Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 21, October 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.



Margaret Potter (right), Parents Without Partners Ballarat Branch President receiving flowers from Shirley Jones (Branch Vice President) at the October dance held in the Brown Hill Hall. Photographer: Bernie Clebney.

Diary Dates

See brownhill.vic.au for details.

OCTOBER

All month: 2019 Victorian Seniors Festival, seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

Saturday 19 - Sunday 27: National Children's Week (p.11)

Monday 21 - Sunday 27: Aussie Backyard Bird Count (p.15)

Friday 25: 5.00 pm - 7.30 pm, 2019 Brown Hill Community Festival, Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and Cricket Oval (p.6)

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

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Senior of the Year dances in Brown Hill

Congratulations to the City of Ballarat's Senior of the Year and winner of the Healthy and Active Living Award, Margaret Potter, who organises a monthly dance in the Brown Hill Hall.

I met Margaret late one Saturday night when I dropped into the Brown Hill Hall while the Parents Without Partners (PWP) monthly dance was in full swing, with 94 people clearly enjoying themselves. Some had travelled from as far away as Portland, Colac and Hamilton to join in the fun.

Her fans were many. One dancer, Patty said, "What a wonderful job she does, she is just amazing. Margaret has a good ear for listening to people's troubles."

Margaret has been part of the Ballarat Branch of the PWP Dance Club since 1973. The Branch started in 1969 and Margaret has been president since the late 1980s.

Another fan, Cora, said, "Margaret is very well organised and has her finger on the pulse. She comes across as serious, but when she speaks she has a little quirk that makes you laugh. It always surprises me. She has been a rock to a lot of people through PWP and many other organisations. Any one of them could have nominated her for the Award."

Margaret has also been a member of the Happy Wanderers since 2007. After being elected to the committee she was appointed president in 2011, a position she still holds today.

The Happy Wanderers provide social and recreational activities for people over the age of 60. Predominantly an active walking group, it proved popular and soon became a self- managed group of interested retirees.

Margaret started playing basketball in 1964 and continued *... continued p.4*

...continued from p.1

Saturday 26: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm. safeTALK free community workshop (p.18)

Saturday 26: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Miniature Friends Fair, Brown Hill Hall (p.9)

Tuesday 29: 10.00 am, Australian Breastfeeding Association meeting, Brown Hill Hall (p.10)

NOVEMBER

Friday 1: Learn to Swim registrations open (p.5)

Sunday 3: Brown Hill Pool Working Bee. All welcome.

Monday 4: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon, 'Ballarat is Open' Councillor listening post - Central Ward

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: Geoff Dickson, Brian Green and Sarah Greenwood-Smith. 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. Central Square, Ballarat CBD mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/ballarat-isopen

Tuesday 5: 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm, 'Ballarat is Open' Councillor listening post - North Ward, Miners Rest community hall *mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/ballarat-isopen*

Tuesday 5: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, Brown Hill Hall (rear room).

Friday 8: Ballarat Show Day

Friday 8: \$1 Flash Sale on clothing at Brown Hill Op. Shop (p.16)

Monday 11: Feedback on the Central Highlands Water Draft Parks Masterplan due (p. 19)

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 22 articles are due by **Monday 4 November 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

Friday 15: 7.00 pm, Caledonian Primary School Trivia Night (p.13)

Sunday 17: 9.45 am, Eucalypts of Slaty Creek Walk and BBQ. See: brownhill.vic.au/directory/wattle -flat-pootilla-landcare-group/ Contact Stephanie on 0437 071 317

Friday 29: Learn to Swim registrations close (p.5)

DECEMBER

Thursday 12: Brown Hill Lions and District Carols in the Park, Brown Hill Recreation Reserve.

Friday 13: 2.30 - 4.00 pm, Celebration of Christine Sullivan, Brown Hill Kindergarten (p.11)

For updates, visit: brownhill.vic.au

be upsetting for some readers. If you need support, contact numbers are available here: brownhill.vic.au/new-to-brownhill/need-some-support/

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Brown Hill Progress Association Meet in the Brown Hill Hall (rear room), first Tuesday every month, 7.00 pm. All welcome.

bhpa@brownhill.vic.au brownhill.vic.au **PO Box 1863, Bakery Hill 3354**



In this edition

The pressure is on to write a catchy and informative editorial again this month. We just won the 'Best Editorial Comment' for our article about how great it is to be connected to your neighbours and how living in Brown Hill makes this pretty easy (Edition 18). We are chuffed!

This edition has it all - dance groups, stories from kindergarten and school, bee swarms, Learn to Swim, history research, native garden planting, backyard birds and tips on being mindful and present while enjoying Brown Hill.

We can't wait to celebrate our wonderful local people in a beautiful place on Friday 25 October at the annual Brown Hill Community Festival (p.6 and 20).

Thanks again to our sponsors: **Silver:** Brown Hill Hotel and Brown Hill Market. **Bronze:** 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 newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

Silver sponsor:



Brown Hill Community Newsletter's Volunteer Editor, Sarah Greenwood-Smith accepts two awards from the President of the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria President, Jens-Kristian Toft Hansen. Photographer: Hazen Cleary



Brown Hill brings home two awards

We are super excited to announce that the Brown Hill Community Newsletter was recognised at the recent Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV) conference, winning two of the nine awards!

There are 88 community

newsletters/newspapers which are members of the CNAV. From weeklies to quarterlies, from 1000 to over 20,000 copies per edition. Each publication is unique.

Both categories in which our newsletter was awarded as the winner were judged by Jeanette Severs, a multi-award-winning journalist and photographer who specialises in creating national content.

Best editorial comment: Edition 18, April 2019 - Winner

There were 12 entries in this category, with two finalists and

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one winner. Jeanette commented, "Very close between all three. Entries closely aligned with the criteria for judging."

Best community content: Edition 17, February 2019 -Winner

Jeanette said, "I hadn't heard of Brown Hill before I read this newsletter, but by the time I'd finished it, I felt like it was just the sort of community I'd like to live in. I could picture myself saying hello to neighbours as I walked to the local pool, watching the local playgroup come tumbling in to the street after another fun morning and taking a regular walk down Scott's Parade to see what Faye and Rob had growing in their quirky garden bed. I found myself drawn to the memorial pieces, even though I hadn't known the departed, as they gave a strong sense of community connection and volunteering. The inclusion of nine year old Jack's tribute was a sweet, moving piece. The standout article for me in this edition was Rod Soars account of his life since a multiple sclerosis diagnosis. This very personal piece gave insight and gentle guidance in a down to earth, natural way."

What a wonderful summary of our much-loved newsletter. Thank you so much to our volunteers for all that they do to publish and distribute six editions each year with the goal of connecting the Brown Hill community. It is fantastic to be recognised at the state level and we should all feel very proud of our newsletter and our welcoming local community.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith Volunteer Editor, Brown Hill Community Newsletter

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to play until she was 65 years of age. She is a qualified referee and was president of the Ladies Auxiliary. Margaret served on committees and worked behind the scenes to support the Lady Miners and the Youth League Nuggets, providing meals for visiting teams after games.

In 2016 Margaret was granted life membership of the Ballarat Basketball Association. She has always been interested in sport and, over the years, has also participated in netball, squash, ten pin bowling, exercise classes and water aerobics, as well as being a member of the Wendouree Athletic Club.

For over 20 years Margaret volunteered her time weekly with Meals on Wheels, delivering meals to elderly Ballarat residents.

Margaret was the first female bus driver at Rick Thege Bus Lines for 22 years and was with Gold Bus Ballarat for six years.

Upon retirement Margaret volunteered in the kiosk at Ballarat Base Hospital for seven years.

She has lived and promoted a healthy and active lifestyle, encouraging others to involve themselves in activities and social engagement, contributing to the health and wellbeing of the community across all age groups.

When she was young, Margaret says, "My mother didn't believe in dancing. When my marriage didn't work out, PWP helped me to enjoy dancing and I still do today at the age of 88."

The group was originally intended to be for people without a partner.

However, some members, including Marje and Bernie, met through PWP and have since married. Margaret tells me they are not the only ones.

The PWP dances are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Brown Hill Hall and are open to everyone. There is live music and \$10 entry for non-members. Often people who dance with other groups at Brown Hill Hall attend the PWP dances.

For those who need some practice, PWP has a member who was a dance teacher who takes classes at the Victorian Railway Institute (VRI) Hall on Thursdays from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm. Contact Margaret on 5338 2978.

Congratulations Margaret. You are a true inspiration!

Sarah Greenwood-Smith Volunteer Editor, Brown Hill Community Newsletter

David Patrick

Can you help Jennifer Bawden who reached out for some help with her family history research?

"I am looking for information about the early Brown Hill community in the gold rush days.

My great-great grandfather, David Patrick, a Scotsman from Paisley, lived in the area for some years. The rate books list him in Caledonia and also Mt Xavier.

I'm hoping to learn more of the settlement of the area and how it developed socially in terms of community organisations, with which he may have been involved."

If you have any information for Jennifer, please contact us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au.

Learn to Swim - Brown Hill Pool



The program is a low cost, 5 day intensive summer program teaching swimming and water safety to children from 4 years of age. Each program consists of 5×30 minute lessons starting at the same time each day throughout the week.

Week 1 - January 6th - 10th 2020 8:45am-12pm

Week 2 - January 13th - 17th 2020 8:45am-12pm

Bookings open November 1st 2019

Book online at:



https://www.brownhill.vic.au/swimming-pool/

Learn to Swim

Want a great morning activity for your kids in January? Burn off some energy, make new friends and learn to swim at the same time? Sign them up for the annual Learn to Swim program at the Brown Hill Pool.

The Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) has again been sponsored by the Brown Hill

Silver sponsor:

Uniting Church to deliver the popular Learn to Swim program at the Brown Hill Pool.

Brendan Stevens, the BHPA secretary says, "Last year we had about 90 kids participate in our low-cost Learn to Swim program for children aged four years and older."

Bookings open **Friday 1 November** and close on **Friday 29 November**. This is to allow swimming teachers to be booked and classes to be confirmed with participating families before Christmas.

Families who purchase a Brown Hill Pool Season Pass will be reimbursed for the cost of their child/ren's swimming lessons.

Don't miss this great opportunity for a local, outdoor summer holiday activity.

pool@brownhill.vic.au

BROWN HILL MARKET

Saturday 26 October - market will be at Lake Wendouree - one time only! Saturday 23 November, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Friday 20 December, 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm (special Christmas market) Saturday 28 December, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Brown Hill Hall, 375 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill

ballaratmarkets.com.au

BROWN HILI COMMUNITY **FESTIVAL 2019**

Come and join the Brown Hill community for the fourth Brown Hill Community Festival! Wellestablished on the Brown Hill calendar, this family-friendly event brings together people from across Brown Hill to celebrate our wonderful suburb and welcoming community. We invite you to help us celebrate our fantastic Brown Hill community. Bring a picnic rug, a bottle of water, some gold coins and a reusable cup for a 50c discount on a hot drink or soup.

We are proud to be part of the City of Ballarat's Children's Week program.

We would like to thank the Brown Hill Uniting Church for their generous sponsorship of this festival. We would also like to acknowledge support from Harcourts Ballarat (promotional signage), City of Ballarat (poster design) and the Ballarat Rockers (use of the Brown Hill Hall and car park).

Family friendly activities will be run by:

- * AFL Goldfields
- * Western Bulldogs
- * Eureka Gymnastics
- * 11th Girl Guides Ballarat



* Waterwatch Victoria * Grampians Central West Waste

- and Resource Recovery Group
- * Ballarat Toy Library
- * Brown Hill Cricket Club

Our Emergency Services vehicles will include:

* Glen Park CFA and Ballarat CFA Fire Trucks (weather permitting) * Forest, Fire and Regions Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning *City of Ballarat's Emergency Management Team.

Performances will include:

- * Sing Australia Ballarat
- * Ballarat Highland Dancers
- * Federation University Pipe Band
- * Caledonian Primary School
- * Brown Hill Kindergarten

Local Community Group displays will include:

* Brown Hill Parkrun * Brown Hill Community FireAware Network * South East Australian Taekwondo * Ballarat Wholefoods Collective * Ballarat Toy Library * Ballarat East Community Men's Shed * Ballarat Community Health - Mental Health Nurse * Eureka Mums * The Hidden Orchard



* Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School * Brown Hill Progress Association

The Brown Hill Market organisers will also be coming to the Festival.

Food and drinks will include: * Mama and Son (soup and sliders) (offering a 50c discount if you bring a reusable cup) * Bean Me Up Mobile Espresso (offering a 50c discount if you bring a reusable cup) * Masala Valley Indian * Sausage Sizzle - Brown Hill and District Lions Club (gold coin

donation) with support from Bakery Hill Baker's Delight * Pancakes - Brown Hill Uniting Church (gold coin donation) * Canned drinks - Brown Hill

Kindergarten (gold coin donation)

See you there!

festival@brownhill.vic.au

brownhill.vic.au/brown-hillcommunity-festival/

Stay up to date by following 'Brown Hill Community Festival' on Facebook.



Festival activities

Corangamite Waterwatch

Corangamite Waterwatch puts the Yarrowee River under the magnifying glass at this year's Festival.

The Brown Hill Community Festival is great for getting outdoors and discovering what lives in your river reserve!

Families can become citizen scientists for the evening as they join Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's Waterwatch team and survey the Yarrowee River at Brown Hill for waterbugs.

Participants will discover the importance of water and habitat to waterbugs. We will sort and identify the animals – snails, beetles, scuds, fly larvae and stonefly larvae. These surveys are important as life in the river, seen by the presence of these waterbugs, help us to establish the health of our waterways.

These survey results will be entered in a nation-wide database using the National Waterbug Blitz App. This citizen science program is conducted each spring and is a great way for community members to contribute to the protection of our precious natural resources. To learn more about this citizen science initiative, visit waterbugblitz.org.au.

If you have an interest in water quality monitoring of the Yarrowee River and you are interested in volunteering monthly to test water quality (and do seasonal waterbug surveys), then why don't you enquire about



Collecting waterbugs with National Waterbug Blitz. Image supplied.

the Waterwatch program? Come and say hi at the Festival or get in touch!

Deirdre Murphy Corangamite Catchment Management Authority 5232 9100 deirdre.murphy@ccma.vic.gov.au

City of Ballarat Emergency Management

As part of our role within council we assist the community and emergency services with Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) activities.

We hold joint-agency information sessions around PPRR and home safety which includes information from Energy Safe Victoria, Crime Stoppers, State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Authority (CFA), Red Cross, Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Council.

We are heading into the fire season and will be promoting fire prevention and the requirements under the CFA Act.

We look forward to chatting with the Brown Hill community at the Festival.

Mark Cartledge Fire Prevention Officer City of Ballarat

Ballarat Highland Dancers

The girls have been travelling all over Australia from Queensland, Sydney, Adelaide, Townsville and Canberra. Their teacher, Monique, has been accepted to dance at 'The Edinburgh Tattoo' in Sydney which will be good fun. She was chosen from hundreds of dancers from all over the world. Out of 100 places, only 9 were from Australia. We are very proud of such a great achievement from our Ballarat born and bred girl.

Christine Plover, Ballarat Highland Dancers



Monique wins! Image supplied.

Our Local Area Plan

John Dyke from the City of Ballarat's Strategic Planning team has prepared this update about Ballaratwide planning strategies that are relevant to Brown Hill.

The following is a brief introduction to the various municipal-wide strategies the City of Ballarat (COB) is undertaking over the next 12 months. We are also undertaking a review of the Yarrowee River Corridor Masterplan following up on the original LINCS (Linear Network of Communal Spaces) plan of 1995.

Residential Character Assessment

"The diversity of buildings helps connect people to their history and environment. The under-planned, 'higgledy-piggledy' street layout that sprang up in the gold mining days is a signature feature of Ballarat East's personality."

Ballarat East Local Area Plan, "Conserve and enhance our neighbourhood character", COB, 2019

Across the Ballarat municipality, communities such as Ballarat East and local Councillors have recently raised concerns about how landscape and neighbourhood character is managed as the city grows. 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.

The aim of this assessment is to identify neighbourhood character across the city and how that



The Yarrowee River Corridor Masterplan is under review. Photographer: Tyler Maisano, Brown Hill

character should be retained or enhanced and protected by strengthened controls in the planning scheme. This will build on previous character assessment work for the municipality undertaken to inform the Ballarat Strategy and more recently the Ballarat East Local Area Plan as well as the Health, Knowledge and City Living Precinct Masterplan.

The assessment will map and describe the Residential Character Areas of Ballarat and provide recommendations to protect and enhance residential character including positive design responses. Community consultation will also be undertaken to understand the number of different ways that residents appreciate and value their neighbourhoods.

Following assessment and consultation, neighbourhood character objectives will be prepared for inclusion in the residential zone schedules and new or amended planning scheme provisions, clauses, policy content and schedules will be drafted.

Living Corridors Project

The City of Ballarat has commenced a Living Corridors Project to support initiative 5.9 in the Ballarat Strategy which is to support the management and rehabilitation of a network of Living Corridors across Ballarat to properly manage our natural values in urban and township areas.

The project will involve undertaking research to define living corridors in the Ballarat context and working with the community to identify overarching strategies and specific actions that can be undertaken to mitigate native vegetation loss and improve biodiversity along these corridors. It is anticipated that these strategies and actions will be included in a Living Corridor Action Plan which will be finalised and considered by Council in 2020.

Yarrowee River Corridor Masterplan

It has been 25 years since the original Yarrowee River Corridor Masterplan was prepared which led to extensive works being undertaken to improve habitat and bio-diversity, create walking paths and further develop the community's use and appreciation of the waterways as public spaces. A number of these works were carried out along the course of the river through Brown Hill.

It is now considered an appropriate time to review these plans, to identify what has worked and what hasn't worked and establish priorities for the next 20 years to further improve, develop, manage and maintain the Yarrowee River and tributaries. The project, jointly funded by CHW, DELWP and COB, will undertake stakeholder consultation, prepare a site analysis plan, and produce a business case for key projects that have been identified during the study.

Ballarat Skyline and Views Study

How can we find inspiration in Ballarat's unique skyline?

The skyline of Ballarat's CBD with its iconic Victorian towers and

Bronze sponsor:



spires is intrinsic to the city and is appreciated by many. However, it is not just these iconic locations alone, but also the areas around them that are so appealing and integral to our heritage. Roof forms, trees, building profiles, as well as masses and shapes, can all contribute to this character and they can just as easily detract from it.

To address this, we are currently undertaking the Ballarat Skyline and Views Study which will:

- * Identify significant and valued views and streetscape character.
- * Prepare multi-tiered planning scheme controls to protect these views as the municipality changes and grows.

* Create tools to support decision making, particularly in the assessment of development applications, which complement new planning scheme controls.

As part of the study we are developing spatial analysis and modelling to help define the extent of existing view arcs and view sheds across the landscape.

Bronze sponsor:



This will then help us determine how urban development should be guided in terms of height, massing, setbacks, materials and colours.

John Dyke, Heritage Advisor City Design, City of Ballarat strategicplanning@ballarat.vic.gov.au PO Box 655, Ballarat, Victoria, 3353 ballarat.vic.gov.au

Mini Friends Fair

The Ballarat Mini-Friends and Miniatures Fair caters for miniature enthusiasts from across Victoria and interstate. On view will be a handcrafted display by local miniaturists. An endless array of miniature items can be purchased from the trading tables (including interstate traders) and catering is available. A great event for all ages, miniaturists and nonminiaturists alike.

Saturday 26 October, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Brown Hill Hall. Entry \$3.00. Children free. Contact: Gwen on 5333 5423

Bronze sponsor:



Hopefully by now you have tried the **BEST** all round bread available... that's our HI FIBRE LO GI. It tastes fantastic, gives long lasting energy and is great for you. So you can enjoy even more of our Hi Fibre Lo Gi bread present this advertisement at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill and when you purchase one loaf of Hi Fibre Lo Gi you'll get a SIX PACK OF THE HI FIBRE LO GI LUNCH BOX ROLLS VALUED AT \$4.00 FOR FREE!!! Shop 6, 73 Victoria Street, Bakery Hill Shopping Complex Valid at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill only. Subject to availability.



ABA in Brown Hill

In September, the Australian Breastfeeding Association held a meeting at the Brown Hill Hall for the first time. The event was so successful we forgot to take photos!

This took us by surprise and left some of our older volunteers bursting with pride for our new, amazing trainees (we now have six).

It was our first successful meeting in over 12 months, with two new members attending, four pregnant tummies, lots of babies and toddlers and, of course, lots of mum-to-mum support, which is what we are here for!

As it was a Thursday morning, the dancing group asked if their music was too loud, to which I giggled and responded with, "We have a room of noisy toddlers!"

A couple of the dancers commented that they were pleased to see us there. Thanks Brown Hill for fostering such a welcoming, supportive community.

Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday 29 October from 10.00 am, with a Halloween theme.

Katrina Orr

Australian Breastfeeding Association -Ballarat Group Helpline: 1800 686 268 ballarataba@gmail.com (Lyndal) breastfeeding.asn.au facebook.com/abaqoldfields/



Brown Hill Kindergarten children, staff and parents enjoy a wander along the Yarrowee River Trail during their annual walkathon. Image supplied.

Brown Hill Kindergarten

In the last week of term three, locals may have noticed children from Brown Hill Kindergarten walking along the Yarrowee River Trail as they participated in our annual walkathons. The prekinder groups planned to walk along the track to the playground and back, but due to water over the causeway they had to walk through Progress Park to the playground and back. They did take the opportunity to cross the wooden bridge and walk along the track a short way.

The older children in the preschool groups walked along the trail to the tunnel and then had a snack by the river before heading back to the playground. In the tunnel they made lots of noise, listening for an echo.

Along the walk the children looked for things they could hear, see, smell and touch, including frogs, ducks, birds, wattle and other interesting things. They counted the number of bridges they crossed and the number of bike riders who went by and they noticed the signs that spring is here.

The walkathon not only raises money for the kindergarten but also gives the children another opportunity to engage with, observe and learn more about the local natural environment.

The walkathon is the pre-kinder group's first outing from the kindergarten. During term four they will have their first visit to bush kinder, something they have been looking forward to each week, as they watch the older children head off to bush kinder.

Aboriginal culture

In August the preschool groups had a special visitor. Emma Leehane from Mangala Aboriginal Education spent time with each group talking about Aboriginal culture and how Aboriginal people lived a long time ago. Emma's unique skills and knowledge mean the visit is a highlight of the kindergarten year. The children have an opportunity to see and feel the type of tools and weapons Aboriginal people would have used and to think about how they lived when there were no shops, roads, cars or houses as we know them. They were also able to ask her about her experiences as an Aboriginal woman and share their



Brown Hill Kindergarten children learn about the local birds along the Yarrowee River Trail during their annual walkathon. Image supplied.

own knowledge.

Emma gave the children an opportunity to participate in an emu dance with her. The children were engaged and interested and this was reflected in their play at bush kinder and at kindergarten; they performed their own emu dances, looked for sticks that could be spears and boomerangs and pretended to hunt in the bush.

Community Festival

As the Brown Hill Community Festival draws closer all the children at the kindergarten are practising their songs to sing at the festival. They remember the festival from last year and are looking forward to their moment in the spotlight. See p.20.

Christine Sullivan, Educational Leader, Brown Hill Kindergarten (a Eureka Community Kindergarten Association [ECKA] Kindergarten), 5332 7973 brown.hill.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au 1 Reid Court, Brown Hill

Celebrating Christine

After 14.5 years, Christine Sullivan is retiring from her position at

Brown Hill Kindergarten. To thank her for all her work, we are putting together a memento. If you have a connection to the Kindergarten and/or Christine (e.g. if your children currently go to or previously attended the kindergarten, we need your help. Email

newsletter@brownhill.vic.au before Friday 22 November with CHRISTINE in the subject line and we will email you with details.

Celebration

On Friday 13 December, everyone is invited to join the Brown Hill Kindergarten community in recognising Christine's enormous contribution to the lives of so many local families. Join us at the Kindergarten between 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm for afternoon tea and a play. No RSVP required.



Caledonian Primary School

Term Three events and beyond

At Caledonian Primary School, we had a lot of exciting events in Term Three. Some of the events were Robotics, Tree Planting, Footy Colours Day and Energy Breakthrough.

Robotics

This year a few grade five and six students were chosen to participate in the Caledonian Pelicans Robotics team. We spent weeks building and programming our 'LEGO Mindstorm' robots that were entered into the Interstate RoboCup Championships. In Robotics you can choose either to do Dance, Soccer or Rescue. On Friday 31 August the Robotics team went down to Melbourne to compete with other schools. It was a great experience and taught the students lots of new things! It was a fun day.

Tree Planting

Our School Council members organised for a donation of trees through local organisation, fifteentrees. One rainy day, 75 students planted 25 trees throughout the school. Some were planted by the oval, near the playground and in our veggie garden. It was a wet start to the day but then the sun came out. The students were split into different groups. Some grade five and six students gave out water crystals, others put in tree stakes and the rest were digging a bunch of holes then planting the trees. It has made our school even more



Caledonian Primary School students braved the rain to plant 25 trees donated by local organisation, fifteentrees. Photographer: Melissa Watts

beautiful.

Footy Colours Day

On Footy Colours Day we had a lot of fun things happen, like the Footy Colours Parade. We had a rainbow of colours. People came up and supported their footy teams and celebrated the footy. Everyone cheered as people walked around to music. At lunchtime, community helpers came around and gave us hot pies and other delicious treats. Some students had sausage rolls, doughnuts and pastries. It was delicious! During playtime, we also had a competition of who could kick a footy the furthest.

Energy Breakthrough

This year, 24 students have been chosen to compete in the Energy Breakthrough (EB) competition. There are 20 people pedalling, three emergency drivers and one person in the pit crew. On 29 October, these students will go to a go-kart track at Haddon and practise before the big day. After months of training, they will get to go to Maryborough from 21 to 23 November and compete against other schools from throughout Victoria.

In Maryborough, teams have to stand in front of the officials, they ask you questions about your cart. Some of the questions include: "What is it made out of?" and "How do we fix it?". The team is really excited and would love to continue their experience in EB. We would also like to thank Braden, the maintenance man, for making sure the cart is drivable.

Thank you to our teachers for giving us these opportunities such as EB and Robotics.

Alexis and Jamison, Grade 6, Caledonian Primary School 5332 6955, caledonianps.vic.edu.au caledonian.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au



A Fathers' Day potplant. Image supplied.

Fathers' Day Pot Plants

Students at Caledonian Primary School are very grateful to Bunnings Ballarat for their generous donation of 230 pots, many bags of potting mix and a whole lot of edible plants for their Fathers' Day craft activity. Each student painted a pot for their Dad/special person. Once it was dry, they planted lettuce, parsley and/or coriander. There were loads of smiles on Fathers' Day!

Breakfast Club Volunteers

Caledonian Primary School is looking for volunteers to help with their popular Breakfast Club program this term.

We need volunteers from 8.10 am until 8.45 am on Tuesday and

CPS TRIVIA NIGHT

CALEDONIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT 2019 FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15TH- 7 PM TICKETS \$20 EACH

PRIZES AUCTIONS GAMES GIVE AWAYS

Thursday mornings to help set up, serve and pack up the breakfast club, held in the multipurpose hall (Thompson Street side).

All volunteers will need a current

Working With Children Check.

Are you able to help or do you know someone who might be interested?

Contact Brooke: 5332 6955 caledonian.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Bronze sponsor:





Give young people a voice

Do you know a Brown Hill local aged between 12 and 25? The City of Ballarat Youth Services is seeking dedicated and enthusiastic young people to join its **Youth Council** and **Sonika committee** in 2020.

Youth Council is made up of young people who are passionate about being involved in their community and representing the views, ideas and needs of youth in the Ballarat area.

Meanwhile, **Sonika** is Youth Services' FReeZA committee, a State Government-funded initiative that gives young people the opportunity to lead the planning and staging of live music and cultural events within their communities.

Applications for both Sonika and the Youth Council close on **18 November.** To apply, visit bit.ly/BallaratYouth2020

5320 5186 youth@ballarat.vic.gov.au



The author (on left), his brother and father catching a bee swarm at Ararat in the early eighties. Photographer: Peter Kaczynski

Bee Careful with Swarms

On a sunny still day in Spring, you might be lucky enough to experience an amazing natural event as thousands of bees leave their parent hive, engorged with honey, in search of a new home. You might see a a large dark cloud of whirring insects, which will eventually settle into a football sized clump on a nearby branch, fence post or building. Swarming is a natural way for bee colonies to multiply and to reduce congestion in the parent hive. When the conditions are right, the colony raises a new queen and the existing queen and a large proportion of the adult population leave the hive. After emerging in a spectacular rush, the bees only fly a short distance before settling. From there they send out scout bees to locate a new home.

Unfortunately, a number of these swarms also make their home in our houses; moving into walls, under the eaves or in cavities around chimneys. Removing bees from houses can be a messy, dangerous and expensive process.

While all bees should be treated with respect, bee swarms are relatively docile and will rarely sting if left undisturbed. Keep children, pets and susceptible adults well away and contact a local beekeeper.

For more advice contact your local apiarist association, council office or author of this article.

Ben Sturmfels

0458 925 588



A swarm of bees entering a bee hive, their new home. Photographer: Kerry Sturmfels

Black Hill Flat Native Garden

Next time you're wandering down the Yarrowee River toward Black Hill, keep walking and you'll eventually arrive at something the Friends of Black Hill Reserve is crazy proud of: the Black Hill Flat Native Garden. We've been getting together for regular working bees since April, spreading mulch and planting indigenous native plants.

It's on the south side of the Yarrowee River just downstream from Newman Street, in an area where the kids from St Alipius Primary School have planted trees every National Tree Day for the last few years. The trees are maturing, but Council wasn't able to mow between them, so we decided to make proper mulched garden beds under the trees and add flowers, grasses, groundcovers and a few shrubs.

The plants we're using are called indigenous because the seed is collected from local bush reserves. This means the plants belong here in a way that no other plants could hope for. It also means the seeds are wild, not grown in a nursery, so every plant is different. It's an adventure watching them grow, because you never know how they'll turn out.



Planting fun at Black Hill Flat Native Garden. Photographer: Nivash Neelavathannan.

You're welcome to join us with more mulching this spring, and we're also planning some weed removal on the hill itself. Council has provided us with funding to pay for the tools and we're keen to get in there and get going!

Neil Huybregts Friends of Black Hill Reserve 0418 979 892 fobhr.info@gmail.com facebook.com/groups/16840953318064 76/

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Brown Hill residents are encouraged to celebrate national bird week by participating in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count from October 21 to 27.

This is a national event that takes a snapshot of the number and species of birds in locations all over Australia at the same time each year.

Participants can choose a location and count the number of birds, including the species of each bird, that they observe in 20 minutes.

You can enter as many counts and from as many different locations as you like within the seven days of the count.

The #AussieBirdCount data collected assists BirdLife Australia in understanding more about the birds that live where people live.

The City of Ballarat will receive local data collated from the count, which will help measure how efforts to protect and promote biodiversity are tracking and in planning for revegetation and rehabilitation works.

aussiebirdcount.org.au Birdlife Australia: birdlife.org.au



Bronze sponsor:





Brown Hill Uniting Church

Thought for the month

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." Proverbs 11:2

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. More details in Edition 20, p.12.

Brown Community Festival

We are pleased to once again provide sponsorship (and pancakes) for the Brown Hill Festival on Friday 25 October.

Morning worship

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.

Christmas services

DECEMBER

Sunday 8: 5.30 pm, community sausage sizzle outside the Op. Shop followed by a Carol service starting at 7.00 pm. All welcome.

Wednesday 25: 9.30 am, Christmas Day morning worship.

Sunday 29: Visiting other churches. No service at Brown Hill.

Midweek Communion

Each Wednesday at 1.30 pm in the church hall, followed by afternoon tea. All welcome. The final service for 2019 will be on Wednesday 18 December.

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. They are holding a \$1 Flash Sale on Friday 8 November (Ballarat Show Day) on all clothing. Closing on 13 December reopening on 13 February 2020.

Liz Mason, Brown Hill Uniting Church

Brown Hill Seniors Club

The Brown Hill Seniors are going on a bus trip to the Riddells Creek Sand Sculptures and the Dromkeen Historical Homestead on Wednesday 6 November with lunch at Woodend. We have had very few bus trips this year so this should be a popular end-of-year activity.

On Monday 2 December we will be celebrating our 49th anniversary, with a birthday party for all members and invited guests.

This year our Christmas Luncheon will be on Wednesday 11 December at the Brown Hill Hotel.

The club will break up on Monday 16 December with members to bring a plate to share.

New members are always welcome.

Dianne Eden President, Brown Hill Seniors' Club 5331 1769



FireAware mascot, Penny Platypus

Fourth FireAware Funding

The Brown Hill Community FireAware Network has received funding for its fourth year.

The Brown Hill Community FireAware Network has been successful in obtaining its fourth year of funding for this year's letterbox stickers to help raise awareness of the bushfire threat to Brown Hill households for this coming bushfire season.

Funding has been provided through a Community Impact Grant from Bendigo Bank Ballarat. The Bank's grants program helps to build stronger communities through funding programs for families, youth, health, education, the environment and the arts.

Stickers will be distributed to households within the Brown Hill

Neighbourhood Clusters along with CFA information with their annual reminder to start preparing for this year's fire season.

If you want to know if you are part of one of the four clusters, access the Network's web pages here: http://www.pleanetwork.com.au/ fireaware-networkneighbourhood-clusters/

If you would like to form your own neighbourhood cluster contact Hazen for details.

Did you know that the highest risk areas of Ballarat to a bushfire threat are Nerrina, Invermay and Brown Hill? What do all residents need to do to lower the risk to themselves and their neighbourhoods?

1. Prepare your property

Regardless of your decision to leave early or stay and defend, you still need to prepare your property against the threat of a bushfire or ember attack.

* A well-prepared home is more likely to survive a bushfire, even if your plan is to leave early.

* A well-prepared home can be easier for you and firefighters to defend.

* A well-prepared home is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk.

* A well-prepared home will give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave and have to take shelter.

2. Prepare yourself

Preparation is not just about cleaning up around the house and having a plan, it is about making sure you consider your physical, mental and emotional preparedness.

A bushfire can be a terrifying situation. Strong gusty winds, intense heat and flames will make you tire quickly. Thick, heavy smoke will sting your eyes and choke your lungs. It will be difficult to see and breathe. The roaring sound of the fire approaching will deafen you. Embers will rain down, causing spot fires all around you. Power and water may be cut off. You may be isolated. It will be dark, noisy and extremely physically and mentally demanding. If you have any doubts about your ability to cope, you should plan to Leave Early.

3. Have a backup plan

What if something goes wrong? You need to have a backup plan. Sometimes no matter how well prepared you are, things don't go to plan. That's why, whether you plan to leave early or stay and defend you need a back-up plan.

Think about:

* What you will do if you have no time to leave and a fire threatens you – where will you shelter and how will you get there?

* What you will do if a bushfire threatens on a week day versus a weekend or if children are at home alone?

* What you will do if you are suffering from injury, exhaustion or if the fire is more intense than you thought?

These are all scenarios that could happen to you.

Access the Network's website pages to understand more about the risk to your neighbourhood and how to prepare yourself and family for a bushfire event.

Remember: If a plan is not written down and practised – it's not a plan!

Hazen Cleary Brown Hill Community FireAware Network Coordinator 0408 690 493 http://www.pleanetwork.com.au/bro wn-hill-community-fireawarenetwork/

Just 4 minutes out of Brown Hill, Glen Park Primary School is Ballarat's best kept secret.

Visit **glenparkps.vic.gov.au** and our Facebook page (facebook.com/learningwithliterature/) and see what learning experiences we can offer.

> Ring us on 5334 5360 to arrange a visit.



Mindfulness matters

October is Mental Health Month in Victoria. Mental Health Month is an opportunity to raise awareness around mental health and wellbeing. It centres around World Mental Health Day, which is marked each year on October 10. Brown Hill local, Sue Walker, tells us about her experience.

I have been a 'Voices for Change' speaker with Ballarat Community Health during 2019 and always mention when giving a talk a range of ideas on what has assisted in my journey in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing after experiencing challenging mental health.

When I recently gave a talk in Brown Hill, I made some suggestions on what has assisted me on my journey to maintaining good mental health. Here are my ideas about mindfulness.

Mindfulness is the ability to remain present in the moment, paying attention to the moment, not thinking of the past or the future, but remaining focusing in the now.

It does not have to be, as many often think, practised in a seated or lying position and can be done while walking, eating, cycling, exercising or walking around your garden, or you can sit and do a more traditional practice. I do both every day and this is an integral part of my daily life managing complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

I have done mindfulness workshops, online courses and read many books on mindfulness over the past seven years and I can highly recommend anything by Craig Hassed. There are also free online courses and Monash University runs one through future learn (futurelearn.com). There is a fee for a certificate. However, all learning and lessons are free.

There are also free apps that can be utilised, I quite like the 'Smiling Mind' and the '1 Giant Mind' app and 'Insight Timer' which has a sound you can set manually to time your mindfulness practice, helpful to do a full-body relaxation scan right before sleep.

Another way, and my favourite, is a walking mindfulness practice and I do this daily by walking through the bush or Nerrina Wetlands, where I really focus on all my senses. I listen to the birdlife and the frogs as I walk. Right now they are pretty noisy. On a wet day I really inhale the scent of the eucalypts and, if early enough, I keep an eye out for wallabies taking a drink by the water. I am always checking for snakes, I've seen a few. I leave them alone, they do not worry me. I stop and admire the colourful finches or blue wrens. The males seem to be particularly bright at the moment as they dance for the harem of surrounding females.

As I cross the creek I hear the gurgling of water as it rushes by over the rocks, calming my soul. Sometimes I stop on a seat and just focus, running through all senses slowing, becoming aware I am still and seated, my feet grounded, I close my eyes as I hear walkers pass by. Mindfulness can also be done with food to really appreciate what we are taking in, so be sure to disconnect from devices and TV, really focus on what you are eating, the taste and texture and try to eat slowly and really taste the food while savouring the flavours. You might just find you need less!

Sue Walker – Lived Experience Mental Health and Wellbeing Advocate

safeTALK free community workshop

Saturday 26 October, 9.00 am -1.00 pm. Peart Wing, 103 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat. Registrations close 22 October and should be made via Eventbrite, or call Lifeline Ballarat on 5322 4996.

Most people thinking about suicide don't actually want to die. They need someone who can help them choose to stay alive.

safeTALK workshops empower participants to recognise invitations for help and give the gift of life through proven intervention methods. safeTALK stresses safety while challenging beliefs that inhibit open conversation about suicide.

"Now I have confidence to ask the question about suicide and not fear the answer." Recent safeTALK participant.

Anyone over the age of 16 years may attend the workshop.

This event is free of charge to attend. safeTALK has been funded by the Ballarat Suicide Prevention Network and is delivered by Lifeline Ballarat.

5322 4996

lifeline.ballarat@vt.uniting.org lifeline.org.au/ballarat





Kirks Reservoir. Image supplied.

Draft Parks Masterplan

Central Highlands Water (CHW) understands that Kirks and Gong Gong Reservoir Parks are important Brown Hill community assets. Through our 'Let's Talk Water' engagement program, we asked our community how they currently use our reservoir parks and what they would like to see in the future.

We have received over 200 responses from the community to date. Based on that feedback, we developed a Draft Parks Masterplan which incorporates community feedback.

You can read a summary of the Draft Parks Masterplan online: chw.net.au/community/recreati onal-areas and have your say via the six-question survey: surveymonkey.com/r/NJ9Q6BT

CHW values feedback on the future management of our assets. Within our document we present a range of possible outcomes for parks and recreation. There is now an opportunity to provide input into this process until **Monday 11 November 2019**.

Peter Field Senior Planner Catchments and Partnerships Central Highlands Water 5320 3299 customer.enquiries@chw.net.au

Dancing Friends donates

Brown Hill Hall's Dancing Friends Inc. donated to three charities at their recent Saturday night dance. Recipients were Prostate and Breast Cancer Research (\$700) and the Invermay CFA Fire Brigade (\$300). These donations came principally from the proceeds of our inaugural Dance Weekend held in March this year and we thank all those who assisted with the organising and running of a very successful weekend.

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



Charity donations: from left -Daryl Rowe (Invermay CFA Captain), Sarah Masters (Ballarat Health Services, Head of Fundraising) and Alan Burton (President Dancing Friends Inc).

Advertise

For advertising and sponsorship opportunities: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

New green at bowling club

Victoria Bowling Club members have experienced very cool conditions for the start of their season on a new synthetic bowling green.

The new facility, opened in late September, was fully funded and delivered by the City of Ballarat as part of the 2018/19 sport and active living capital delivery program. The \$275,000 project was completed over ten weeks by Sportcrete.

The synthetic green will allow greater participation opportunities for both competitive and non-competitive bowlers of all ages by offering an all-weather surface that can be used throughout the year.

The Premiers side started the season winning their first two games and Division Seven won their first game too.

Morning melodies have commenced on Fridays. Please contact the club or Barry Ward for bookings.

New players are always wanted, so if you are interested come along to happy hour every Friday at 5.00 pm and meet the crew.

The hall is for hire by contacting Darren Britt on 0419 326 709.

Good Bowling.

Michael Walsh Victoria Bowling Club 0457 111 399, 5332 6242 dennis@giant.net.au victoriabowlsclub.com.au 231 Victoria Street, Ballarat East (car park entry along Gent Street, off Stawell Street North).

BROWNHILL COMMUNITY JOINT FESTIVAL 2019

5 to 7.30pm Friday 25 October

Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Humffray Street North The Brown Hill Community Festival is a Brown Hill Progress Association event

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GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Activities by AFL Goldfields, Western Bulldogs, Brown Hill Cricket Club, Girl Guides and Waterwatch Victoria. Some activities may request a gold coin donation.

Ballarat and Glen Park CFA Fire Trucks (weather permitting)

Performances by children from Brown Hill Kindergarten and Caledonian Primary School.

Performances by Sing Australia, the Ballarat Highland Dancers and the Federation University Pipe Band.

Local community group displays including The Hidden Orchard, Ballarat Wholefoods Collective, Ballarat East Community Men's Shed, Eureka Mums, Ballarat Toy Library, Ballarat Community Health, City of Ballarat Emergency Management, Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group parkrun Ballarat and more!

To keep up-to-date with the Brown Hill Community Festival:

Email festival@brownhill.vic.au

> Web brownhill.vic.au

f Brown Hill Community Festival



FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

Sausage Sizzle Pancakes Drinks Brown Hill Lions Club Brown Hill Uniting Church Brown Hill Kindergarten

Food vans and a coffee cart (BYO cup to save 50c on a hot drink) BYO water and a picnic rug