

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 24, April - June 2020

*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.*



Bruce Wilson on his motorbike in Brown Hill, September 2019. Image supplied

Diary Dates

See brownhill.vic.au for details.

APRIL

Saturday 25: ANZAC Day (p.7)

MAY

Tuesday 5: (TBC) 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, if held, will be remotely.

Sunday 10: Mothers' Day

Wednesday 27 May -

Wednesday 3 June: National Reconciliation Week, reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/ (p.16)

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Brown Hill's Bruce Wilson - a story of service

In the lead up to ANZAC Day, Brown Hill Community Newsletter's Brian Green had a chat to a member of Brown Hill's Wilson family, Bruce Wilson, about life in Brown Hill and his experience in the Australian Army.

"Well hello neighbour!" I sat down for a coffee with Bruce Wilson of Orchard Lane to find out a little more about his story.

"I'll always live in Brown Hill, I love it," started Bruce. "I have lived in Orchard Lane most of my 63 years, having grown up on Mum and Dad's orchard." Bruce went to Warrenheip Primary School and left high school at the age of 14.

Bruce can't remember what got him into cooking but says he has

always wanted to be a cook. He worked at Green's Pies in Main Road for three years then joined the Australian Army at the age of 17 (and three weeks) to be a cook in the Catering Corps.

After eight years in the regular army Bruce returned to Ballarat, working in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for some years, cooking and training cooks. Bruce says, "I cook, I'm not a chef!" Then Mars came to town and Bruce worked there for 20 years.

Bruce says, "Not having land to farm, I have spent the last 13 years on my tractor slashing grass." He was also heavily involved in the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment in Ballarat (also known

as the Australian Army Reserve). Bruce led their catering division.

Bruce has been a member of the Australian Army Reserve's 'Regular Response Force', assisting during and after tragedies, including the Black Saturday fires in February 2009. Bruce says, "This six-week assignment was very tough. We were the first responders after the fire fighters and police. We received the National Emergency Medal for our service and dedication." Bruce was also awarded an Australia Day Medallion for his work during the 2009 bushfire recovery.

Bruce is a member of the Military Brotherhood - Military Motorcycle

...continued p.6

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JUNE

Monday 1: Articles for Edition 25 due, see box below.

Tuesday 2: (TBC) 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, may be held online.

Monday 8: Queen's Birthday.

Wednesday 10: Edition 25 available online,
brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/

Friday 12: Edition 25 delivered across Brown Hill (if permitted).

Sunday 21: Winter Solstice.

Friday 26: Term Two finishes.

For updates, visit: brownhill.vic.au

In this edition

Hello Brown Hill! We hope you enjoy this bumper edition. We weren't going to print it because we thought we couldn't deliver copies across Brown Hill at the moment. However, we have since been given the OK for our volunteers to deliver while they exercise in their local neighbourhood. Social distancing and hand hygiene protocols will be followed by all volunteers. We are so pleased to get this edition into letterboxes across Brown Hill.

We received significant financial support from our local state MP Juliana Addison to help pay for the printing. Thanks Juliana and team!

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 25 articles are due by **Monday 1 June 2020**. 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

More than ever, it is a great time to live in our beautiful suburb. Over the past weeks, it has been heartening to see the ways in which the community of Brown Hill have been staying home, staying safe and looking out for each other.

There are teddy bears in windows across Brown Hill for children to hunt for while they go for a walk or ride. There are also rainbows in many windows and drawn with chalk on footpaths and brick fences. I particularly liked the drawing by local primary student, Ertha, on p.3. It made me smile.

Local bird watcher, ex-teacher and man with many talents, George Alexopoulos, has even written a

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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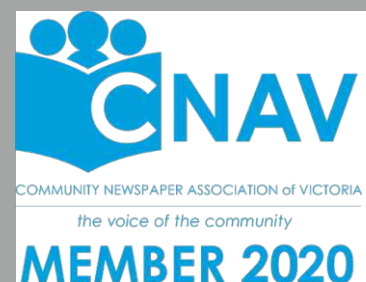
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ISSN 2209-9050

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



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.

Proof Reader: Hazen Cleary.

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 usually 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:

little song about the teddies and rainbows. You can see it on the Brown Hill Community Online Hub (brownhill.vic.au) and by following Brown Hill Community Newsletter on Facebook: facebook.com/BrownHillCommunityNewsletter/

It brought a tear to my eye when I read about the kindness of nearby Start Cafe. Raj, Priya and their staff are supporting elderly and vulnerable people by offering free meals to them. Well done Start Cafe! See: facebook.com/startcafeballarat/

Like many other small businesses in Ballarat, Start Cafe have also added a home-delivery service and increased their take-away options. See our list on p 7 - 10 of Brown Hill businesses which are still open. Many have made changes to the way in which they interact with customers to help people to stay home and stay safe.

We were disappointed to learn that our beloved Brown Hill Market is currently unable to run, so we reached out to the Market Manager Steve. He contacted all of



Collecting treasures from nature along the Yarrowee River Trail, whilst walking Lily the dog. Photographer: Sophie Welton



Heart-warming chalk drawings on Canterbury Street, Brown Hill. Thanks to the artist, Ertha, for sharing this beautiful drawing. Image supplied by John O'Brien

the stallholders for us. We have included a few pages of information about how you can contact and support Market stallholders during this time (p. 11 - 14).

The extended school holidays and Easter were certainly different in Brown Hill this year. Humffray Street North was quiet and many people were out walking and riding their bikes on the beautiful Yarrowee River Trail. Comments on our Facebook page included: "People appear more friendly. Good to see more adults and kids out walking and enjoying the simple things in life," (Brendan) and "Neighbours on Humffray Street North are taking chairs out to the nature strip to chat across the road," (Mandy).

See you on the Yarrowee River Trail! Stay well.

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, RCC Commercial Cleaning and The AFL Store - Ballarat.
Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Volunteer Editor, Brown Hill Community Newsletter and Directory Committee
newsletter@brownhill.vic.au
brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/

Find out more

ballarat.vic.gov.au/whats/be-kind-ballarat
vic.gov.au/victorias-response-coronavirus
australia.gov.au

Autumn 2020 in Brown Hill

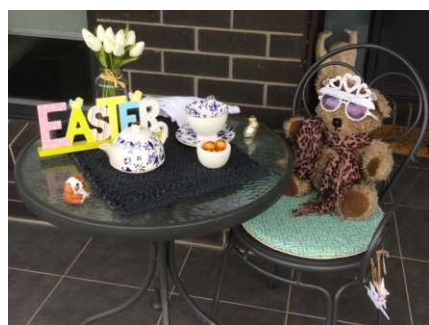
Life is pretty different in Brown Hill at the moment. Due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, the Federal and State Governments have asked us all to stay at home and only go out if it is absolutely essential. This has meant some big changes to the way many Brown Hill locals are spending their Autumn, including extended school holidays and camping at home over Easter.

We asked Brown Hill residents to let us know what is different in their lives this Autumn.



Penthea & family

The kids are currently helping Mal scrape old paint from the house while I bake brownies inside.



Beatrice Bear

Beatrice was putting smiles on the faces of passers-by over Easter.



Jimmy (4) with help from mum, Louise

We have been out flying our kite behind Brown Hill Kindergarten a few times over the past few weeks. And been on lots of bush walks, stopping to look at some interesting things along the way. We did a scavenger hunt that the kinder sent home for us and there were some in the Ballarat Times Newspaper too.

It has been lovely to see so many happy smiling people out walking and cycling and saying "Hello" and "Happy Easter" to them. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful place like the Yarrowee River walking track and reserves so close to where we live!

We also went camping in our backyard for the Easter weekend and toasted marshmallows in a fire. We slept in the tent with our torches.

We have enjoyed the teddy bear and rainbow windows around Brown Hill too.



Steph with Harper (5), Abel (3) and Tex (3 months)

We have been doing lots of craft, baking, bike riding, biscuit and chocolate making, cubby house building, sleeping in tents, FaceTime playdates, painting, play dough, chalk drawing and lots more!

We are making the most of this forced downtime. I am loving spending all of this time together with less rushing around. We are embracing all of the positives!

We usually have busy lives and weekends and we barely see my husband as he works in Melbourne. It's been nice having him around and we've been doing lots of activities and things I usually struggle to make time for!

Today Harper and I rode/ran around Brown Hill and gave out Easter eggs to anyone we saw. It brought so much joy to us and the recipients.



Matilda (9)

How 'corona' affected my life!

What is different this Easter is that I can't go anywhere. I was just staying home and doing basically nothing.

Easter is supposed to be joyful but you can't do many joyful things when basically everything is locked down. It is hard to celebrate Easter and you can't meet family and I always meet family on Easter but you can't this year. There are a lot of things that you can't do besides eating and just watching TV. You can't go camping, you can't meet family and there is more than that.

But last year everything was great. We went camping and meeting family but this year is the total opposite.

But some positives this year have been walks, easter egg hunts, and playing outside.

You just have to think happy. Just like what I did. I wrote letters to people about coronavirus and how to stay happy and it was around the neighborhood.



Megan with Kaiden (7)

We have been going bike riding to spot teddy bears and rainbows along the Yarrowee Trail and Hearn's Road Reserve. We have done lots of crafting and also learning how to paint and draw using online tutorials.



We also built new veggie gardens out of old spud boxes.



Simone with Sophie (8)

Sophie made and decorated a 'safe rainbow house' out of icy-pole sticks. We did lots of Easter biscuit making. We also collected pinecones on a walk in Brown Hill and painted them.

Laura with Angus (10)

Angus has been practising his bagpipes as he will be playing at a local nursing home on ANZAC Day (from a distance).

Our court had an Easter colouring competition, which was fun.

I also started a treasure hunt with my kids. It included: how many fence palings in this street, how many light posts, how many trees in the front yard at no., draw this letterbox and make a rubbing of it.

...continued from p.1

Club (MBMMC). The club's mission is to support our veterans, comprising serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Commonwealth Forces members, their families, friends and support riders. This Australia-wide club aims to provide a 'safe haven' that creates camaraderie, mateship and commitment. This is done by allowing members the freedom to ride their motorcycles together, to bond together, to enjoy the road together, to look after each other.

The MBMMC has 27 sub groups in Australia with many growing and splitting. Bruce is a Service Member of the Vic West Branch, which currently has 34 members with about 75% being former service personnel, holding ranks from Private to Major. There are also Sierra Squad members, defined as those not having served or service members who do not have a motorcycle. The youngest in Bruce's Club is only three years old!

Bruce explained, "We are very much a mixed-gender family organisation. We visit veterans in private homes and residential care with our bikes and our BBQ to offer support with claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our club is a Legacy sponsor of the 'Path of the Horse' program at



Bruce Wilson in his MBMMC gear.
Image supplied.

Trentham, run by an ex-veteran, to match troubled service persons and civilian service people (CFA, police and others). We have veterans who served in Vietnam right through to those who served in Iraq."

Bruce says, "It's not all about riding motorbikes. Probably the part I like the most are the family interactions and time spent visiting veterans or doing something to make their lives a little easier. We are available to talk to any group." In 2018, two members of the local MBMMC, Greg Green and Gavin Sharp, joined Brown Hill's Ed Bawden to

Bronze sponsor:

speak to Caledonian Primary School students at their ANZAC Day ceremony (see p. 13, Edition 13).

Bruce likes to travel. On a recent trip between Cape York and Darwin, Bruce met up with an old soldier friend and many others along the way. He says, "Service life creates strong bonds." Bruce hopes to one day travel the Canning Stock Route, Willuna to Halls Creek, a route along which he has already made two attempts. One day, Bruce says, "I hope to travel with eight or nine club members riding Route 66. I'm trying to convince my wife Kerry, currently a non-tourer, to come with us to sample some of life in the U S of A."

When asked what he likes about Brown Hill, Bruce answers, "Where else would I live? Nowhere. My two kids and their families live across the road so Kerry and I get to be those loving grandparents, always smiling."

On ANZAC Day 2020, Bruce will be standing in his driveway at 6.00 am, taking part in the 'Driveway at Dawn' initiative (p.7). He says, "I like what's going to happen."

Brian Green, Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee and member of the Brown Hill Lions Club and Brown Hill Progress Association.



If it leaks, we'll fix it
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0484 002 533
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Light up the Dawn

Ballarat Residents were urged to Light up the Dawn to salute our ANZACS on Saturday 25 April

The City of Ballarat teamed up with Ballarat RSL and the creator of the 'Driveway at Dawn' initiative, Justin Wilbur, to encourage the Ballarat community to recognise and commemorate ANZAC Day 2020 from the safety of their driveways.

As a show of solidarity, starting at on Saturday 25 April, Australians across the country stood in their driveways with a lit candle for the duration of the Dawn Service, while tuning in to broadcasts from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Radio 3BA and Power FM also broadcast from a temporary studio a special dawn service presented by representatives from Ballarat RSL.

The Driveway at Dawn initiative was the brainchild of local Ballarat resident, Justin Wilbur via his **Facebook page Aussies & Kiwis for ANZACS:**
facebook.com/groups/anzacday2020.

The City of Ballarat supports the RSL in delivering its physical commemoration of ANZAC Day

each year. This year Council faced the challenge of how to involve families in commemorations, with traditional ANZAC Day services cancelled or closed to the public due to COVID-19.

In the lead up to ANZAC Day, Ballarat Mayor Cr Ben Taylor said the driveway Dawn service was a fitting tribute that would allow communities throughout the Municipality to safely pay their respects to the fallen while observing social distancing.

"We may not be able to march beside them or lay a wreath in their honour, but we will remember them by the light of the dawn."

ballarat.vic.gov.au/anzac-day-2020

Supporting Brown Hill Businesses

There are many businesses in Brown Hill which are still open, so we wanted to make sure you knew about them.

We have been sharing information on our newsletter Facebook page and getting loads of likes and shares. In particular, over 700 people were interested to know that Brown Hill's Walter the Barber had re-opened!

The Brown Hill Community Online Hub currently lists 112 Brown Hill businesses - those which are based in Brown Hill or owned by a

Brown Hill resident.

brownhill.vic.au/directory/business/

If you own or know of a business which could be added to this great, free-of-charge community directory, please let us know by emailing directory@brownhill.vic.au.

There are several other great local websites with lists of businesses across Ballarat which are still open during the restrictions in place due to COVID-19. They are:

Ballarat with Love
visitballarat.com.au/stories/ballarat-love

We're still here - 3BA
3ba.com.au/community/were-still-here

We Love Ballarat Regional Produce
You can join this group on Facebook.

Please help us to support our sponsors (advertisements listed throughout) and the great local businesses listed on pages 8-10.

Bronze sponsor:

Bakery Hill
Bakers Delight
Baking fresh daily.

Purchase one of our delicious Apple and Cinnamon loaves and get a Hi Fibre Lo GI Loaf for free.

Shop 6, 73 Victoria Street,
Bakery Hill Shopping Complex
Valid at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill only.
Subject to availability.
Limit one per customer per day.

Bronze sponsor:

RCC COMMERCIAL CLEANING FOR ALL YOUR WASHROOM & CLEANING SERVICES: REECE CARTER PHONE: 0402 660 836 RCC2CLEAN@GMAIL.COM	WASHROOM SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ SANITARY BINS✓ NAPPY BINS✓ AIR FRESHENER✓ URINAL BLOCKS✓ HAND SOAP✓ DISPENSERS✓ CONSUMABLES COMMERCIAL CLEANING <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ WINDOW CLEANING✓ GENERAL CLEANING
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"Proudly Locally owned and operated"



Vegas & Rose

Penthea says, "We've been practising social distancing for a while now with our online food store opening over a year ago (mostly brownies and donuts)!"

We'd like to offer a few nourishing v&r classics from our cafe days to get us through this difficult time.

Pick up will still be available from the little pink door and we've always been more than happy to home deliver to the Ballarat area.

Stay tuned as we update our online store with a few favourites.

You can order and pick up on the same day or pre-order."

0414 783 753

hello@vegasandrose.com.au
vegasandrose.bigcartel.com/



One Life Health Group

Chiropractors and physiotherapists are still practising with reduced hours.

onelifehg.com.au
5332 1948
1215 Sturt Street



Brown Hill Fish and Chip Shop

Open and using Menulog for delivery:

menulog.com.au/restaurants-brown-hill-fish-and-chip-shop/menu.

Dianne says, "If you want to collect your meal, please call ahead to order. On arrival, come and say hello, then please wait in your car and we can run the food out to you with gloves on."

5331 8002

facebook.com/brownhilltakeaway



Boronia Exclusive Florist

Julie says, "We are still open for business, with contactless deliveries. Alternatively, you can call to have beautiful blooms ready to be collected in store."

Monday – Friday:

9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Saturday: 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

5331 1553

428 Sturt Street, Ballarat
Central



Reus Nursery

Andrew says, "We are open as usual (7.30 am - 3.00 pm **weekdays**) and we are selling fresh flowers direct to the public from our farm at **28 Brewery Tap Road.**"

We have plenty of fresh lilies into May, perfect for Mothers' Day coming up. See our Facebook page for updates or call **0409 166 219.**

Bronze sponsor:

Dazzlin Doggie Country Village

Open for grooming and boarding your fur babies. Opening hours:

8.30 am - 11.30 am

4.00 pm - 5.30 pm



Boarding Kennels & Cattery

Marie

(03) 5334 7455

mobile: 0438 689 297

email: marie@dazzlindoggie.com.au

231 Melbourne Rd,
Ballarat, Victoria 3350

"Where your pets are loved"
www.dazzlindoggie.com.au



Emz Cakes & Catering

During COVID 19 Emma is still taking orders. She says, "I can guarantee I will continue to keep my kitchen spotless and sterilised while working on orders. I wash my hands constantly and have been sanitising extra times per day to stay sterile while preparing orders. My kitchen is registered and I take my food-safety program seriously. Pickup or delivery of orders are both available, with social distancing in place

Orders can be placed by sending me a message on my Facebook page: [@emzcakescatering](#) or by email: emzcakes-catering@outlook.com

Silver sponsor:



Jess Schaefer Piano Teaching

Jess's piano teaching studio has switched to online lessons due to the circumstances we all find ourselves in. She says, "It has been fantastic! If anyone has always wanted to learn piano, you can now do it from your own home! I have always made my lessons interesting and fun for everyone and this is no different online. Call or text me on **0401 086 471** if you are interested."

Greene's TV Service

Still open for all carry-in workshop repairs as usual. However, in-home service is currently limited to pickup/deliveries only.

Open: 8.00 am - 3.00 pm Monday to Friday. Closed on weekends.

**149 Humffray Street North
5332 6256**



Brown Hill Barber Shop

Walter reopened for business on Tuesday 14 April with his normal business hours. He says, "There are to be no more than three people allowed in the shop at any one time. There is a sign-up white board mounted by the door so clients can sign in and then, either wait outside on the chairs provided, or in their cars until it is their turn. Sorry for the inconvenience."

**260 Humffray Street North
Tuesdays and Wednesdays:**

9.00 am - 6.00 pm

Thursdays and Fridays:

9.00 am - 8.00 pm

Saturdays:

8.00 am - 2.00 pm

Sundays and Mondays: Closed

Brown Hill Hotel

See ad below. You can also order for pick up via the **Skip** app.

You can order pick up or delivery via the **Delivr** app: delivr.com.au (a local Ballarat company) or phone us on **5331 3037**.



YOUR LOCAL PUB

New Chef New Menu



385 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill

Due to current restrictions: Bottle Shop open Tuesday to Friday from 4.00 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 2.00 pm.

Meals available from Tuesday to Sunday. New take-away menu is on our website. Coffee & breakfast from 7.00 am to 11.00 am. Dinner 5.30 pm to 8.00 pm. Call 5331 3037 to order.

www.brownhillhotel.com.au



Start Cafe

Raj, Priya say, "We are open for take-away and delivery. You can place your order by calling or messaging on **0450 688 415** or **0477 567 773** with a delivery time and your address. Delivery costs \$7 (free delivery over \$40). Find us on UberEats and Skip. Also, you can drive and park outside and we will bring your food out to the car.

For those over the age of 60 who can't get groceries from the supermarket, we are currently offering a free meal and home delivery service on the weekend, so that you can stay safe at home."

Sanative Massage Clinic

Sue says, "We re-opened from our 2019 break in late January. Unfortunately, our clinic has had to close until Government restrictions are lifted."

**236 Humffray Street North,
Brown Hill**

Little Square Garage

Ange says, "We are closed until the COVID-19 situation changes. We are very thankful for so much local support, but for now for the safety of our staff, customers and families we made the decision to close. Hopefully it won't be too long before we are back up and running as normal!"



Ballarat Advanced Self Storage

Jenine and Michael say, "We are open and operational. Contact-less quotes and move-in available. Storage solutions for you. Short term. Long term.

Individual Storage units - you keep the keys. Access seven days. Secure and convenient. Family owned and operated for over 15 years. Call today."

**14 Grandlee Drive, Wendouree
0419 374 393**



Sturm Software Engineering

Ben says, "With fewer people on the ground and everyone a little stressed, many businesses are struggling to maintain their normal quality. To help avoid mistakes and defects, we've been working with local companies and their teams to put extra oversight and signoffs around their work and to keep their customers and clients informed. It's business as usual here."

**sturm.com.au
9024 2467**

Harcourts



Andrew Johnson - Harcourts

The Brown Hill Progress Association is pleased to welcome new member, Andrew Johnson, back to Brown Hill. Andrew grew up living in Gracefield Road and attended Ballarat East Secondary College in the 80's. He has been living and working in Hong Kong since 2010 where he set up a business selling Australian, luxury and international properties with an interest in the hospitality, gaming, resorts, corporate and residential industries providing procurement and furniture, fixtures and equipment solutions worldwide.

A licensed real estate agent, Andrew has recently joined the Harcourts Ballarat team and will be servicing the Brown Hill area. To chat to Andrew about renting, appraisals, selling or buying, call him on **0499 499 987**, email **andrew.johnson@harcourts.com.au** or join **facebook.com/andrew.johnson** **harcourtsballarat** to keep in contact.

Brown Hill Market Stalls

Due to current government restrictions, the Brown Hill Market is on hold for now.

We contacted market manger, Steve Burns, offering to promote any of the stalls which are able to do home delivery. We have not charged the stallholders for this promotion and hope that you will support them and other Brown Hill Market stallholders in this challenging time.



Aussie Oggie Pastry Co.

Keiran says, "We have Australia's Best Traditional Cornish Pasties & gourmet pies as well as sausage rolls and pizza bases."

Delivery available.

Find us on Facebook: Aussie Oggie Pasty Company

aussieoggie.com



Langdale Orchards

Apples and pears

Langdale Orchards was established in 1858 by James Lang. The orchard was one of the original three orchards that pioneered the fruit industry in the Harcourt Valley in Central Victoria. In the 1870's James Lang exported fruit back to England which was most likely the first fruit exported from Australia. In 1874 a granite home was constructed, a home that is still lived in today by the Lang family.

Over the years many things have changed in the orcharding industry. The changes range from new technology to ever-changing markets. Today the issue is a worldwide pandemic but every generation has had to make major changes to ensure the business survival.

Gavin Lang is the sixth generation to grow fruit on the same patch of soil in the Harcourt Valley. The Harcourt Valley is renowned for its ability to produce apples that just taste better than those grown elsewhere.

Facebook: Langdale Orchards
langdale.net.au



Mama & Son's Exquisite Kitchen

We are now offering: fresh handmade gnocchi delivered to your door! Exquisite meals available from \$10; additional sauces, marinades & spice mixes range from \$2.95-\$9.95. We can arrange contactless pickup at our Brown Hill residence or free delivery within Ballarat.

Accepting orders: Monday-Wednesday

Delivering: Thursday and Friday

Our range of gourmet sauces, spice mixes, relishes, jams and chutneys are chemical-free and handcrafted in small batches.

Our unique recipes are created in-house by a head chef with decades of knowledge and experience.

Our goal is to improve kitchens everywhere, by leaving out the nasties and showcasing Australian produce.

Aneta Opranescu, 0402 923 268,
mamaandsonskitchen@gmail.com
facebook.com/mamaandsonsau





Ivy&Coco

This Brown Hill based small business began with a love of indoor plants, colour, and home interiors. Specialising in hand painted pots, plant stands, concrete planters and hand made fabric pot covers 'pot frocks', all products are made with love and care, from Bridget's dining room table.

All Ivy&Coco creations are designed to be one of a kind, unique, and designed to give a pop of colour to any space. When you purchase a product from Ivy&Coco you are buying an individual art piece that has been primed and sealed for your favourite indoor plants. Custom orders are also welcome.

Contactless delivery is available within Ballarat. You can purchase for yourself or as a gift - all gift pots are delivered with a card to share your message with the recipient.

ivycoco.square.site

Instagram (@ivyand_coco)

[facebook.com/iivyandcoco](https://www.facebook.com/iivyandcoco)

Silver sponsor:



We Bar None

Ellen Burns

Need some delicious snacks to get you through isolation?

We Bar None's range of energy bars and crackers will satisfy your snacky cravings whilst keeping you happy and healthy.

The whole range is gluten free, plant based, made in Ballarat and wrapped in 100% home compostable packaging. All of their products can be bought online via their website and Ellen currently has a sale on some of the favourite flavours to match her farmer's market price - including delivery!

webarnone@gmail.com

[facebook.com/webarnone](https://www.facebook.com/webarnone)

webarnone.com.au

For information about these and many other Brown Hill Market stallholders, join the 'We Love Ballarat Regional Produce' group on Facebook.



Blossom Infusions Tea Blends

Blossom Infusions tea blends are made by local Naturopath and Tea Lover Annabel Mason using locally grown/sourced certified organic herbs chosen for their synergistic tastes and health supporting properties. The teas come in reusable glass apothecary jars, refill bags and tea taster sizes and are currently available to order in my online tea shop.

blossomwellbeing.com.au/tea-shop/

[facebook.com/BlossomInfusions](https://www.facebook.com/BlossomInfusions)
[instagram.com/blossomwellbeing_infusions](https://www.instagram.com/blossomwellbeing_infusions)

Social Media help needed

We need a volunteer or two to help manage the Brown Hill Community Newsletter and Festival Facebook pages, keeping them up-to-date with information for our community. Please contact us to find out more:
newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

BROWN HILL MARKET

Market suspended until further notice.

Follow us on Facebook.

Many stallholders offering home delivery.

Contact via ballaratmarkets.com.au

or the 'We Love Ballarat Regional Produce' Facebook group.

Brown Hill Hall, 375 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill

ballaratmarkets.com.au



EcoDotty

Beeswax Wraps from \$6 small to \$20 XXL, \$30 for pack of 4 - 2S, 1M, 1L.

Metal Pegs - stainless steel, one continuous piece, \$15 for 30 x 5 cm, \$24 for 10 x 6 cm.

Metal Straws - 8 straws, 2 cleaning brushes, \$15.

Bamboo Toothbrush - \$4.

Produce Bags - cotton, 1S, 1M, 1L \$18. Polyester 1S, 3M, 1L \$20.

Face Covers - reusable, washable cotton. Stops facial fluids going in and out, prevents face touching. Open end lining to insert filter if needed. 4 sizes. \$6.

Tea Cosies - pure wool, hand knitted, from \$25.

ecodotty@gmail.com



Silks by Lois

Lois Rowan hand paints silk scarves, lots of various colours and designs. Each scarf is totally individual, you never have two the same, they are in pastel colours, bright colours, plain designs and patterned. Made locally in Ballarat.

It takes about six to seven hours to complete a scarf. Silk is a very elegant fabric and may be used for a casual look or to dress up an outfit.

Ideal present for Mother's day which is coming up shortly, or for birthdays or just as a lovely gift for someone.

loisrowan@bigpond.com
0418 503496

Prices are \$35 or \$40 depending on style (most are \$35). Plus postage.



Chota Himal Alpine Nursery and Crafts

Heidi Johnson says, "My nursery is located in Gordon - my home garden where I grow plants and the angora rabbits, angora goats and merino sheep who provide fibre for homespun craft items.

Rare and beautiful deciduous trees, unusual conifers, shrubs, perennials and edible plants to create a tranquil haven for you. Contactless sales and transfer of plants and handcrafted items. Planting and garden advice available."

chotahimalnursery.com.au
0478 435 171
chotahimalnursery@gmail.com



Slaty Creek Organics

Ross Jones is doing once a week non-contact deliveries of certified organic garlic in half-kilo or one-kilo lots with a mixture of six different varieties across the Ballarat region.

Facebook: Slaty Creek Organics
rwjones@iprimus.com.au
5345 1008

Ross: 0412 021 775
Lisa: 0418 126 501



Bronze sponsor:



Peter & Susan Begbie

Fully Personalised Puzzles

0408 571 101

jigsawpuzzlesaustralia.com.au
contact.jigsawpuzzlesaus@gmail.com




Payments done via PayPal.

If you would like to purchase you can give me an idea of colours and I can send photos of some in that range for you to look at.

Contactless collection available.



Naturally Berry – Artisan Preserves

Andrea and Gerold say, "Naturally Berry has been attending the Brown Hill Farmers' Market from day one. It is a most successful market thanks to the strong community support.

Naturally Berry offers artisan preserves with a difference and a modern take in preserving. Our products include Jam, Marmalades, Condiments, Health Products, BBQ Sauces & Spices.

We believe that preserves should simply taste amazing. We therefore grow most of the fruit organically ourselves and cook only in the truly artisan way. Our most popular are: Raspberry Vodka Jam, Orange Scotch Whisky Marmalade, Elderberry Syrup, Ginger Syrup, Strawberry Rhubarb Jam, Plum Cognac.

We offer **free delivery** within Ballarat and ship Australia-wide."

sales@naturallyberry.com.au
facebook.com/naturallyberry/
naturallyberry.com.au/shop-online
instagram.com/naturally_berry/



Nintingbool Vineyard

Peter and Jill Bothe say, "We are a tiny boutique winery based just outside Ballarat. We produce Pinot Noir, Shiraz, Chardonnay, Rose and sparkling wine. We like to support our local customers with better than webpage prices. You may have seen our product at either the Brown Hill or Creswick Farmer's Markets. Contact us via email and we will send you our market/cellar door prices. We offer free delivery in the local Ballarat area - our wines are packaged using gloves and contactless delivery is provided."

sales@nintingbool.com.au
facebook.com/Nintingbool/
nintingbool.com.au

0429 424 399

56 Wongerer Lane,
 Smythes Creek 3351



Mother Earth's Garden

After looking for a practical and safe alternative to plastic lunch bags the family decided to create their own! Each bag is hand painted and sewn before being hand dipped in their beeswax dip. The bags are made using certified organic cotton and paint so they're not just beautiful but 100% safe for the planet and you. What's even more special is each member of Simone's family has had a hand in the production from the original artwork design, painting, sewing and packaging. Jess (11) paints the bags and Ben (15) sews them.

0419 597 804

motherearthsgarden.com.au

Advertise

The Brown Hill Community Newsletter is a fantastic community project, with six editions each year. Usually, over 2500 copies are printed and distributed across Brown Hill and almost 1000 people receive it via email. For advertising and sponsorship opportunities, visit: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

Juliana Addison MP

LABOR MEMBER
 FOR WENDOUREE

17 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350

P: 5331 1003

[f](https://facebook.com/JulianaAddisonMP) JulianaAddisonMP

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[i](https://instagram.com/julianaaddison) julianaaddison



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

Brown Hill Progress Association

The Summer that was

Brown Hill Pool Season 2019-2020

It seems a distant memory now but the summer wasn't that long ago. This was the fourteenth year in which the Brown Hill Progress Association ran our community pool. We kicked off in October/November with all the lifeguard recruitment, permits and of course all the preparation of the pool grounds, buildings, plant and of course the pool itself. We again opened on 1 December and, as seems the usual scenario, the weather turned back to winter for the first week.

However, hot weather did kick in later in December and through to early February. It wasn't our hottest season but it wasn't our coldest either. This year we had around 6500 people through the gate and we must thank all the families of Brown Hill who continue to support the pool with regular visits and season passes. We also have to thank the local



schools that use the facility for phys. ed. classes and swimming carnivals, especially Woodman's Hill and Mt. Rowan Secondary Colleges, even in cooler weather. This keeps our usage ticking over and builds our statistics to justify the continued opening of the pool and support from the City of Ballarat.

Some specific "thank yous" must be directed to some individuals who show up every year and do their part. Peter Fisher who was in the plant room nearly every evening to make sure all was running smoothly. Rachel Zuidland who again organised the Learn to Swim classes for over 70 kids and one very grateful adult, Abrar (Edition 23, p.1). To John and Kevin, our 'Milo-kings', who kept the kids and carers warm on the colder mornings. To all the ladies who bagged up our lollies, a big thanks. To Flo for running the best Water Zumba classes ever. The weather fights us but when it's good the water is really churning and our best evening this year had over 60 heads of all

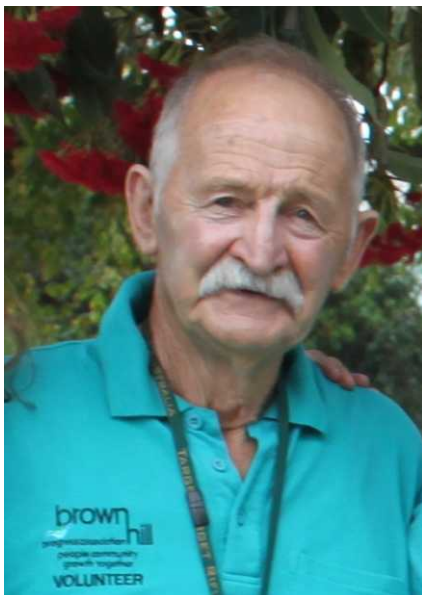
ages bobbing up and down to Flo's playlist. Also a big thanks to our Lifeguards who this year were mostly returned employees and did a great job to keep everyone safe, patched up and fed. Without you guys and gals we couldn't operate.

Financially, a big thanks to the City of Ballarat for their ongoing support and assistance with repairs and maintenance of the kiosk and pool plant. The Brown Hill Uniting Church once again supported the Learn to Swim program and thanks again because without their financial support the program would be a lot more expensive for the young participants.

Finally, thank you to all the Committee of Management that put countless hours into working bees, after-hours fix-ups, kiosk assistance as well as organising the events during the season such as Australia Day and Toys at the Pool Day. We could not do it without you.

Who knows what next summer will hold? To everyone, keep well and stay at home.

Brendan Stevens, Secretary, BHPA Pool Committee of Management



BHPA volunteer, Peter Fisher.



BHPA volunteer, Rachel Zuidland.



BHPA volunteer, John O'Brien.

Brown Hill Playgroup

at Caledonian Primary School

Thank you to all the families who joined us throughout Term One of 2020 at Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School. We were privileged to commence a music program with Mrs Gleeson, the school's music teacher. Mrs Gleeson brought her guitar along each week to have a sing-along. The children loved the fish-shaped maracas.

Unfortunately, the term ended a few weeks early as we heeded the Government's message to stay home and stay safe. We miss you

all and hope you are all finding interesting ways to keep entertained at home. For ideas join the Facebook Page "Playgroup At Home by Playgroup Victoria".

At our house, Abel has been doing plenty of bike riding and can hoon around our block, a distance of four kilometres! Jonah is growing, nearly four months old, and enjoys laughing at all the ridiculous faces and sounds his sisters make at him.

Jane and I will keep in touch and let you know when Playgroup recommences.

Aimee Knight, Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School Co-coordinator
playgroup@brownhill.vic.au

Brown Hill Kindergarten

From the ECKA CEO

Unfortunately, our new teacher, Kellie, has decided to return to her home town of Geelong and we are currently in the process of recruiting a new teacher for the Kindergarten. Given the current Coronavirus situation, recruitment may take us a little longer than we would like, so we will utilise our current staff pool to fill the gap.

We have reopened our service in line with government expectations to all families and children who want to attend, which is slightly different to schools, as schools are asking parents who can to keep their children home.

We are providing support to families who are still choosing to keep their children home for a bit longer and our staff will be contacting these parents.

Our Bush Kinder program will be suspended for a short time due to the current situation and we are in consultation with the Department of Education and Training about when we will resume this important part of our program.

All four-year-old kindergarten programs are funded and will not be charging fees in Term 2, 2020.

All three-year-old kindergarten programs are not funded and families are still required to pay fees in Term 2, 2020.

Joanne Geurts, CEO
Eureka Community Kindergarten Association Inc. (ECKA)
ecka.org.au



Caledonian Primary School

From the Principal's Desk

To the Brown Hill community,

It's all so very quiet. The shops are quiet, the streets are quiet and our school is also quiet. It's an incredible time to be an introvert!

One of the most awkward things I have found is not knowing the new protocols. Every supermarket seems to have a slightly different set of rules and, as the supermarket is my only outing at the moment, every time I go I have a slight feeling of panic. This is not necessarily because of fear of COVID-19 but a fear of upsetting someone. I imagine the staff at our supermarkets may actually be the real heroes of this pandemic as they patiently explain for the 400th time how to use the sanitiser near the entry and that their counter is "card only." Their patience and resilience is to be applauded.

Remote and flexible learning also has us all feeling a little confused. I feel it too, as a teacher and certainly at home as a parent, trying to be some help to my own kids. I don't understand how to use the websites, I don't know any of the passwords and I don't have access to the digital equipment to make it all work at home!

Then I am meant to help with trigonometry. I can barely spell trigonometry! I have not done year eight maths since I was in year eight and although I did do the "hard" maths in year twelve, that was 25 years ago!

So, in my job as a school principal, I have a very clear message for our parents. It's OK.

It's ok not to know all the answers, it's ok to not have everything working all the time and it's ok to have to "Google" something that you've forgotten. And if you need to protect your dignity (as I have) you can explain that you did know how to do these things when you were 15, but from the ages of 18 to 22 you had a lot of fun and, for some reason, have forgotten the equation for Heisenberg's uncertainty principle or how to apply pi in Euclidean Geometry, (they should be impressed with that and have no idea what you're talking about).

Professor John Hattie (an education expert) was quoted last week discussing the Christchurch earthquake. In the months following this devastating event schools were closed and there was no remote or flexible learning. He studied the results from the Christchurch area and found that, although the students missed a lot of school as a result of the earthquake, they did not face a deficit in learning. In other words this current COVID-19 crisis and remote learning will *not* break our kids. They will make it through, they will continue to learn and they will be OK!

So, needless to say, this is a very difficult time for us all. I am watching our teachers work incredibly hard to develop new ways to teach, to use technologies that are out of the normal school experience and continue to connect in some way with their students. Our work is built on the relationships we have with students and the deep

understandings we develop of their current learning needs. Every teacher here is deeply committed to the students they work with daily and are working well over time to adjust. Mistakes are made, by kids, parents and teachers as we navigate this new environment. However, I can guarantee the efforts of teachers, not just here at Caledonian but across all schools, is incredible.

We are in the middle of a global pandemic, one of the biggest crises we have faced in 100 years. If you feel frustrated with the kids just watch the news, see how bad things are becoming in other countries and remember why we are doing this, why we are locking ourselves away. It's certainly not to stop people going out for dinner - it's to save lives. The low level of cases in Ballarat is a sign that this is working.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the people who are helping at home. This is keeping us all a little safer. Like the workers in our supermarkets, the other real heroes of this crisis are the people who stick it out trying to get through days on end with their kids at home! Your patience and resilience is also to be applauded.

One other thing, and a special message to any parent who has a child going through puberty: We all love our children. Doesn't mean we have to like them all the time, especially when stuck at home with them!

Keep well. Sanitise often!

Ben Moody

Principal, Caledonian Primary School
5332 6955

Woodmans Hill Secondary College

From the Principal's desk

Coming into the new term, and when reflecting on these most extraordinary times, one thing has remained constant and that has been the unwavering commitment of the staff to collaborate and support the varied learning needs of our students.

Throughout this whole demanding process, staff have been exceptionally agile in their thinking, have taken on a significant amount of new learning and have been responsive to the expectations placed upon them.

At the moment of writing this - we have only been teaching for four days - we have already significantly adapted our practice in response to student, teacher and parental feedback. We live in uncertain times and now, more than ever, the role of our school as the heart of our community has never felt so vital.

We are missing those day-to-day interactions that make us smile; those lightbulb moments in the classroom where we can see the learning 'click' and the care and concern that our students show for their peers that inspire and renew us as teachers. We are indebted to our parents who have been so positive about what we are trying to achieve and we will continue to find new ways to help them support their sons and daughters. We are really in uncharted waters but we have a clear sense of how to navigate the



weeks ahead.

Staff really have gone above and beyond the call of duty, working tirelessly through the holidays to be in a position to go 'online' from day one and the rapid response from all staff - particularly our education support (ES) staff - has been incredible. We have provided devices to over 100 students and internet access for over 30, all within 48 hours of school reopening. We resourced this without any help.

We have deployed ES staff to be present in our virtual classrooms to support our most vulnerable learners.

We have developed resources and processes for parents and students to access professional support around mental health and wellbeing.

We have developed home rooms and created resources and points of contact so no child is alone and we know how they are travelling.

We have developed additional

programs for students who will struggle with the demands of flexible and remote learning.

We have phoned and texted every parent who we knew did not have an email registered to ensure we have one in order that they were kept up to date and their child is not disadvantaged.

We have adapted all educational programs to transition to remote and flexible learning and we have continued to review our practice and have remained connected as a staff despite distances and significantly increased workload.

And we have offered places at our school for students where needed and been at the end of the line to support our parents and carers.

I don't think I could ask for a team to have done more or who would be as willing to learn more in such a short space of time whilst balancing their own commitments to their families and their own health. And all of this is possible because of the support of our families and the desire of our students to keep learning and growing.

We will get through this and be stronger because we are in this together. I am so incredibly proud and privileged to lead this community.

Stephan Fields, Principal
Woodmans Hill Secondary College
Fussell Street, Ballarat East
5336 7264
woodmans.hill.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
woodmanshill.net.au



1 Fussell Street, Ballarat
Ph: (03) 5336 7264

www.woodmanshill.net.au

Brown Hill FireAware

*Running out of things to do while
"staying safe, staying home"?*

Why not take this opportunity to do some of those things around the house that never seem to get off the to-do-list when summer and the bushfire season is approaching?

As an urban fringe dweller preparing for the bushfire season is all about lowering the risk to you and your family, your neighbours and the broader Brown Hill community. It doesn't matter if you intend to leave in the event of a bushfire approaching, as there is always a possibility that when the time comes you may find you can't. So, the more you prepare before the season the better.

While the 2019/2020 bushfire season ends and we still have some sunny autumn days check this list to see how you can get ahead of the game:

1. Around the house

- * Remove the deadwood in trees and shrubs and remove build-up of leaf litter.
- * Cut back or preferably remove shrubs that are under or near windows.
- * Cut back tree branches that are overhanging the house.
- * Trim hedges along fence lines.
- * Be mindful where you place your compost or wood piles as lowering your risk may put your neighbours at a higher risk.
- * Spend some time seeing how you might be able to landscape your yard in a way that allows it to be



FireAware mascot, Penny Platypus

more resistant to embers and fire.

Here is a publication that can help get you started - 'CFA Prepare your garden – Landscaping for Bushfire: Garden Design and Plant Selection': cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/landscaping/

2. Some low-cost improvements for the house

- * Seal all small gaps around the house with appropriate joining strips or a flexible silicon-based sealant.
- * Install sarking behind weatherboards or other external cladding when they are being replaced for maintenance or other reasons.
- * Install sarking beneath existing roofing when it is being replaced for maintenance or other reasons.
- * Replace or over-clad parts of door frames less than 400 mm above the ground decks and similar elements or fit with bushfire resist timber or metal etc.
- * Install weather strips, draught excluders or draught seals at the base of side-hung doors.
- * Seal vents and weep-holes in external walls with mesh of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.
- * Seal around roofing and roof

penetrations.

This publication can provide you with more ideas - 'Victorian Building Authority: A guide to retrofit your home for better protection from a bushfire'. It has building and renovation ideas to better prepare your home in a bushfire situation:

cfa.vic.gov.au/documents/20143/70643/bushfire_home_retrofit.pdf

3. Have a look at your house insurance cover – properly!

- * All home insurance policies offer cover for bushfire, but you should make sure your home and belongings are insured for the right amount.
- * Take into account extra costs, including demolition, debris removal and compliance with modern building codes.
- * Get familiar with your policy documents so you know exactly what you can claim for – and what you can't.
- * This calculator may be of help: 'The Sum Sure building insurance calculator' was developed by Cordell, a building data company owned by property data company CoreLogic. It's available on the Understand Insurance website, understandinsurance.com.au/calculators, which is an initiative of the Insurance Council of Australia, insurancecouncil.com.au.

4. Bushfire Plan

Now is the perfect time to review or develop your Bushfire Plan, as it can, and should be, an all-family activity. For a plan to be an effective plan it needs to be written and discussed between family members and it needs to be

practised. Without it being practised it will be very difficult for members of the family to remember what to do in an often stressful, noisy, smokey environment where things can change very fast.

Another must is that you can prepare for your most preferred option but then you need to also consider and write down if Plan A is not possible what to do then and possibly then again! A number of templates are available on the Brown Hill Community FireAware Network website:

pleanetwork.com.au/fireaware-network-be-prepared/

To find out more about bushfire behaviour and how best to prepare for the next bushfire season to go the Brown Hill Community Online Hub and access the 'Be Bushfire Ready' page: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-are-you-bushfire-ready/

Hazen Cleary, Coordinator for Brown Hill Community FireAware Network

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

Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Clubs

Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Clubs were both very busy since the last edition. With bush fire relief, catering for approximately 30 volunteer meals at the Blazeaid site at Lexton.

BBQ fundraisers continued to keep us busy. But of course with COVID-19, everything has come to a sudden halt.

Our meeting for both Clubs are on hold until further notice with the Executive making any decisions by phone.

Please feel free to contact our Secretaries Barry Davis or Kath Button if there are any concerns that you may have that we may be able to help out with.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay home. Be Kind.

Looking forward to seeing the Brown Hill Community when all this is over.

Brown Hill Lions Club Secretary Barry Davis 0418580971

Brown Hill Lioness Club Secretary Kath Button 53314718



*Catering at Blazeaid Camp at Lexton.
Photographer: Glenis Davis*

Brown Hill Seniors Club

As we fight the COVID-19 crisis and comply with the Government restrictions to defeat this terrible virus, the Brown Hill Seniors cannot meet weekly on Mondays in the Brown Hill Hall.

Many of us are telephoning to keep in touch with other members and making sure they are coping.

On a lighter note, our Club had a very enjoyable local excursion in the lift-bus on Wednesday 11 March. The weather was kind to us so the outdoor activities were pleasant. We went to Ballarat Bird World in Mt Helen, on to Buninyong for morning tea at De Soza Park and then to the Eureka Museum for an informative talk about the Eureka Flag and a general look-around. We stayed at the Eureka Gardens for a picnic lunch and then to the Botanical Gardens to view the begonias and a leisurely walk around.

2.30 pm saw us on the paddle steamer for a cruise around Lake Wendouree and then back to the Brown Hill Hall and home. We were fortunate to have this excursion before the general isolation came into force.

I wish all our members and the general population well and we will come out the other side.

Dianne Eden

*President, Brown Hill Seniors' Club
5331 1769*

Buy Nothing Project

Ballarat North local, Sarah Wooden, shares her experience with the Buy Nothing Project and encourages Brown Hill residents to give it a go.

I first came across the 'Buy Nothing Project' on Facebook a few years ago. At the time, we had started thinking about how much waste we produced and trying to rehome the things we didn't want. I thought, "Awesome", gave the page a 'like' and then forgot all about it. I had no idea it was a huge global project!

Fast forward a few years and a friend started the 'Buy Nothing Project' group for her local neighbourhood in Sebastopol, Bonshaw and Delacombe areas. She spoke about being inspired by the mission to connect the community and bless them with our abundance. I was *in*! I trained to become a 'Group Administrator' and I'd like to invite you to the 'Buy Nothing Group' for Ballarat North, Soldiers Hill and Brown Hill!

Our group is new and still growing. In just a few months we have welcomed 50 members and I have been blown away to see the community that has formed.

The 'Buy Nothing Project' Mission Statement is, *"We offer people a way to give and receive, share, lend, and express gratitude through a worldwide network of hyper-local gift economies in which the true wealth is the web of connections formed between people who are real-life neighbours."*

We have certainly seen this play out. So far in our group, people have gifted plants, produce,



Sarah Wooden with local cherries. Food gifts are popular. Image supplied.

building materials, electronics, homewares, white goods, clothes, baby items, toys, cloth nappies and more. There have been requests for wants or needs that other participants were able to fill. Some have even been able to borrow tools. But the truly exciting part of this is seeing the connections form between members of the community – truthfully the stuff is just a bonus.

In the 'Buy Nothing Group' we give without any expectation of receiving in return. In fact there is no buying, swapping or trading within our community. We give from our abundance. We ask for what we need or want. And we share gratitude. Examples include offering to go and collect food for someone stuck at home or sharing excess food from our pantries.

Right now the world looks a little different. People are cautioned to stay at home unless essential. In this time while people are isolated there is a great need to have true community where we care for each other and help if we can. We have such an opportunity to make sure our neighbours have enough food to eat, warm bedding and



clothes or maybe some books to help keep minds busy in isolation. Having a place online to come and connect the local community has been so helpful.

The 'Buy Nothing Project' currently exists in over 25 countries with over 1.2 million participants. The Project was originally founded by Rebecca Rockefeller and Liesl Clart in 2013.

Normally we prioritise face-to-face conversation to help build that community connection. However, at the moment, any gifting that happens is done as a 'porch pickup'. I've even had gifts of fruits and vegetables left on my porch and a bunch of wildflowers that brought joy to my kitchen for many weeks. I'm excited for when we can again spend more time sitting with our neighbours and hearing their stories.

I'm really pleased to invite you to join your local neighbourhood in our Facebook group called: **'Buy Nothing Ballarat North/Soldiers Hill/Brown Hill, VIC'**. There are also groups for the Bonshaw/Delacombe/Sebastopol area and the Lucas/Alfredton/Cardigan area.

If there are things that you need, please ask – you never know what people have laying around. If you have things to share or could help someone I invite you to share your gifts. And we welcome your posts of gratitude.

Thank you to each participant of our local group who has helped build such a great space so far.



Brown Hill Uniting Church

Thought for the month

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

Like everyone else we have had to close our buildings during this pandemic and we do not know when we will be able to open our Op Shop again. However, this does not mean that we have ceased to operate as a church community. We have had to look for new ways to worship and maintain contact. Our Church Council and Elders meetings are being held on Zoom, which is a useful audio-visual application which allows us to see and hear each other from the comfort of our own homes.

Prayers for members of the community

Although we cannot meet for corporate prayer on Sunday mornings, specific members operate a prayer chain. If you would like urgent prayer for yourself or members of your family please leave a note in the mailbox at 16 Thompson Street, which is checked regularly, and we will pass it down the chain. Any personal details are confidential so it is up to you how much information you give us.

Morning Worship

Easter is a time of rebirth and hope as we celebrate the risen Christ. Our on-line Easter celebration of Holy Communion was filmed in the church and shared by members with access to a computer. We are fortunate to have an accredited Lay Preacher, Jim de Jong, who plans to offer a weekly on-line worship service on his website: dejong.id.au/church. You need a laptop, device or personal computer that has a microphone and camera. We have also distributed a reflection based on the weekly readings to those members who wanted them either on-line or in hard copy for those without computers.

There are various Christian programs on TV on Sundays often hidden under "Morning Programs". On 7Two there is "Leading the Way" with Michael Youssef at 7.30 am and David Jeremiah at 8.00 am. The ABC has Songs of Praise at 11.30 am. You can also listen to Ballarat Good News radio on 103.9 FM: goodnewsradio.org.au. On Sundays they have hymns and a worship message at 11.00 am.

Support of Uniting Ballarat (formerly UnitingCare Ballarat)

In these difficult times we are continuing our support of the daily lunchtime Breezeway meals program and our collection of groceries for their welfare program in support of struggling families.

Our prayer for you all is that you stay safe and stay well.

Liz Mason, Brown Hill Uniting Church

safeTALK Workshop

A reflection on the training hosted by the Brown Hill Uniting Church on Saturday 22 February 2020.

We are dedicated to helping individuals and to building a healthy community. The effects on families and communities when there is a suicide is far reaching, so many are affected.

Sixteen participants gathered to learn how to recognise situations where thoughts of suicide may be present, to participate in discussion and role-play to learn the TALK steps, Tell, Ask, Listen and Keep safe. Participants were provided with details of connections and resources to further help the person contemplating ending their life.

Many hints and tips given during the training included :

- * Not to avoid talking about suicide. The stigma around suicide restricts open conversation; it's not an easy topic but it's everybody's business.

- * To consider that an initial response to a person considering suicide is like giving first-aid to an unwell person.

- * The best way to find out if someone is thinking of suicide is to ask directly. Asking directly about suicide will not give someone the idea.

- * Everyone can learn how to help.

Our workshop was funded by the Ballarat and District Suicide Prevention Network and presented by Lifeline Ballarat.

Louise Wright, Brown Hill Uniting Church

Bard of Brown Hill

Yes, 'bard' is a rather grand, old-fashioned word: as if you should follow Coleridge's advice: 'weave a circle round him thrice, and close your eyes in holy dread / for he on honey-dew hath fed, and drunk the milk of paradise.' Well, no need for that, but having always been drawn, from an early age, to the word-music and images of poetic language and the kinds of experience which it can express, and having devoted my life to this art form, I don't mind indulging myself a little.

On the subject of being 'of Brown Hill', that's a rather long story ... but I do feel that the first thing I should say is that although I have brought up a child here - one of the best ways, surely, of putting down roots in a place - I realise that I am very much a Johnny-come-lately, especially, of course, compared to those here first, the Wadawurrung, to whose elders and culture I pay my respects.

My devotion to poetry began at primary school in England. My teacher kept getting annoyed at my drifting attention and finally gave me an exercise book to write poems in. Why poems I'm not sure, but I glued a picture of an eagle on the cover and got to work and have never stopped since. I've still got that exercise book.

Further encouragement came from the headmaster, who would visit the class for a 'poetry lesson' every so often. The poem I've included here, from my first collection, is about one of these lessons. He would bring in an interesting object, let us write

about it, then choose a number of the poems he liked best. If chosen, we would then read ours to the class, who would vote for which one they thought was the best. In this way I got an early taste of poetry being valued and reaching an audience.

I've visited primary schools and done the same thing with kids myself (though without the competitive part). They observe an object and then use the technique of metaphor to describe it, such as the tree root in my poem looking like 'the night's heart cut out'. Children are very good at this and produce amazing images quite spontaneously. The seeds inside a pomegranate, for example, were 'like a nest of blood red tear-drops', a hammer was 'like my head when I'm in a bad mood'. This teaching stimulus can be used by others. My sister Ann used it with her grade six students and one of them produced this about water:

*Water, a fairy whizzing and raging,
now dainty, now alarming,
racing and soaring through countless
charming scenes,
happily viewing the next piece in life
it's pathway to peace.*

(by Christina)

The children are often astonished that they could produce these images themselves: it is such an affirming, rewarding experience for them, showing them they all have these riches inside as much as anyone else.

That's what poetry can do: show us that deep down we are fascinated by the world and that we love it, somehow, and it loves us.

Of course all of this remains true no matter how old we are: however much, as Wordsworth put it, 'the shades of the prison house' of adulthood have closed upon us, our routines and habits making our world seem ordinary and dull and constricting. Poetic writing can refresh our perception that everything is rather wonderfully strange and beautiful in its own way and that we ourselves are mysterious creatures indeed. It seems to ask us, along with the great Sufi poet Rumi, 'why do you stay in prison, when the door is so wide open?'

Subject

*The headmaster, genial, white haired
would take us for poetry.*

*A pat on the head
was his blessing.*

*This time he had a blackened
tree root carried in
and set up on a desk.*

*It looked like
the night's heart cut out:*

*too awful a trophy
for a boy of ten to claim*

*with language,
though a taste*

*of its black blood came,
and the blessing.*

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

Michael Heald, the 'Bard of Brown Hill', our Resident Poet

2020 Autumn Harvest Festival

How lucky the Ballarat Community Garden has been! The weather for the day was perfect; warm, sunny, and just a touch of wind. Well, more than a touch, to be fair! There were a few airborne articles including a gazebo that was giving much needed shade for visitors walking from one end of the garden to the other. A couple of the other shade tents succumbed as well but, all in all, the day was highly successful.

The Ballarat Community Garden always holds its Annual Harvest Festival on the first Sunday in March, which this year came just before the call to shut down many of our businesses, social activities and to eventually go into Stage 3 restrictions. We are really grateful to our loyal followers who still came to enjoy a fun day with us and we hope that we will be able to welcome you back again next year.



Painting these beautiful boomerangs with Janet Curtain was a great activity on the day. Image supplied.



The Children's Stall had loads of great goodies and activities for kids. Image supplied.

This year we received funding from the City of Ballarat to assist with the costs involved in running the Festival. We ran with an Indigenous theme and employed a local Indigenous artist, Janet Curtain, to come and work with groups of children to paint boomerangs. The children learned a little about dot painting and the meanings behind many of the depictions. We are hoping that Janet will return to our garden once it is safe to do so and help us with some artwork around the garden.

The funding also allowed us to pay for some musicians to entertain people. We aim to be eclectic and appeal to everyone. The day started with HanzOn drumming group, followed by Wil Jaurez, the Haddon Community Band and the Kale Brothers.

We had a children's stall run by Poppy (8) and Heidi (6). It was such a great thing to do. The children ran the stall and prepared everything for it. It was

so colourful and a refreshing addition to the day.

Pizzas were popular, as were the sausages and tea and coffee, fruit salad and cakes. We were not going to let you go hungry! We wanted our visitors to be able to make their choices at the plant stall and choose they did! Plant sales were well up and there were many satisfied customers.

To supplement the sales of plants, John Ditchburn gave his usual mini-garden talks to help us to be successful in protecting, growing, and preserving some of the fruits of our labour. Tomatoes grow well in Ballarat and it is important to know how to extend the usefulness of the abundance by bottling or making sauce.

The produce stall did a lively trade with preserves and craft items. The preserves were all made by our gardeners and donated, as were the craft items. It is a huge commitment but one that is done with dedication. Other stalls were also scenes of dedication to a craft:

the green wood-turning master, Paul Ryle and the 'honey lady', Angela Enbom, both came to demonstrate their skills to an interested audience.

Complemented by the spinning skills of the Ballarat Spinners, the day took us all 'back to basics' and the opportunity to see that those skills are being preserved. Certainly, the ability to preserve food, make things with wood and spin our own wool is a creative way to spend our time at home. Caring for bees is an activity that is on the rise with many backyard beekeepers taking up the hobby.

So how did we measure our success on the day? Firstly, by the sheer volume of people attending, many of whom are loyal annual attendees. Secondly, by the comments of our visitors who say they really enjoy the day and look forward to coming each year. Lastly, we know it has been successful by the amount of money we have raised. This is our largest fundraiser for the year. We rely on raising funds to maintain the garden on a daily basis, let alone for initiating any new projects.

We would like to thank all the members of the public who came



Wonderful things to buy at the Harvest Festival. Image supplied.

and supported us. It has enabled us to continue to provide a healthy and safe environment in which our members can enjoy gardening, socialising (when it is appropriate to do so!) and maintaining their health (physical, mental and emotional) in an appropriate setting.

Sheilagh Kentish
Ballarat Community
ballaratcommunitygarden.org.au/

Ballarat Wholefoods Collective

We have made changes to our layout for easier shopping during this time of social distancing.

We have fresh produce from Jason Block 454, the Mushroom Connection, Giorgio Basilio Sourdough, Goldfields Farmhouse Cheese, Inglenook Dairy, Enbom Honeys, Burrum Biodynamics (oats), Grounded Pleasures drinking chocolate, handmade soap, hand cream and balms by Wendy, baked goods by Vegas & Rose and toilet paper.

Opening Hours

Tuesdays: 9.00 am - 11.00 am
 Wednesdays: 9.00 am - 11.00 am
 and 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm
 Third Saturday each month: 9.00 am - 12.00 noon

Wendy Aston, Ballarat Wholefoods Collective



parkrun in Brown Hill

We know we are all missing parkrun so we thought we would bring a bit of parkrun to you. Terrence was meant to be our run director for the first time in late March.

Terrence Morse

When did you first start parkrun?

My first parkrun was on 4 January 2020.

Why did you start?

To be honest I was roped in by Aaron and Laurinda. They sent me a message saying that they were going to start up Wallaby Track parkrun and I went to support them.

How many parkruns have you done?

I think I am up to six or seven.

What is your favourite volunteer role?

So far my favourite role is the barcode scanner. I think it's cheering people to the finish line and seeing them nearly collapse when they get to you but then five minutes later they have the biggest smiles on their faces as the runner-high hits.

What do you love about parkrun?

I love community. You have people from all fitness levels, all walks of life and all different motivations for coming each week, meeting in one place for a common goal: to go and run/walk five kilometres in the fastest time they can. It's the lack of ego from everyone. Everyone encourages each other and it's something that not every community event has. It's special.



Wallaby Track parkrun participant, Terrence Morse. Image: Facebook

Have you been a 'parkrun tourist' before?

No I haven't.

Do you have any parkruns on your bucket list that you would love to visit?

There isn't one parkrun that I would love to run but I would like to put together a list of the nicest courses. I guess the only way to do that is to become a tourist

What makes Wallaby Track parkrun so special to you?

1. The people, the 'vollabies' (volunteers) and the participants.
2. The setting. On a clear morning like the ones we've had recently you seriously can't find a better track, not being exposed too much to the elements, running through forest-like terrain, then you add a couple of hills. It's a more difficult course than others but you don't notice that it is because of the setting. When you combine a perfect location with a great bunch of people then you get a really effective community activity. As far as I'm concerned it's one of the best getting around.

AusKick

The AFL recommended all AFL Community Club competition and NAB AFL Auskick Centres currently operating and set to begin, be postponed until, at the earliest, 31 May 2020.

As a result of the rapid change in our landscape as a result of COVID-19, Auskick has put registrations for 2020 on hold. The reason for this is that the AFL needs to work with all required stakeholders, including Auskick coordinators, to coordinate a suitable recommencement date and time to allow new participants and families to be aware of when we will be back on the grass.

Expression of interests for Auskick in 2020 are available online and the AFL will advise when registrations reopen. Once the recommencement of the Auskick season has been confirmed, the AFL will be in touch on start dates.

aflauskick@afl.com.au
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Brown Hill Hall Upgrade Milestone

The latest stage of a \$650,000 project to upgrade the Brown Hill Hall has been completed with the construction of a new community kitchen, the transformation of two large meeting rooms and additional storage space.

The hall is one of the most used community facilities in Ballarat, housing a range of regular community programs and is home to the Brown Hill Senior Citizens.

Identified as a priority by local residents involved with City of Ballarat's Engaging Communities Program, the project has been funded through the City of Ballarat's Social Infrastructure Program.

The latest phase of the project builds on work completed in 2019 which included a new accessible entrance to the building, new hallways and an overhaul of the toilet facilities.

"It's fantastic to see areas within this facility transformed to provide modern, contemporary community spaces," Central Ward Councillor, Samantha McIntosh said.

"Whilst community members are not currently able to use this wonderful facility, we're confident that the new space will be welcomed and well utilised when opened," she said.

A formal launch will take place in the future.

City of Ballarat

All images supplied by the City of Ballarat.



New kitchen overlooking the Brown Hill Oval and Reserve.

Hall Committee Update

Workers have left so the renovations are complete.

The new kitchen has been fitted with cupboards, a dishwasher, three sinks, a new stove and servery. The small meeting room at the back of the Hall has been extended into the old kitchen area. New carpet, an extra window and painted plaster make this a bright and larger room. The servery is accessed via this room.

The larger central meeting/supper room, which was previously quite dark, has been brightened with two skylights and plastered walls. The dark polished floor boards have been sanded and stained a lighter colour.

The cleaner's room, off the central

meeting room, has cupboards and a low trough for emptying the buckets and mop cleaning. Hot and cold water has been installed over this trough. This is also now a bright and functional room.

Now the task is to put back all the Seniors' cupboards and contents, which were removed and stored in the front foyer, to their original positions and fill the kitchen cupboards with all the crockery, cutlery and general items used in a kitchen. Much of the crockery, cutlery and glasses are to be counted and will be available for larger functions in the Hall. The relocating of these items has commenced and is on-going.

Dianne Eden, Brown Hill Hall Committee



Central meeting room



Back meeting room, overlooking oval

Juliana Addison MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE



Thank you to our frontline health workers; the paramedics, nurses, doctors, cleaners, caterers & everyone else who works for our health services.

17 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350

P: 5331 1003 **E:** juliana.addison@parliament.vic.gov.au

f JulianaAddisonMP **t** @juliana_addison

ig julianaaddison **www.**²⁸**julianaaddison.com.au**