

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 28, November 2020 - February 2021

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.



Tom Hipke, long-time resident of Stringybark Drive, Brown Hill attempting to get reception on his mobile phone. Image supplied.

Diary Dates

See brownhill.vic.au for details.

DECEMBER

Friday 18: Last day of Term Four

Friday 25: Christmas Day

Saturday 26: Boxing Day

Thursday 31: New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2021

Friday 1: New Year's Day

Tuesday 26: 8.00 am - 10.00 am, Brown Hill Lions and Lioness clubs' Australia Day breakfast, Brown Hill Recreation Reserve

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Mobile phone coverage when you need it!

As more and more people are relying on just their mobile phones to provide information and communication, in addition to phone calls, mobile phones have become an essential tool in times of an emergency.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) advise the need for everyone to stay up-to-date in an emergency. In Brown Hill bushfires are the most obvious emergency event. CFA advise to access more than one source for information. For example, local news, the Vic Emergency app, the Vic Emergency website and the CFA Facebook page. What is the most likely way people access these various sources of information?

Through their mobile phone.

What if the area in which you live habitually suffers from poor, intermittent or non-existent mobile phone coverage? One would think that in an emergency this could be, at one end of the scale, just an inconvenience. At the other end of the scale, it could create a dangerous situation where people's inability to obtain information could put their life at risk.

For many years, poor or no mobile phone reception has been frustrating the residents of Brown Hill who live north of the Western Freeway, especially those in the Coorabin Estate and nearby areas

of Janson and Springs Road and surrounds. With this in mind, the Brown Hill Community FireAware Network conducted an online survey on mobile phone reception in the area (see Edition 27, October 2020).

The survey was focused on residents living in and around the Springs Road area of Brown Hill during October and November 2020. At the close of the survey on 15 November we had received 168 responses. This is fantastic when we estimate there are around 350 to 450 houses in the designated area. Many thanks to all the residents who took part in the survey.

...continued p.7

...continued from p.1

Wednesday 27: First day of Term One

FEBRUARY

Monday 1: Articles for Edition 29 due (see below for details)

Tuesday 2: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting. All welcome

Friday 12: Edition 29 delivery begins across Brown Hill

MARCH

Monday 8: Labour Day

For more, visit: brownhill.vic.au

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people and their ancestors who have been custodians of the Ballarat area for thousands of years performing age old cultural ceremonies, celebrations and traditions.

We would like to acknowledge the Ballarat Aboriginal community, many of whom were forcibly removed from their families during the Stolen Generations decades and brought to Ballarat.

We would also like to acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Lost glasses

Local resident Marie Newell has lost a brand new pair of prescription glasses and wondered if anyone had found them. Marie says, "They are Kevin Paisley pale blue lilac all-plastic frames. I lost them several weeks ago when walking around the Humffray Street North, Ainley Street, Thompson Street and Reid Street area."

If found, please contact Marie on 0438 982 413.

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 December.

Our volunteer team:

Editorial Advisory Committee:

Geoff Dickson, Brian Green and Sarah Greenwood-Smith

Editorial Support: Hazen Cleary Sally McAlpin

Accounts Manager: Andrea Perrin

Proof Reader: Ben Harrap

Social Media: Kelsie White and Ellie Thacker

Over 20 wonderful 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 online or by emailing us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au.

Contributions are welcome from the Brown Hill community. Articles are due by the first Monday of the month in which the edition is published (except the December issue) 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 hours.

Edition 29 articles are due by **Monday 1 February 2021**. Please read the editorial policy regarding contributions before submitting an article or advertising: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter.

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

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

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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

What a time for celebration! Whether you are reading this edition online or in hard copy, take a moment to navigate or turn to the back page (p.24) to read about another great year for our community newsletter at the recent Community Newspapers Association of Victoria (CNAV) Conference Awards. What a thrill to be recognised in three of the nine categories!

In her conference report, CNAV President, Mary Farrow, said, "Earlier this year, the reports of the death of community newspapers would appear to be greatly exaggerated."

"As incubators for emerging journalists as well as being important local resources, the products of our sector are essential in building a strong sense of place, community strength and inclusion."

"While our publications record local stories, events and how we deal with adversity, it is also important to balance our publications with good news, successes, humour and sharing memoirs too. We must continue to encourage hope and vision for the future."

"Community newspapers have an important role in conveying the mood of communities and can even nudge elected leaders to address our concerns."

In this edition, our cover story provides the initial data from the Brown Hill FireAware team's mobile phone reception survey. By putting it on the front cover, we hope to gain some traction for support and change.



A local ABC News presenter contacted me, wanting to interview one of the researchers who lives in the affected area. I called his mobile phone. Ironically, he doesn't have any reception! (So I used his landline).

We enjoyed the recent, virtual 'Keep Victoria Beautiful' Awards. Our wonderful team of volunteers should be very proud of our project being a finalist in the 'Community Category' of the '2020 Sustainable Cities Awards'. Congratulations also to the City of Ballarat for winning the 'Social Well-Being Category' for their successful 'Be Kind' campaign.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Gold: Andrew Johnson - Maxwell Johnson Real Estate. **Silver:** The Hair Room By Elaine. **Bronze:** Matt Wilson Electrical, Ballarat Treeworks, Bakers Delight Bakery Hill, Dazzlin' Doggie Country Village, Jigsaw Puzzles Australia, Neil Pollard Plumbing, RCC Commercial Cleaning and The AFL Store - Ballarat. We would also like to thank Juliana Addison for her ongoing support.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Volunteer Editor, Brown Hill Community Newsletter and Directory Committee
newsletter@brownhill.vic.au
brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/

Brown Hill Progress Association

The committee and members of the Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) are very excited to see the easing of the COVID-19 restrictions. Let's all work hard to avoid a third wave. We have been able to get back to holding face-to-face meetings and planning for future events. Our first in-person meeting since May was our AGM held on Tuesday 1 December at the Brown Hill Hotel.

We would like to welcome Brown Hill resident Andrea Perrin as our new Treasurer. Some of you may have met Andrea at the Brown Hill Pool or through her previous role coordinating the Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School. Welcome Andrea!

We would also like to sincerely thank our outgoing Treasurer, Ron Damen. For the last 13 years Ron has managed the finances for the Progress Association. It was certainly a big job, particularly with over three busy months at the pool each summer. Thanks Ron for your dedication to this important role.

Advertisement:



It is also very exciting to see the Brown Hill Hall open for limited use and congratulations go to the Hall Management Committee. Let's hope we hear the sound of dance music, exercise participants and the Senior Citizens all back to almost normal gatherings soon.

The City of Ballarat Aquatic Team are now working on our local outdoor pools to get them ready for summer. Preparations at Black Hill Pool are well underway and Brown Hill Pool should follow shortly. At this stage there is no confirmed date for opening or details on how Brown Hill Pool will run this summer.

However, we do know that 'Learn to Swim' classes are returning to Brown Hill in January 2021. They are being run by VicSwim again this season and registrations are open on the VicSwim website. So get in early as we know that positions fill quickly.

The BHPA is always working with other stakeholders to strive to improve the liveability, functionality and community pride of Brown Hill. Please let us

Learn to Swim

At the Brown Hill Pool,
Humffray Street North.

11 - 15 January

18 - 22 January

To register, visit:
vicswim.com.au

Get in early - these lessons could save a life.

know if there are any problems or projects that we may be able to assist with.

Along with our future, we also aim to preserve our history. Whether that be through personal stories, preservation of photos and documents or working with others to preserve anything of historic significance. Please let us know of items or stories you may have and we can work to keep these memories preserved through the Brown Hill Community Newsletter and Online Hub and with the assistance of the Victorian State Library through their heritage expertise and the 'Trove' website.

Keep well, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Brown Hill Progress Association.

*Brendan Stevens, Secretary,
Brown Hill Progress Association
0409 018 867
bhpa@brownhill.vic.au*

CATHERINE KING

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

STANDING UP FOR
OUR COMMUNITY

Labor

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@CatherineKingMP

Authorised by Catherine King, MP, 5 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat 3200

www.catherineking.com.au

A portrait of Catherine King, a woman with short blonde hair, smiling and wearing a light-colored blazer over a white top. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage.

Ballarat Cottages

We asked Maureen and Rob McGreehan to tell us about their two home-based Brown Hill businesses.

With a ten-month-old daughter, we moved to Morres Street, Brown Hill in 1981. We had our second daughter two years later. Back then, Brown Hill was a sleepy hollow and now, 39 years later, it has become a vibrant suburb.

When we arrived there was no access to the Yarrowee River, it was just covered in blackberries and gorse.

Within a few years the Lands Department had sprayed, burnt and bulldozed our side of the river and the hill over the other side. As a result, the Yarrowee River walking track was constructed and



Yarrowee Cottage. Photographer: Maureen McGreehan.

a high level of tree planting and general beautification of the area took place. This track has now become a very popular and busy place for walkers, runners and cyclists.

In 2000 we decided to build our first self-contained cottage, 'Yarrowee Cottage', so starting an

interesting and busy business. In 2002 we bought the property next door from Bill Pascoe who had passed on. We renovated 'Bilrene Cottage', extending our business. In 2004 we built 'Admirals Cottage' behind 'Bilrene Cottage'. We continued our home-based business until 2018 when 'Bilrene Cottage' was subdivided off our property and sold, thus leaving us with two small cottages.

In mid-July 2020, amidst COVID-19, Maureen opened a home-based pop-up shop in a smaller cottage. It has handmade girls' dresses and skirts and a baby corner with bibs, burping cloths and change mats. She has enjoyed having an outlet for her sewing hobby and will open the shop any day by appointment.

0419 860 170
ballaratcottages.com.au
Instagram: endofstash

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Andrew is a licensed estate agent, businessman and entrepreneur based in Brown Hill who has enjoyed a long and varied business career in Australia and overseas providing solutions and building a strong referral business.

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www.maxjre.com
Maxwell Johnson Real Estate Pty Ltd
9 Gracefield Road, Brown Hill

"On first meeting Andrew Johnson you could not help but to be impressed with him.

Although tall in stature, what a sincere and warming person he is.

Right from the start Andrew displayed a wonderful wealth of knowledge. When in doubt he went and found out to verify then came back with an answer.

He was constantly in contact with us giving us feedback basically every day. Showed a wonderful sense of



loyalty to us in representing us as his clients and achieving the best possible outcome.

We loved his personality and professionalism displayed, we would highly recommend Andrew when you consider selling or buying your next home/property."

Merrill & Terence Brophy

Vendors – 6 Longs Hill Rd, Brown Hill

Brown Hill FireAware

Haven't got around to preparing your property for summer yet?

When you live in a bushfire-prone area at the urban fringe, such as Brown Hill, the greatest risk to your home will primarily come from airborne embers. If these embers land on flammable material and are allowed to build up, they can start spot fires that can be increasingly difficult to control. If they are able to enter your house, spot fires can be the main cause of your house being damaged or destroyed.

Even though you might only have an urban-sized house block (such as in an estate) there are still many things you can do to lower the risk to your home from a bushfire event. Remember – for a fire to take hold and grow it needs fuel. By reducing the fuel load (anything that will readily burn) you reduce the potential for embers becoming unmanageable fires. This is what all summer preparation is about – **reducing the fuel load of your property**.

Here are a few tips to get started:

* Walk around your property and see where autumn leaves have

Silver Sponsor



FireAware Mascot, Penny Platypus

accumulated. These will be the places where embers will also accumulate. These are the places you need to be especially aware of and remove as much flammable material as possible. What wooden structures do you have in your yard? Do you have a wood pile? What about your fence line? Are hedges out of control and full of dead wood?

* As neighbours can be quite close, are measures that you might put in place to lower your risk actually increasing your neighbour's risk? For example, moving your woodpile away from your house. A tricky one.

* Look at your house and imagine where the weak points are which could let embers inside. Windows can crack. Doors have gaps. How much vegetation is too close to your windows? Is flammable material stored under the flooring and in ceiling spaces? Could vent-holes let in embers?

* Look up – are there branches overhanging the roof? Are the

gutters full of winter leaves and debris? Are there gaps or cracks in the roofing material and wall cladding?

* Have you reviewed your house and contents insurance to make sure it is still adequate? Remember if you are in a fire-prone area and your house is damaged or destroyed by fire the cost of rebuilding will likely include additional costly building requirements.

* How much do you actually know about fire behaviour? What it is like to be in a bushfire event? What an ember storm is like? How people respond in extreme events? Being in a bushfire event is harrowing, unpredictable and often life-changing. By understanding your risks and how to respond (and acting on this awareness) it will increase your ability to deal with any bushfire event as best you can for yourself, your family, your neighbours and community.

Your next step

Access the Brown Hill Online Community Hub and the "Be Bushfire Ready" page for more details. Make lots of to-do-lists and start ticking them off!

Hazen Cleary,
Brown Hill FireAware Network
Coordinator
0408 690 493



7 Sawmill Close
Brown Hill
0434 522 477

...continued from p.1

Brown Hill Mobile Phone Strength Survey Responses

The preliminary responses support our concerns that mobile phone reception is poor to non-existent in a significant proportion of the study area.

Q1: Are you concerned about your mobile phone coverage in your area?

98% responded "Yes"

Q2: Do you feel unsafe in your area because of the type of coverage you are receiving?

94% responded "Yes"

Q3: How often do you rely on your mobile phone for emergency updates?

79% responded "Often"

Author's comment: Perhaps more people would rely on it if it wasn't so unreliable!

Q4: How many working mobile phones are currently in use at your household?

Majority of responses were two to three.

Q5: To assist in building a better picture of where mobile signals are good or poor. Please indicate the area in which you live.

Responses received were from:
33% - Coorabin Estate
24% - Springs/Janson roads and Stringybark Drive
22% - Apple Orchard Estate
16% - Hillview/Seven Oaks roads

"I have lived in Stringybark Drive for over 25 years and have never had service."

Q6: Which mobile network is your mobile service with?

Telstra 85%. Optus 24%

(Some people have both)

Q7: How would you rate your mobile phone reception inside your house the majority of the time?

48% responded "Non-existent"

47% responded "Poor"

"We have to stand in one spot in our home to get service. If we move it cuts out. We are over it."

"One bar and only at the West side of the house... east side it drops out."

"Service was better before the 2G service was turned off."

"Continually drops out when talking on the phone."

"Very poor/no signal on my whole block."

"Reception only in front of house."

"Occasionally but unreliably receive SMS; can't make or receive calls."

"Occasionally if I move towards a window one bar will appear. However, this is sporadic."

Q8: How would you rate your mobile phone reception outside your house the majority of the time?

21% responded "Non-existent"

63% responded "Poor"

"Phone calls often drop off whilst in use. Often delays in dial connection."

"Directly outside my house in my driveway for instance it's still poor."

"We cannot receive phone calls or communication through the network. We need to connect to our WIFI in order to use our phones."

"Only if I stand in one spot and don't move."

"We have 'state of art' phones and third world reception."

"Non-existent on lower parts of the property, reception increases heading

uphill to one bar."

"It fluctuates between none and a small amount."

"Out the front of the house might get one bar sometimes."

Q9: Do you think your mobile signal strength has changed in the last 12 months?

65% responded "No, it's remained the same"

34% responded "Yes, it's got worse"

"Visitors to our house cannot believe how bad the coverage is."

"No improvement since we moved here 4 years ago."

"During the last 12 months I contacted our provider about our poor service. Their response was until another tower was built the service would remain woeful. They suggested us buying an antenna but could not guarantee that the service would improve."

"Worse than ever, can't even get a message out."

"We live less than 10 mins from Ballarat CBD and have worse service than we have had whilst in some places in the outback."

"We are desperately worried as to not having any reception."

What's next?

The next step is to collate the data into a report format which to be used in submissions to our government members and federal communication authorities to highlight the need for improved mobile phone reception.

Hazen Cleary,
Brown Hill FireAware Network
Coordinator
hmc433@hotmail.com

Brown Hill Hotel's Chef

We asked Brown Hill Hotel's managers, Mike and Krista Harvey, about their new chef. They said, "Ben completed his apprenticeship at the Ballarat North Sports Club, working there for a number of years. He then came to Brown Hill as a highly recommended hotel chef just as COVID-19 hit.

Ben had to be innovative to keep a food presence in Brown Hill through takeaway, Menulog and online. Well done Ben!"

"Meals are available seven days a week in the evenings from 5.30 pm (Fridays and Saturdays from 5.00 pm). If you are unable to dine in, take away is available via Menulog, Door Dash, Skip or by phoning directly."



Brown Hill Hotel's Chef, Ben. Photographer: Brian Green

"We love to prepare great 'pub grub', be it a steak to chilli con carne. Favourites include Atlantic Salmon, Chicken Roulade and delicious burgers. There's always the specials board."

There are bar meals and the family-friendly bistro and deck. I have dropped in for a beer during a walk along the Yarrowee River!

TAB is now available as well.

Ben, Mike and Krista look forward to catching up with diners from Brown Hill and beyond leading into Christmas as we leave the difficulties of recent months behind.

*Brian Green,
Brown Hill Community Newsletter
Committee*

**A single ember can spread bushfires as far as 30km.
If the Fire Danger Rating is extreme or above, leave early.**

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to emergency.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Brown Hill Residents Pictured.

SEATED IN BUS LEFT TO RIGHT

ALBERT & WIN WILSON UNKNOWN SYD & GERT ROBINSON

STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT

*MONA COOK (HUGGINS) FRED & FLO TOLLIDAY CLIVE BOWMAN BERTHA HAM
(HOLDING TEA POT)*

TREVOR SMITH (OWNER) JEAN SMITH FRANCES TOLLIDAY HAROLD TOLLIDAY

*X BERTHA HAM NOW BOWMAN IS IN A NURSING HOME
IN BALLARAT*

Littlehales Brown Hill Bus Service

We were not able to include the above photograph with our cover article in Edition 27, 'The Littlehales' Brown Hill Family History'.

On the back of the photograph is written, "1927, Trevor Smith White."

Under the photograph is written:

"Brown Hill Residents Pictured

Seated in Bus Left to Right

Albert & Win Wilson
Unknown
Syd and Gert Robinson

Standing Left to Right

Mona Cook (Huggins)
Fred and Flo Tolliday
Clive Bowman
Bertha Ham (holding tea pot)
Trevor Smith (Owner)
Jean Smith
Frances Tolliday
Harold Tolliday

Note: Bertha Ham now Bowman is in a Nursing Home in Ballarat."

The Brown Hill Progress Association and Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee are keen to capture the stories of Brown Hill, past and present. We will continue to print some of them in this newsletter and record those and other on the Brown Hill Community Online Hub: brownhill.vic.au.

If you have any stories or information to share about people in this photograph, please contact us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au.



Our girls enjoy friendship with girls from all over Ballarat. As Girl Guides they learn new skills, new games, to show the importance of being kind to one and another, that winning is not as important as participating and to have fun.

Guides Victoria has made Term 1, 2021 free of charge for all girls who would like to join Guides.

We meet at the Brown Hill Uniting Church hall on Monday afternoons from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm. Enrolments open in January. Why not give it a try!

Rosemary Garth
Leader, Eureka Butterfly Guides
0412 161 710
guides.bluebird@gmail.com

Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School

Due to COVID-19 this year we were not able to run many playgroup sessions. We have missed catching up on those Wednesday mornings for a cup of tea and play. We hope that things will return to normal in 2021.

In late November we invited Playgroup families to meet at the Russell Square playground. It was wonderful to see everyone again and great to welcome three new families to our group.

To keep up to date with playgroup, what is happening in the community or useful activities

to do with children visit our Facebook page.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to welcoming new and old families back in 2021. Brown Hill Playgroup will commence meeting in 2021 on Wednesday 3 February (venue to be confirmed).

Due to the easing of restrictions we will be meeting at a local playground on Wednesday 2, 9 and 16 December between 9.00 am - 11.00 am. Please contact Aimee on 0410 681 985 for further details.

Kerri-Ann, Playgroup Committee member

Playgroup Co-Coordinators Jane Griffin and Aimee Knight

playgroup@brownhill.vic.au
0410 681 985

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teacher.**

Become a teacher to lead us into the future, and inspire who comes next.

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THE
FUTURE**

Perridak Burron Early Learning

Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC) are proud to be offering the Brown Hill community a new Early Childhood Education and Care service – Perridak Burron Early Learning (meaning platypus children) to cater for the education and care needs for all families within the Brown Hill community and beyond.

Recruitment for high quality and extensively experienced Teachers and Educators is currently underway and progressing nicely. Over the coming weeks, the community will be seeing the BADAC maintenance team create and build the outdoor learning areas, embedding natural and cultural elements into an engaging and discovery-rich environmental space.

The building is almost complete. The remaining work includes the surrounding roadworks for both the main car park and service lane with car park spaces, to be added to the Water Street entrance.



Building works are going well at Perridak Burron Early Learning. Image supplied.



OPENING Early 2021



BADAC Early Childhood Learning and Development Manager – Casey Brown will be stationed permanently at Perridak Burron Office from Monday 14 December. Casey aims to be providing tours for families during January in anticipation of opening with a proposed date of 25 January, pending sign-off and approval by the Department of Education and Training. Those families who have already registered will be sent enrolment packs in early December.

Perridak Burron will offer long day care for ages six weeks to six years, government-approved kindergarten programs for both three- and four-year-olds, a 'bush kinder' style program, playgroup, parenting programs and Maternal and Child Health Nurse appointments.

Kylie, a local Brown Hill resident, is eagerly awaiting the opening of Perridak Burron after enrolling her two-year-old son into the service when she recommenced part-time work after finishing maternity leave. She says, "It's so great to see such a service being offered not only in Brown Hill, but also for all children within the district of Ballarat, we are super excited to have our child attend a culturally nurturing space. Our son is a non-Indigenous child so I was unsure if he was able to attend. Once I found out that it is a service for all children, we were very excited for him to be a part of that."

Kylie explains that she thoroughly enjoys living in Brown Hill and now with Perridak Burron available as a long day care and kindergarten service, it also supports her work hours and flexibility for her family close to home.

Please make contact with us if you would like to register your interest and/or receive an enrolment pack.

Casey Brown
BADAC Early Childhood Learning and
Development Manager
0418 366 691
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Brown Hill Kindergarten

Kindergarten staff and children have been very busy over recent weeks with transition to school activities to help children prepare for their move into school next year. Our bush kinder program has finished up for the year so that children and staff can concentrate on the final weeks of Term 4.

Many enduring friendships will have been formed between both children and parents, as kindergarten is a special time for forming relationships and developing important social skills. Children have experienced a rich play-based program throughout the year that has supported them to learn the foundation skills they need to form positive relationships with others and a solid foundation in developing numeracy and literacy skills.

In recent weeks there has been a number of announcements from the State government about new funding support for kindergartens. One of the exciting announcements has been the government commitment to making kindergarten free for all

children in the funded four-year-old program next year, as part of the state's recovery strategy. This initiative will be extremely beneficial to families, saving around \$2000 per year and removing any barriers to participating in kindergarten in the year before school.

Our unfunded three-year-old programs have not been overlooked, as the announcement also included a commitment to provide a subsidy to offset some of the cost of attending three-year-old kinder programs. The amount of subsidy has not yet been revealed by government, but we look forward to hearing from them in coming weeks.

School Readiness funding was also announced to support kindergarten staff to implement new learning and development strategies in 2021 to improve children's foundation skills and readiness for school. Brown Hill Kindergarten will benefit through access to allied health specialists such as speech therapy and occupational therapy, as well as capacity- and skills-building of the Kindergarten teaching staff to support children's learning.

Bush Kinder and the benefits of play in the outdoor and natural

environment will be a focus of the kindergarten again in 2021.

We wish all of the children and families leaving us at the end of the year all the very best as they take the next big step of moving into school. We look forward to welcoming back some of our existing families and new families in 2021.

Jo Geurts, CEO

Eureka Community Kindergarten Association Inc. (ECKA)

Brown Hill Kindergarten (a Eureka Community Kindergarten Association [ECKA] Kindergarten),

5332 7973

brown.hill.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Enrol your child in kindergarten

Children can be enrolled for kindergarten from 1 January in the year that they turn two. Kindergarten places are offered on the basis of the date they are enrolled, so the earlier your child is enrolled the more likely you are to get a place at the kindergarten of your choice. Visit the City of Ballarat's Central Kindergarten Enrolment Scheme page for more information: ballarat.vic.gov.au/me/families/kindergartens

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Jimmy

1. What was your favourite thing to do at Kinder this year?

Racing other kids on the bouncies.

2. Tell us about Bush Kinder.

At bush kinder I loved to play wood cutters with my friends James and Joseph.

3. What do you like to do in the playground at Kinder?

In the playground the best fun is playing Aliens in the Quarry and digging in the sand.

5. What do you think about going to school after the holidays?

I feel a bit sad and will miss my kinder friends, but I am excited to go to school next year.



Jack

1. What was your favourite thing to do at Kinder this year?

Play!

2. Tell us about Bush Kinder.

It was fun!

3. What do you like to do in the playground at Kinder?

Play mythical superheroes!

4. What makes you laugh at Kinder?

Everything!

5. What do you think about going to school after the holidays?

I'm so excited. It's going to be so much fun!



Zoe

1. What was your favourite thing to do at Kinder this year?

Play love monsters with my friend Ruby. And I liked listening to stories.

2. Tell us about Bush Kinder.

I enjoyed finding things to put in the bush kinder book.

3. What do you like to do in the playground at Kinder?

I like to go down the slide and then run back up it.

4. What makes you laugh at Kinder?

Saying jokes with my friends.

5. What do you think about going to school after the holidays?

I feel excited and a bit nervous.

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Caledonian Primary School

From the Principal's Desk

To the Brown Hill community,

Although 2020 has been a challenging year, we are incredibly proud of what our staff and students have achieved.

This year we have seen student learning continue during the remote periods using technologies in new and innovative ways that have pushed us to learn and adapt. We have redeveloped our learning sequences and enhanced our wellbeing approach to reflect the challenging circumstances. Resilience has continued to be a theme and we could not be more pleased with the result!

However, it is important to reflect on the reality that this year has not been ideal. Challenges have faced us all at work and home and with our relationships. As we approach the end of the year our teachers are exhausted. We have asked them to do more this year than ever before.

They have been required to pivot to remote learning and then back again. Twice. This is not a simple

task. Our work for decades (and, yes, some of us have been at this for decades) has been consistent. We come to work, front up to a class of kids and teach. This year we were required to become something different, remote teachers!

This may not sound much to you but for us it was like going from being a builder to a plumber - same industry, different job with a different set of skills. Needless to say, we didn't have time to do a full apprenticeship in this new industry. We just had to make it work!

All through this our team have kept on going, with positivity and commitment to student learning and wellbeing.

This will clearly continue into 2021 with the new tutor initiative which will support student learning. Our teachers are diligently designing student learning for next year and beyond, with a specific focus on English and Mathematics.

It must be said that nothing was better than getting back on-site in Term Four.

Schools are only great places as a result of the people who contribute to them. This is students, staff and parents. As we

welcomed our students back we were relieved to see that they had continued to learn, they returned quickly to routine and reconnected with their peers and teachers.

As I greeted parents every day at the gate, it was also clear that many were relieved to get back to some sort of normal. And, dare I say, to get a little break from having everyone at home!

Having worked in quite a few schools there is one really good way to do a health check of any school and if you know a teacher you can check to see if this is true! It's playtime - and, specifically, if teachers dread it or love it. We all go out not sure what is going to happen, with a few hundred children in a yard there is potential for some very bad choices. But here at Caledonian we don't dread yard duty. Every day we head out and it's OK! Kids are happy, they are playing, there are few issues and most of the time when "on patrol" we are just hanging out with kids. It is the best sign of a happy, healthy and fantastic school.

I wish everyone all the best for the Christmas period and hope you all get some time to settle back to some sort of normal.

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LABOR MEMBER
FOR WENDOUREE
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As I have said many times this year - wash your hands, sanitise often and be safe!

Ben

Ben Moody,
Principal, Caledonian Primary
School
5332 6955
caledonian.ps@education.vic.gov.au
caledonianps.vic.edu.au

Birds of Caledonian Primary School

Hello everyone. In this piece of writing I will inform you all of the many species of birdlife that inhabit our school (and no, Pelicans are not counted). Enjoy!

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Size: 43 cm long, 350 grams

Delightfully intelligent and tame, the Magpie needs no introduction.

While in swooping season these birds have gained quite a negative reputation, otherwise they are one of the most loved birds in Australia.

They are pied in colour (black and white) with a sharp, pointed beak ideal for digging up insects - or ripping flesh from bone. While they are charming in our perspective, Magpies are the largest most widespread predatory avian species in Ballarat.



An Australian Magpie at Caledonian Primary School. Photographer: Max



A flock of Galahs at Caledonian Primary School. Photographer: Max

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

Size: 37 cm long, 120 grams

The red wattle bird is a familiar large honeyeater with a grey-brown colour scheme, a yellow belly and characteristic red wattles. Fast, aggressive and territorial, it's a common sight in the school, occasionally nesting in trees. It can and will chase off any bird coming too close to its nest - even large ravens!

Crimson Rosella

Size: 37 cm long, 120 grams

The Crimson Rosella is a medium-large parrot, mostly red with a blue cheek, blue wings, a blue tail and a black scalloped pattern on the back/nape. The Rosella is a common visitor, sometimes even nesting in the ceiling of a Caledonian's art room. Females have a green back and are sometimes confused with the adolescents which have mottled green all over.

Galah

Size: 35 cm long, 300 grams

The Rose-Breasted Cockatoo (commonly known as the 'Galah') is the most common and widespread Cockatoo species in the world. Flocks of these small Cockatoos feed off grass seeds on the oval, often when the grass is wet. They also roost in trees.

Instantly recognisable, it is mostly rose/salmon pink, with light grey wings, a grey tail, and a whitish cap/stubby whitish crest that sometimes has a light pink wash. Males have black/brown eyes and females have pink eyes.

Rainbow lorikeet

Size: 30 cm long, 120 grams

The Rainbow Lorikeet is a bright, rambunctious and loud parrot that visits Caledonian school grounds to drink nectar on the gumtrees. They have a blue head, orange eyes, a coral red/orange beak, a lime collar, a green back, nape, wings and tail, a reddish orange chest and a blue belly. It's easy to see why they are called 'Rainbow Lorikeets'.

They are shorter than the Rosella. However, they share a similar body mass. They often call in flight and they are extremely fast with rapid wing beats. The males and females are almost identical.

There are many other bird species in our school, from less common inhabitants such as Sparrows, Blackbirds, Ravens, Ibis and Wood Ducks, to very rare birds such as Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos, a once a year visit at best. Thank you all for reading my piece. I hope you all have a great day.

Max

Grade Six, Caledonian Primary School

Woodmans Hill Secondary College

From the Principal's desk

As it draws to a close, there will no doubt be a range of articles and TV shows springing forth, summing up observers' thoughts on the 'survival of 2020'!

It is certainly true that we are living through unprecedented times and that we have faced more social upheaval than, arguably, any society since WWII.

As a high school principal, I have seen the impact that periods of prolonged isolation has had on young people with every year group, in some way, suffering from their lack of connection with peers, teachers and the school community.

Whilst 2020 has been incredibly challenging for all of us, I will leave it feeling fortunate to be part of a school community that has shown incredible unity in the face of considerable adversity. In 2020, I have seen parents and carers working together with the school like at no other time in my 25 years of teaching.

I have seen teachers adapt their practice overnight and witnessed their dedication to their students and the extra hours they have been willing to put in, in order to provide online learning—something the global education system has struggled to implement for the majority of the 21st Century.

I have seen the incredible resilience of students: their struggles, their uncertainties and



their overriding need to belong.

I am so proud of the perseverance shown by our Year Twelves and the same can be said for our Year Eleven and Year Ten students who have been exemplary in the way that they have stepped up into the senior school over the course of the last two weeks.

Our Junior School students have become more settled as the term has progressed and are finishing really strongly. Recent easing of restrictions mean that (at the time of writing) I get to properly farewell the graduating class of 2020 tomorrow and the following week greet our newest enrolments as part of a revised Orientation

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Day for Year Six students.

These events and these milestones are what makes a school a school: the coming together as a community to celebrate the achievements and successes of our students is incredibly important to us all at Woodmans Hill.

2020 has been tough, but we are lucky to have brilliant staff, amazing and supportive parents and exceptional students: within these three factors we have what we need to continue to grow and improve in the future.

I hope that my community has a well-deserved rest over the holidays and comes back ready to make 2021 a real success for all of our students.

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



Ballarat Community Garden

On Saturday 28 November, the Ballarat Community Garden (BCG) ran a 'Festive Plants and Preserves Sale' at the community garden. The garden members would normally have attended the Ballarat Show in early November, where they usually showcase what happens at a community garden and raise much-needed funds. This year the Ballarat Show did not run due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant the BCG were unable to take the opportunity to raise those funds, so they decided to have a small 'show' of their own.

The hard-working group of volunteers had been preparing for a few weeks and planning how it would run. They potted up plants and made preserves and special festive-themed items to sell. The garden membership was asked if they had plants or preserves to donate, and the stock grew bigger. By the time 28 November came around there were plants and other items aplenty.

Volunteers were recruited to run the stalls and ensure that COVID-19 regulations were observed to



Ballarat locals supporting the Ballarat Community Garden at their Festive Plants and Preserves Sale. Photographer: Sheilagh Kentish

keep everyone safe. A substantial number of gardeners were present during the morning and everything went smoothly. It was so good to see people happily choosing plants and asking questions about their purchases. The two hours went very quickly and thanks to the generosity of the local people, the BCG made over \$2000.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us, we appreciate your generosity and loyalty. The money raised will go towards improving gardening facilities for our members.

Congratulations also to the hard-

working team who put the sale together, with support from the general garden membership. What a fantastic day!

Sheilagh Kentish
Ballarat Community Garden
0417 347 395
sheilaghkentish@hotmail.com

Advertise

This newsletter is a well-respected, fantastic community project. For advertising and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

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Our local Neighbourhood Houses



Ballarat North Neighbourhood House

Ballarat North Neighbourhood House will continue online classes until Friday 18 December 2020. In 2021 some classes will be face-to-face others will remain online due to the size of the class and adhering to social distancing rules in place. The office will remain closed to walk-ins until further notice. Please contact Alison with questions or to register.

2020

Android Tablet

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
Wednesday 9 and 16 December
1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Have fun and stay safer with your Android tablet. We show you how to use the camera to take great photos, how to block nuisance messages and much more.

Thursday is the Colour Purple PicCollage App

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
Thursday 10 December
10.00 am - 12.00 noon
Available on the App. Store and Google Play

Simple steps to make your photos come alive come and learn how it works and what it does in the free version. Have some photos of purple items, scenery, flowers or objects ready to go.

Apple Desk and Laptop Basics for Mac Users

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
Tuesday 15 December
10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Explore Apple desktop security, privacy and accessibility. Learn to manage files, attachments, storage and more.

Watching and Podcasts Online

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
Tuesday 15 December
1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Learn how to watch TV online and access catch-up services such as ABC iView, SBS on Demand and Freeview. The course will also teach you how to access podcasts.

2021

Zoom

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
Tuesday 2 February
10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Learn all the features of Zoom. We will help you access Zoom if this is your first time.

Affinity Photo

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
8 weeks
Tuesdays: 2 February - 30 March
1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

No experience needed. Learn how to use Affinity and photo editing with detailed class notes every week. You will need to purchase

the program on a PC or Mac (this class is not for iPad users).

Affinity Publisher

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
4 weeks
Thursdays: 4 - 25 February
10.00 am - 12.00 noon
Registrations close Friday 29 January

Bring your vision to life with Affinity Publisher, the next generation of professional publishing software. You will need to download and purchase Affinity Publisher on your computer or tablet.

Plan your Digital Legacy

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
4 weeks
Thursdays: 4 - 25 February
1.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Registrations close Friday 29 January

You can help your loved ones by planning what will happen to your digital presence after you pass away.

Digital Mentor

Online using Zoom
Free of charge
Wednesday 27 January and 3 February
9.30 am - 1.00 pm
Registrations close Tuesday 19 January 2021

You will learn to support people through their first steps to using digital devices and the internet, You will need to attend both sessions.

WaterColour

6 Crompton Street, Soldiers Hill
\$55.00 per person
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4 weeks
Thursdays: 28 January - 18 February

10.00 am - 12.00 noon
Limited to eight people
Registrations close Thursday 21
January 2021

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beginners.

Alison Demuth
Co-ordinator, Ballarat North
Neighbourhood House
0491 753 307
Alison.Demuth@salvationarmy.org.au
6 Crompton Street, Soldiers Hill
Tuesday to Friday: 9.00 am-3.00 pm
Currently closed, operating remotely.



Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

During Term Four, all of our staff completed 'Be Connected Digital Mentor' training online through the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House. We also ran a series of 'Be Connected' online classes to help local older Australians (aged 50+) to improve their digital skills. It has been wonderful to be able to help people to increase their confidence with both getting online and using their digital devices.

If you are aged 50+ and interested in improving your online and digital skills, please get in touch with us. We are hoping to run some more 'Be Connected' classes in 2021 and would like to know which topics are of most interest to our local community.



Register to attend by emailing
engagement@ballarateastnh.org.au
or calling/texting 0422 612 052



We have also enjoyed being part of the new 'Ballarat Community News Publications Network' and teaching the 'Writing Community Newsletters' course through the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. We hope to run the eight-session course again in Term One 2021. Interested? Please get in touch.

Our team is looking forward to seeing people face-to-face in 2021. We are working through our options for offering COVID-safe group activities such as tai chi, yoga, drawing classes and walking groups. The best way to find out when activities become available is to join our mailing list (visit:

ballarateastnh.org.au). You can also follow us on Facebook.

We would love to sit down with you for a catch up and a cuppa, so jump online on Thursday 17 December from 10.00 am - 11.00 am. Please contact us to register or if you need help learning to use Zoom to join in.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Manager,
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House
Monday to Friday during school term:
9.00 am - 5.00 pm
0422 612 052
reception@ballarateastnh.org.au
facebook.com/BallaratEastNH/
ballarateastnh.org.au

Ballarat Wholefoods Collective

Family Christmas Pudding

The Ballarat Wholefoods Collective stock 95% of the ingredients (great products) for my family's traditional Christmas pudding recipe.

Mum (Ann McAlpin) has traditionally made the pudding on

Cup Day every year. When I asked her for the recipe she photographed this well-used cutting from a magazine that is so old it still uses pounds and ounces for measurements. She did have a helpful note jotted underneath that said 2 oz = 70g. Mum always said the grated carrot made the texture lighter, less dense than most, despite which I still never managed a second helping on the day.

The recipe featured Marville

margarine which mum always substituted with butter. As for Mother's Choice flour, mum had married a 'McAlpin' so was obliged to use McAlpin's Flour for as long as it was available!

At the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective you can source excellent quality organic and biodynamic products, 'Lard Ass' butter, free range eggs, panela, raisins, sultanas and currants, dates, almonds, carrots, lemons, plain flour, mixed spice, nutmeg, cinnamon and bicarb soda.

I hope your puddings are enjoyed and attract many compliments this season.

Sally McAlpin,
Ballarat Wholefoods Collective
ballaratwholefoodscollective@gmail.com
ballaratwholefoodscollective.org

Brown Hill Senior Citizens

The Brown Hill Senior Citizens will be meeting at the Eureka Stockade gardens on Monday 7 December at 12.00 noon for a picnic lunch and catch-up. Members will bring their own picnic. The first Monday in December is the Brown Hill Seniors' birthday and the year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary. Unfortunately COVID-19 has interrupted the club's plans for a big celebration at the Hall. We must all stay safe which means a COVID-19-restricted catch-up and look forward to celebrating our 51st anniversary in 2021.

Dianne Eden, President
Brown Hill Senior Citizen's Club
5331 1769



Ann McAlpin's Christmas Pudding recipe. Photographer: Sally McAlpin

Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Clubs

Christmas Cake Sales

The Brown Hill and District Lions Club annual fundraiser of Christmas Cake sales has started. This is a major event for the Club. All money raised is donated back into the local community.

New Lions member, Andrew Johnson, and Club Secretary, Barry Davis, along with other members have been busy at our stall in Central Square selling cakes and puddings. We have a wheelbarrow full of groceries being raffled, valued at \$500. Tickets cost \$2.00. The raffle will be drawn on 24 December and will be delivered that day.

Call in to Central Square and say "Hello" to our members, buy a cake and a raffle ticket. We would love to see you all.

If you are unable to make it to Central Square feel free to call Barry on 0418 580 971 to arrange any purchases.

Australia Day

The Brown Hill Lions and Lioness clubs will host their annual Australia Day breakfast on Tuesday 26 January from 8.00 am - 10.00 am at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve. Egg and bacon sandwiches and drinks will be available for a donation. All welcome.

Merry Christmas to all from the Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Club members.

Barry Davis,
Secretary, Brown Hill Lions Club
0418 580 971



Brown Hill Lions Club member Andrew Johnson and Club Secretary Barry Davis selling Christmas Cakes at Central Square, Ballarat. Image supplied.

New Brown Hill Residents

Are you new to Brown Hill? Are you wanting to know more about our great suburb?

Jump online to find out more at our Brown Hill Community Online Hub.

brownhill.vic.au

Read the newsletter; discover the pool; find a local business; join a sports club or connect with a community group.

There's a lot happening in Brown Hill!

The Brown Hill Community Newsletter and the Brown Hill Community Online Hub are projects of the Brown Hill Progress Association created with support from the City of Ballarat through the Engaging Communities Program / Brown Hill Partnerships.

Contact us:
bhpa@brownhill.vic.au
newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

Auskick

Auskick is being planned again for Term Two 2021. Auskick Centres in Brown Hill are at Russell Square (East Point) and Brown Hill Recreation Reserve. Registrations are available online. Visit: play.afl/auskick/ aflauskick@afl.com.au

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Christmas is almost upon us and it's time to break out the festive cheer!

Present this coupon when you purchase a 6-pack of our delicious Fruit Mince or Lemon Tarts and receive a loaf of bread up to the value of \$5.00. FREE.

Thank you to everyone in our great community who has supported us throughout the year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2021.

*Available for a limited time only.
Shop 6, 73 Victoria Street,
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Valid at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill only.
Subject to availability. Limit 1/customer/day.*



Brown Hill Uniting Church

Thought for the month

"... I bring good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2: 10, 11.

Use of our buildings

Now that restrictions are easing, use of our buildings is resuming with limited numbers. Our main problem is the amount of space required. By the time this newsletter comes out, user groups will have been contacted with details of the latest COVID-19 restrictions and what they need to do to keep everyone safe. Our premises will also have been cleaned and disinfected.

Sunday Morning and Midweek Worship

We are excited by the prospect of being able to worship together again after so long, but with very limited numbers. Midweek Communion in the hall will begin again on 2 December with attendees booking in. As from 6 December, the community may see worshippers gathering in the grounds rather than inside the church. Please pray for suitable weather! On 13 December we have been invited to join with Central Uniting Church in Advent Worship at the North Gardens

opposite Lake Wendouree.

To enable as many people as possible to attend Brown Hill Uniting Church on Christmas Day at 9.00 am, we will again be worshipping outside.

Unfortunately we will be unable to hold our usual Community BBQ and Carol service this year and will miss this connection with the community and with the school children. We look forward to better times in 2021.

Our accredited Lay Preacher, Jim de Jong, continues to offer a weekly online worship service and other resources on his website. Visit: dejongs.id.au/home/church.

An online Carol Service will be included on 16 December. Ballarat Central Uniting Church offers live-streamed services each Sunday at 10.00 am. Search: Ballarat Central Uniting Church.

Ballarat Regional Healthcare Chaplaincy are providing a half-hour Chapel Service streamed live from Central Uniting Church and aimed at those in hospital, Aged Care or isolated at home. This will now be live-streamed on Tuesdays at 2.00 pm and is available to watch at a later date. Visit: ballaratchaplaincy.com.au.

We will keep you advised when our other activities can recommence.

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. Non-perishable food

items are always welcome. They can be dropped into the Uniting Office in Dana Street, between Lydiard Street South and Albert Street. If you are part of a mask-making cottage industry, face masks for distribution to disadvantaged families would be welcome.

Uniting emergency relief services remain open for those in need of essential food and toiletry items. With the continued help of volunteers and frontline staff, community meals programs have kept going, with nutritious lunchtime meals from Breezeway in Dana Street placed in take-away containers to limit the number of people in one space.

Christmas wishes

Our prayer for you all is that the Christ-child will bring you His gifts hope, peace, joy and love and that you will be able to celebrate with those you love.

*Liz Mason, Brown Hill Uniting Church
16 Thompson Street, Brown Hill
(corner of Humffray Street North)*

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Dr. Sundaram Sivamalai (Honorable Chief Guest for The Day), Rakesh Patel (Treasurer), Elangovan Shanmugam (President), Manoj Khandelwal (Vice-President), Geetha Stephen (Secretary), Bandhavi Naga (Assistant Secretary), Harisankar Parippaayillam (Committee Member) at the Ballarat Indian Association Inc. Virtual Diwali 2020 Celebration. Image supplied.

Diwali

The Festival of Lights for the people of Ballarat

We asked the Ballarat Indian Association (BIA) to tell us about their 'Virtual Diwali Celebration 2020' on Saturday 14 November 2020.

Diwali is the festival of lights, an annual celebration that signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. It's a joyful milestone celebrated by people across the world irrespective of their culture or religion. This festivity has been celebrated in Ballarat for the past 12 years.

Considering the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, where a large number of people gathering is not allowed, we decided to conduct the Diwali celebration virtually to lift up the spirit of the community in this unusual time. All the events as part of the celebration were hosted virtually via the Association's YouTube channel and Facebook page on 14 November 2020 at 6.00 pm for an hour and twenty five minutes.

All the events, which included lighting of the traditional Indian lamp, message from Honorable Guest / President, Bollywood dancing, singing, messages from various community representatives were all planned / pre-organised and filmed at Ballarat South Community Hub on 7 November 2020 for the broadcast. There were a couple of outdoor filmings too and the team was extremely cautious to follow all the safety measures indoor and outdoor as per the guidelines set by the Government for the safety of each person who was part of the event.

The Virtual Diwali Celebration 2020 was premiered in the Ballarat Indian Association's YouTube Channel with more than 830 views and Facebook page with 645 views. (Search: 'Ballarat Indian Association Inc. Virtual Diwali 2020 Celebration').

The Executive Committee Members 2020 of the BIA (pictured above) and Jag C (Assistant Treasurer), Abhijit K (Publicity and Media Officer), Rajinder G (Youth Officer), Raman M (Women's Officer) and Xavier M

(Committee Member) are very pleased and content that they were able to give the moment of celebration for the community members to watch the event with their loved ones around in the comfort of their homes during this unusual time.

The President of BIA mentioned that the team is always spirited up to serve the community at their best on all occasions and in all situations and that 'We are here for YOU'.

Geetha Stephen, Secretary, Ballarat Indian Association Inc.

Bronze sponsor



Ballarat

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

YOUR TEAM YOUR STORE

Newsletter recognised in State awards

Well done to everyone involved with the Brown Hill Community Newsletter for being recognised at the state-level in three of the nine award categories at the recent Community Newspapers Association of Victoria (CNAV) conference (held online).



Best Sports Reporting

Winner

Brown Hill Community Newsletter (Edition 23), 'Abrar Learns to Swim in the Brown Hill Pool'

Judge: Lisa Dennis

"It was a standout just for the story alone. It was a wonderful story about former Kuwait native, Abrar Dham, and her connection with the Brown Hill Pool. It was a really well-written piece and it really, truly encapsulated what it is to write community news stories. It was really moving - I was pretty much moved to tears actually. It was a lovely story about how Abrar and her family had been embraced by the pool community at Brown Hill and, ultimately, they encouraged her to learn to swim, which is a skill she hadn't learnt. Now she is able to do that with her daughters which is just beautiful. Great yarn and that's what it's all about, community news. So well done Brown Hill Community Newsletter."



Best Feature Story

Finalist 2

Brown Hill Community Newsletter (Edition 22), 'Brown Hill Kindergarten's Christine Calls It A Day' (pages 1,13,14)

Judge: Michael Smith

"This is exactly the sort of story that should go on the front page. This is a woman who has devoted her professional life to the education, at kindergarten level, of young children. This is her retirement and the story beautifully shows us pictures as well as tales of everything that Christine has done. There was a lovely big photo on the front page and I loved that the story, straight away in the first paragraph, told us exactly what was happening after all of these years and all of these schools and all of these children that she supported, Christine is retiring. Then straight away, in the second and third paragraphs, [the author] quotes three young children saying what's so great about Christine. Each one of them give us an amazing quote. Of course, children are so honest and truthful and fresh and raw that it just really nails the wonderfulness of Christine and the role that she has had and we get that right up front, the value of Christine in these children's lives. The story then flows beautifully into all the things that Christine has done. Then it goes back to some people

who are older now who can remember Christine as their teacher and the impact it had on them. As well as mentioning some of the innovative things that Christine did such as establishing a bush kinder, which was very progressive, and has become a very forward-looking tool in teaching children about nature but also bonding with them. What is really powerful about this story is the impact that this woman has had on these children's lives, when they were a child and then as an older adult. Exactly the sort of story for the front page."



Best Photograph

Finalist 2

Brown Hill Community Newsletter (Edition 25), 'Lucky Beyond Words'

Photographer: Jimmy Rushton

Judge: Brendan McCarthy

"The picture of Victoria Rushton and her two children, Hazel and Fletcher, really jumps off the page. It makes great use of tight framing and a narrow depth of field to exclude any distracting detail. Beyond that, and even more importantly, there's a real connection between the photographer and the subject and hence, between the photographer and the reader. Every element in the photograph adds to the story, and there is nothing there to distract from it. This is portrait photography at its simplest and its best."