and teamwork
- * Making new friends (or organise a group to learn together)

All kids get their own 'Blasters Pack' and wear the colours of their favourite Big Bash heroes including:

- * T-shirt with the child's name on it
- * Bucket hat in your choice of Big

Bash team colour

- * Plastic cricket bat
- * Rubber cricket ball
- * Personalised bat sticker sheet
- * Junior Blasters Skill scorecard

The earlier children are registered, the sooner your equipment will arrive (Cricket Australia indicates up to three weeks for delivery after registration).

Senior Cricket

Senior Cricket has commenced each Wednesday night from 5.30 pm at the Major League Indoor Centre.

Under 12s junior training will commence in the first week of October, date to be confirmed.

Under 15s and Under 17s junior training will commence mid-to-late-September, date to be confirmed.

For further information please contact:
Phillip Knowles
phillip.knowles1960@gmail.com
0407 399 971

Bronze sponsor:



Ballarat

Shop 50, Central Square
Armstrong Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350

(03) 5332 3400
ballarat@theaflstore.com.au

YOUR TEAM YOUR STORE

The Bard of Brown Hill

Have you ever wondered about being a poet? Do you remember poems you wrote or read at school? I would like to introduce you to a real live local poet, Michael Heald.

Recently, on a Sunday afternoon, I sat with Michael in his sunny dining room in Brown Hill on the banks of the Yarrowee River where he has lived since 2001. I talked with Michael about his profession; he is a Poet and a University teacher of literature and poetry at Melbourne University.

Michael has had four books of poetry published and has been shortlisted for the Western Australian Premier's Book Award (2004) as well as the Queensland Premier's Award (2005). Michael's latest book, 'The Moving World', published in 2011, was met with critical acclaim and is described by the eminent poet Robert Gray as 'a daring and triumphant project'.

Michael has come a long way from his beginnings in Grimsby, England. When he was twelve years old, he relocated with his parents as 'ten pound Poms' from the grey/green environs of the



The 'Bard of Brown Hill', our Resident Poet, Michael Heald. Photographer: Sally McAlpin

Humber River to reside on the bright blue/green banks of the Swan river in Perth. Michael moved to Brown Hill in 2001, following his heart across the Nullarbor.

Michael is embedded in his natural local environment, despite commuting to Melbourne four days each week for work. He gains inspiration for his life and his poetry from his environs, as can be seen in the poem below about our own Yarrowee River.

Michael is an appreciative reader of the Brown Hill Community Newsletter and values being connected to his community. He has generously agreed to accept the title 'Bard of Brown Hill' and become a regular contributor to the newsletter. In the truest sense of the title he is our Resident Poet. I will be exploring with Michael in future newsletters his journey from young English boy in a new bright country to acclaimed Australian poet and teacher.

To find out more, see:
<https://fremantlepress.com.au/contributors/michael-heald>

Sally McAlpin, local and Brown Hill Community Newsletter Editorial Support

Waking Near the Yarrowee **Michael Heald**

*In the quiet of early morning,
birds are speaking
the language of water.*

*It can hardly be said
that I live by the river: it passes
almost as close behind my house
as the road does in front,
but a few more houses
stand in-between, keeping
a wedge of suburbia
between me and its slender,
dam-enfeebled, ancient flow,
though if I'd woken here
just a few lifetimes ago,
all of this land our blocks
have been carved from
would have been the river's:
the unfenced ground gently sloping
and softening to its banks,
polished here and there
to the sky's brightness,
and the trees reverently shrouding
its pure, supple nakedness.*

*Carried half a world by a tide of migration
from the Humber's banks of gleaming mud
and deposited on the dazzling sands
of the deep blue Swan, then tumbled
across this continent by the currents
modernity told me it was proper
to abandon myself to, my head
rests on the pillow here now,
by the Yarrowee, like a river-stone
through which the water-birds' carolling
resonates as their praise,
and as my longing
for the river-world back.*

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