

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 29, February - April 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.



Brown Hill locals, brothers Bill (5) and Jack (7) heading to cricket. Image supplied.

Jack and Bill have a blast at Brown Hill Oval

Brothers, Jack and Bill, live in Brown Hill and have been enjoying participating in the Woolworths Cricket Blast at Brown Hill Oval, thanks to the Brown Hill Cricket Club.

This is Jack's second year participating. He says, "I love learning about bowling and how to catch the ball properly. The teachers and helpers are great."

Brown Hill Progress Association Committee member and life member of the Brown Hill Cricket Club, John O'Brien, volunteered his time again to help local kids learn some cricket skills. John says, "Cricket is a great game for boys and girls. The Brown Hill Cricket Club members and I enjoy making cricket fun for everyone."

Jack's little brother, Bill,

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 16: 4.30 - 6.00 pm
Ballarat 'Our Future' -
Community Conversation,
Brown Hill Recreation Reserve.
(p.14)

Friday 26: Garage Sale at
Caledonian Primary School for
Cayden's Greatest Shave. (p.6)

Friday 26: Brown Hill Uniting
Church Op. Shop opens. (p.20)

... continued p.2

Bring back the Brown Hill Post Office

The Brown Hill Progress Association wants all Brown Hill residents and business owners to sign our petition to bring back the Brown Hill Post Office. See p.7

participated for the first time this year. He says, "I love playing cricket with my big brother and cousins and learning how to bat." Jack and Bill's mate, Antanas, also participated and said his favourite session was the last one when the kids got to play some cricket against all of the parents! Read more about the Brown Hill Cricket Club on p.23.

...continued from p.1

MARCH

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

Saturday 6 - Sunday 28: Ballarat Begonia Festival, various locations. See: ballaratbegoniafestival.com.au

Sunday 7: Clean Up Australia Day. See: cleanupaustaliaday.org.au

Monday 8: Labour Day.

Friday 12: Caledonian Primary School, Cayden's Greatest Shave. (p.6)

Sunday 28: Neighbour Day. (p.19)

APRIL

Monday 5: Articles for Edition 30 due (see below for details).

Tuesday 6: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting. All welcome.

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11: The North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) Dog Trials, Brown Hill Oval. (p.16)

Friday 16: Delivery of Edition 30 across Brown Hill.

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.

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 (early) December.

Our volunteer team:

Editorial Advisory Committee: Geoff Dickson, Brian Green and Sarah Greenwood-Smith

Editorial Support: Hazen Cleary and Sally McAlpin

Accounts Manager: Andrea Perrin

Proof Readers: Ben Harrap and Peter Morton

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 (December: due late November) 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 30 articles are due by **Monday 5 April 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

I was very excited to hear that Brown Hill locals, Jenine and Michael Harris, are planning to open the Water Shed Café this year. It will be at 69 Water Street (a few doors down from the new Early Learning Centre) overlooking the Warrenheip Creek. Whilst the café is under construction a coffee caravan will operate out the front. Make sure you go and say hello!

Both the Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) and the City of Ballarat (COB) are keen to hear your ideas about what you love about Brown Hill and what could be done to make it an even more awesome place to live! Take 10 minutes to complete the 'Ballarat - Our Future' survey for the COB (p.14) and send a copy of your ideas to the BHPA. Then we can work together and connect with our State and Federal government representatives to help improve Brown Hill for everyone.

I was recently interviewed about our fantastic newsletter for a great, free community program called 'Let's Pivot' (p.19). It is being delivered online until 24 March with the aim of supporting community members to adapt to the challenges that came along in 2020. Join in!

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The site of the new Water Shed Café on Water Street, Brown Hill. Image supplied.

My dear friend, Paula, wrote to me over Christmas about our newsletter. She lives in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales and loves to have a look at it online. She wrote, *"What a privilege for your community to have a newsletter. It really unites people. As of May this year, we no longer had a local paper. The 'Coffs Coast Advocate' had been going for 100 years but, like many regional weekly papers, it was seen to be no longer viable. The community was devastated.*

Fortunately a group of locals have started up another weekly paper. What a success! It has gone from a 10,000 distribution to 50,000. It is not home-delivered but positioned at various locations around the area. People have to find their own copies ... and they do! We now feel connected again.

Keep up the good work!"

If you want to join our volunteer team, we are looking for some new members in our delivery team. Please get in touch!

Thank you to our sponsors:

Gold: Andrew Johnson - Maxwell Johnson Real Estate. **Silver:** Mount Xavier Golf and Bowls Club Inc. and The Hair Room By Elaine.

Bronze: Ballarat Treeworks, Bakers Delight Bakery Hill, Cornerstone Learning, Dazzlin' Doggie Country Village, Jigsaw Puzzles Australia, Matt Wilson Electrical, Neil Pollard Plumbing, RCC Commercial Cleaning and The AFL Store - Ballarat. We would also like to thank Catherine King and Juliana Addison for their ongoing support.

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



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Brown Hill Progress Association

Brown Hill Progress Association highlights community issues.

In January 2021, the Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) wrote to the six City of Ballarat (COB) Councillors who represent the Central and North Wards. We highlighted issues of which members of the Association believed the Councillors needed to be aware. We sought their support to achieve further action and resolution.

Here are some extracts from the letter: "At the Brown Hill Progress Association meeting held on 5 January 2021 it was agreed to send you an update on several issues, some long standing, that we believe you need to be aware of as Councillors representing the residents of Brown Hill. Some are for your information only. With others, it would be appreciated if you could offer assistance in furthering our endeavours.

The issues are as follows:

1) Brown Hill Local Area Plan

In December 2017, the City of

Advertisement



Ballarat agreed to prepare a Local Area Plan for Brown Hill. Community consultation started in mid-2018 with a "Future Growth Scenario Paper" put out for comment in the beginning of 2019. The BHPA developed a seven-page response to this request in April 2019. We have received no formal acknowledgement and no further progress has been made. It now appears that the plan has been put on hold. Please tell us why.

2) Traffic Management on Humffray Street North and Water Street in relation to local kindergarten and school children.

Charles Cahill, the COB Traffic Project Manager, rang the BHPA secretary in mid-2020 to acknowledge a letter sent to him from a BHPA committee member. She is a concerned mother of young school children attempting to cross Humffray Street North every day to walk or ride to school. We thank him for his call back but really hoped for some commitment for improvement or action by now.

3) Lack of bus shelters along the Brown Hill Bus Route (#15)

Bus shelters were not installed at many new bus-stops when Public Transport Victoria (PTV) introduced the new Ballarat Bus Network several years ago as funding was not included. Is funding for provision of and improvements to the bus shelters in the Brown Hill route included in the current and ongoing COB budget model?

4) Disappointment in the late opening of the Brown Hill Community Pool this summer.

After managing the pool for the last 14 years, we met with the Council Water Facility management team in early March 2020 and handed back the management to council. The pool remained closed until 1 January."

To date we have had no written response from the Councillors specifically addressing the issues above. However, we would like to thank those Councillors who took the time to give us a call to better understand these issues. We will continue to pursue responses and hopefully positive progress and resolution for these long-standing issues. The community will be kept informed via this newsletter.

If you would like to view the full

CATHERINE KING

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

STANDING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Labor

03 5338 8123

CatherineKingMP

Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

@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, wearing a light-colored blazer over a white top. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

4 Authorised by Catherine King MP, ALP, 5 Lydiard St Nth Ballarat VIC 3350

letter and further background go to the Brown Hill Community Online Hub:
brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-progress-association/.

Edition 30 of the newsletter will have greater detail concerning the handover and future management of the pool.

Ballarat: Our Future

On p.14 you can read about this engagement project being run by the City of Ballarat in February 2021. The aim is to give "Ballarat residents the chance to share with the City of Ballarat their priorities for the future of our city."

We encourage all Brown Hill residents to respond and send a copy of your ideas to us:
bhpa@brownhill.vic.au

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

Brown Hill FireAware

BUSHFIRE TIP: When a bushfire is close by you should get on your roof in shorts and a tee-shirt and see what's going on... right? Wrong!

Firstly, your roof is no place to be

Silver Sponsor



FireAware Mascot, Penny Platypus

in any hot windy weather – more than likely you will fall off and create more chaos around you. Skip the media shots - being on your roof is an unwise place to be!

Secondly, shorts and a tee-shirt are not the clothing one should be wearing if a bushfire is close by.

You should be wearing what is called protective clothing - long pants and a long-sleeved shirt or overalls made from natural fibres, not synthetics (they melt). Yes, it will be uncomfortable but there is a reason.

What is radiant heat?

Radiant heat can kill. The real risk from a bushfire is the heat generated causing dehydration and heat stroke which can lead to unconsciousness and death.

If you put your hand near an open flame, an electric heater element or electric light bulb, you can feel the radiant heat it generates. Draw your hand away and the amount of heat on your skin decreases. Put something between

your skin and the heat source and again your skin immediately feels cooler. This is the key to protecting yourself from radiant heat in bushfires - distance and shielding protect you from dangerous exposure.

You need to cover up, dress to protect yourself and take refuge from direct heat. In the past people have been caught in bushfires wearing light summer dresses, shorts, singlets and even swimsuits. They usually die without the flames even touching their exposed skin.

Bushfires usually occur on hot days. You and your family may be in shorts or swimsuits and bare feet and sandals. Remember, the deadly effects of radiant heat are increased by the amount of skin exposed to it. So as soon as you know there are bushfires in your area, cover up! Fire fighters wear protective gear to survive. So should you.

To find out more about bushfire behaviour and the risk to Brown Hill visit the 'Be Bushfire Ready' page on the Brown Hill Community Online Hub:
brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-are-you-bushfire-ready/

*Hazen Cleary, Coordinator
Brown Hill Community FireAware
Network
0408 690 493*



7 Sawmill Close
Brown Hill
0434 522 477

Cayden's Greatest Shave



Hi! My name is Cayden Russell and I am 11 years old. Three years ago I decided to grow my hair until Grade Six and then shave it all off to donate it to make wigs and raise money for the Leukemia Foundation through the 'World's Greatest Shave'.



Cayden in Grade Three. Image supplied.

I have been called a girl more times than I can count but I say that I am a boy and tell them why I have long hair.

The time has come and I will be getting my head shaved at the Caledonian Primary School assembly on Friday 12 March 2021.

My goal is to raise \$3000 or more. To do this, we are going to host a Garage Sale at Caledonian Primary



Cayden in Grade Five. Image supplied.

School on Friday 26 February 2021 from 4.00 pm. At the Garage Sale we will be hosting a BBQ and running a raffle. There will also be the Kombi for a Cause coffee van.

Here is a list of business that have so far given raffle donations: Bakers Delight Bakery Hill, Ballarat Bolts and Fasteners, Blank Ink Tattoo, Blue Bell Hotel, Brown Hill Hotel, Burger Brother, Christies Furniture, Collins Booksellers Bridge Mall, Country Kids, Country Roasts Delacombe Town Centre, Discount Chemist Delacombe, Dynamite Cycles, Formosa Gardens, Free Choice, Funbugs, Golf House Hotel, Harvey Norman, Hopscotch, Ishka, Jono & Johno, Just Cuts Delacombe, Just Pawn It, Laser Force/Go Carts, Major League Indoor Sports, Newsagency Howitt Street, Oscars, Priceline Bridge Mall, Regent Cinemas, Robin Hood Hotel, Shep Cannery, Super Cheap Auto, Tatts Delacombe Town Centre, The AFL Store Ballarat, Toyland, Toyworld, Woolworths Delacombe Town Centre, Woolworths Peel Street and there will be more!



Cayden in Grade Six. Image supplied.

Any donations can be dropped off at Toyland in Howitt Street.

Raffle Tickets are available for \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00.

We are also hosting a sausage sizzle at my Futsal club the week before and are looking for support for this.

We will be promoting all businesses which support this fundraiser during the Garage Sale.

Every day another 47 Australians are diagnosed with a blood cancer. That's one Aussie every 31 minutes. Although research is improving survival, sadly an Australian loses their life to blood cancer every two hours. Every dollar will help this fantastic cause. To donate cash search for me here: worldsgreatestshave.com

If you have a donation or want to buy a raffle ticket, please contact my mum, Kristy Russell on 0419 316 124 or kris875@yahoo.com.au.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Cayden Russell, Grade Six, Caledonian Primary School

Bring back the Brown Hill Post Office

Time has passed and we still do not have a post office in Brown Hill. Even though there is real interest from local business owners to create a new location for a post office, nothing is happening.

Back in 2017 the Brown Hill Post Office was closed by Australia Post, via a notice stuck on the Post Office window, advising the community that "the Post Office was required to close at short notice."

In September 2017, the Brown Hill Progress Association contacted Australia Post and subsequently sent a letter to them "seeking

Australia Post's strong assurance that the Brown Hill Post Office *will* be reinstated as quickly as possible." The response received stated: "... will assure you that Australia Post is committed to maintaining a presence in Brown Hill and are currently in the process of trying to identify a suitable partner in order to facilitate this." It is now 2021!

Time for action

The Brown Hill Progress Association has put together a petition to gauge the support from Brown Hill residents for the reinstatement of a functional Brown Hill post office as quickly as possible.

The services and presence that a local post office provides is valued as an essential part of our thriving community. We need residents of Brown Hill and nearby Ballarat

suburbs who value a local post office, to add their name to this petition to show Australia Post that the reinstatement of a Brown Hill post office, as quickly as possible, is a high priority for our community. Four years without one is already too long!

We have an opportunity to make our voices heard to achieve a result that supports the ongoing health and growth of our community and all our neighbours. Will you sign up?

Do you want a post office in Brown Hill?

Electronic petition:
brownhill.vic.au (on homepage)

Written petition: Local shops will have copies to sign.

Andrew Johnson

On behalf of the Brown Hill Progress Association

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Meet our Councillors: Peter Eddy, North Ward

We asked some Grade Five and Six students at Caledonian Primary School what they wanted to know from our recently elected City of Ballarat Councillors.

Thank you for the chance to say hello and to introduce myself more personally to the Brown Hill community, especially our youngest members.

I am married and I live in Ballarat North with my wife Maxine and we have one daughter Jess who is a Primary School teacher in Ballarat.

I worked with Basketball Ballarat for 30 years before I retired in September 2020 and then stood for Council in the North Ward which includes Brown Hill.

Since being elected in November I have had much to learn about how Council operates and to better understand the needs of all the people living in our ward. I am sure that this learning experience will be ongoing.

I have been a community volunteer my whole life, starting as a teenager in basketball coaching and sports administration. I have also been involved on several local and State Not-for-Profit Community Boards over the past 30 years. I encourage you all to think about how you can help in your local community as you grow up.

I love Ballarat, our location, our outstanding services, as well as our affordable housing and



Cr Peter Eddy. Image supplied.

lifestyle which we must protect as we grow and evolve.

I am very keen to make sure that areas such as Brown Hill and Miners Rest enjoy the same opportunities for upgraded facilities and amenities as the new growth areas in Ballarat.

1. Can we have an indoor pool in Brown Hill?

I think that Indoor Pools are a great asset to any community. Unfortunately, they are very expensive to build and operate which is why most towns only have one public indoor pool for the whole community to share. I hope that you can all have the opportunity to visit the Ballarat Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Gillies Street.

2. Could we have a dog park in Brown Hill?

I think Dog Parks are a terrific community meeting place, not only for the dogs but also for their owners. I will have a talk to the Council officers about what could be considered for the Brown Hill area in our future planning.

3. Is it possible to have a basketball court for community use? Or a stadium with a basketball court.

Most areas in Ballarat share indoor courts with either schools

or community centres. I would like to see the opportunity for students to be able to use the Woodman's Hill Secondary College courts for some out-of-school-hours times.

There are also new half basketball court areas being developed around Ballarat in public spaces and I will ask the Council officers what is planned for Brown Hill. I will keep in touch via the community newsletter.

4. Can Brown Hill have a bigger shopping centre?

After visiting the Brown Hill area in recent months I also agree that it would be much better for families if there were more businesses within walking or bicycle distance of their homes. I think it is important that future planning for the area includes a focus on improving services and local amenities.

5. Can we have more bike tracks – perhaps on Water Street?

Again this sounds like a terrific idea and one that would make it easier for young people to move around Brown Hill independently. I will add this to my list of matters to follow-up for you.

Brown Hill is very lucky to have a great community-minded volunteer group in the Brown Hill Progress Association that works hard to make sure that the issues that matter most to your community are put before both the Councillors and staff as necessary. I look forward to working with them to get the best outcomes possible for Brown Hill.

*Cr Peter Eddy
North Ward Councillor
0437 773 691
PeterEddy@ballarat.vic.gov.au*

Nerrina Wetlands Walk and Talk

The Friends of Yarrowee recently started a working bee group in the Nerrina Wetlands with the Brown Hill Lions Club.

Although I have been running and walking along the Yarrowee River Trail north of central Ballarat for years, with the creek on one side of me and the wetlands on the other, I always assumed that they were linked at some point. No. They aren't. The Little Bendigo Creek also flows through the Nerrina wetlands without contributing any water to the system. On Sunday 6 December, Gavin Cerini, the man who designed the Nerrina Wetlands, gave a walk-and-talk during which I discovered this and many other things of interest.

The wetland area closer to town is one hectare in size, the other is three and apart from the rain that falls directly on the wetland, there is a catchment area of only one hectare. Hence, it usually looks rather dry. Gavin designed the wetland for the Brown Hill Progress Association in 1995 and it was constructed in 1996. A pipe under Hillcrest Road at the point that the trail connects was meant to bring water from eight hectares of the Monte Christo Reserve but council have not maintained it. Four wheel drivers have severed the link and a bank and culvert will now need to be constructed at Rotten Gully on the other side of the road to bring the stormwater into the wetlands. The little channel on the left side of the track (when moving south) that

connects Hillcrest Road with the Yarrowee River is also lacking important maintenance that would see much needed water move into the wetlands. Towards the Yarrowee River end of this track there is an overflow pipe that goes under the track to control the flow of water in a flood event as the larger area of wetland is one metre higher than the smaller area. The only time this has happened was in the floods of 2011. There was an old trotting track encircling a higher area that was used to create the island in the middle of the larger wetland area when it is full of water. The Ainley Street corner of the wetlands had a pond in it with a sink hole that was plugged with clay during construction to prevent unwanted drainage.

Sludge

When you cross Ainley Street and look up to your left there is a cliff in the hill that is a result of sluicing during the gold mining period. Gavin reinforced for us the environmental destruction of gold mining for the river system in Ballarat. Contemporary records show an estimated 6000 cubic yards of sludge travelling down the Yarrowee River in a single year. The Chinese market gardeners built levee banks to protect their garden beds from it. Lake Connewarre is half filled with sludge. When the Yarrowee River was put into underground drains through central Ballarat, from Eastern Oval to the Hill Street mill, it was straightened and shortened by half its length over that distance. Certainly the landscape we see today bears very little resemblance to the chains-of-ponds and swampy areas that would probably have been the

Yarrowee in pre-colonial days.

Fauna

In the past, Gavin has been instrumental in building informal weirs along the Yarrowee River in an effort to slow the flow of water and bank it up into a series of pools thus making it a more conducive environment for native fauna. Ten years ago a platypus was found at a property adjoining the river in Stawell Street North. Unfortunately, Gavin does not believe there are any living there now. Nor have there been any koala sightings on the Ballarat side of the freeway since that went through. There are, however, a group of wallabies that shelter in a privately-owned and neglected (weedy) gully just below the phone towers in the Monte Christo Reserve and these are often seen in the less-visited areas of the Nerrina Wetlands.

The weather was reasonably kind to us, the walk was invigorating and Gavin was both very well-informed and an excellent communicator. The half-a-dozen of us who continued on to the Brown Hill Hotel for a drink afterwards all agreed that it was a very worthwhile morning and we all increased our knowledge of our beautiful creek and the wetlands that gain no water from it.

*Kath Chapman, President
Friends of Yarrowee*

Nerrina Wetlands

On-going working bees

Every Tuesday, 9.00 am - 11.00 am
*Meet at the corner of Lofven and Duggan streets. We remove gorse, broom and other weeds. Wear good gloves, long sleeves and long pants. Contact Kath : 0431 599 250
friends.yarrowee@outlook.com*

Perridak Burron Early Learning

Perridak Burron Early Learning was officially opened for operation on Friday 5 February by the Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC).

Wadawurrung Traditional Owner, Barry Gilson, performed a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony officially welcoming all children and families to the service. This was followed by BADAC Chief Executive Officer, Karen Heap, Chief Operating Officer, Jon Kanoa, and Early Years Manager, Casey Brown, addressing the community in regards to how imperative it is that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and their families are able to access an early years' service that embeds and promotes Aboriginal culture.

Perridak Burron is now open between 7.00 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Our Educators are excited to meet the new faces they'll be educating and caring



Perridak Burron's team of educators. Image supplied.

for. Please keep up to date, register your interest or book tours with Perridak Burron through these channels:

facebook.com/perridakburronel
5334 4727
admin@perridakburronel.com.au
perridakburronel.net.au

Enrolments are steadily flowing in

and we are very excited to be building our own 'community'.

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

Bronze Sponsor

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Well the year is already moving along quickly... and Easter is just around the corner! To get into the Easter spirit purchase a 6-pack of our delicious Hot Cross Buns and get any loaf of bread for FREE! Simply bring in this coupon to redeem the offer.

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Wadawurrung Traditional Owner, Barry Gilson, performed a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. Image supplied.

Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School



Brown Hill Playgroup is back at Caledonian Primary School for 2021! Come along on Wednesday mornings 9.00 am - 11.00 am in the multi-purpose room off Thompson Street. Please enter via the footpath on Thompson Street, not via the staff car park.

Bring along a fruit snack for your child and a gold coin donation (which is used for craft materials and activities throughout the year). New families are always welcome.

Please do stay home if you or your child have any cold or flu-like symptoms.

Aimee Knight and Jane Griffin,
Playgroup Co-Coordinators
playgroup@brownhill.vic.au
Caledonian Primary School: 5332 6955

Brown Hill Kindergarten

Brown Hill Kindergarten are enjoying welcoming many new and returning families for 2021. We are excited to see what the year holds, hopefully less eventful than the last! We look forward to working with you all and to help your children learn, grow and develop this year.

We have welcomed some new staff as our enrolment numbers have expanded: Laura, Lisa and Lindelle. Laura has taken on the role as the Pre-kinder teacher and Pre-school teacher, Lisa joins us as a Pre-school teacher and Lindelle as a Co-educator.

I have taken on the role as Service Leader and am also teaching five days a week. It is set to be a busy year.

All the team at Brown Hill are looking forward to a great year!

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

My First Day at School... as a Mum

Do you remember your first day of school? I don't, but I bet my Mum can! And now that I have my own children, I know I will remember their first day forever.

Nobody tells you what being a parent is really like and you wouldn't believe them if they did! So I didn't know what to expect when my son started school this year and on the eve of his first day I experienced every emotion possible.

As I laid out his uniform, I was overcome with worry. Would he hate school? Would kids be mean to him? Would he make friends? Was he cut out for the school system? Was I doing the right thing? Then in the next moment I imagined him thriving, showing his creative flair, his sense of humour and contributing to the Caledonian Primary School community.

I was taken back to memories of my own school days, the things I enjoyed like writing and those I liked "a little less" such as sports. I recalled Grade 6 at Caledonian (or

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 your place of choice. Visit the City of Ballarat's Central Kindergarten Enrolment Scheme: ballarat.vic.gov.au/me/families/kindergartens

Bronze Sponsor

An advertisement for Jigsaw Puzzles Australia. The background is dark with a pattern of interlocking puzzle pieces. At the top, the text 'Jigsaw Puzzles Australia' is written in a stylized font, with 'Jigsaw' in green and 'Puzzles Australia' in yellow. Below this, the names 'Peter & Susan Begbie' are written in white. Underneath, 'Fully Personalised Puzzles' is written in yellow. The phone number '0408 571 101' is in white. At the bottom, the website 'jigsawpuzzlesaustralia.com.au' and email 'contact.jigsawpuzzlesaus@gmail.com' are listed in green. There is a Facebook logo on the left and a small logo on the right that says 'AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED'.

Caledonian Primary School

From the Principal's Desk

To the Brown Hill Community,

It was with a feeling of joy that I helped put the backpacks full of books on my children's shoulders and sent them out the door for their first day of school. For the last 12 months they have been at home way too much through lockdowns and remote learning and the constant cries of, "I'm hungry" or "I'm bored" were beginning to push me over the edge. Once back at school, their days are full and they are happy to go to bed earlier! I know I am not alone in feeling that this year has got to be a better one than last.

Teachers at Caledonian Primary School work hard. They work to develop the best possible learning sequences, they work to improve their teaching practices and they work to develop excellent relationships with all of our students so they can feel safe and secure in their development and learning.

So they were pretty pleased to welcome kids back to what will be a fantastic year!

...continued p.14



Louise Jones with her son on her first day at school as a mum. Image supplied.

Brown Hill as it was back then) and the years my Mum spent on the school council with her name in gold letters on the office honour board. She was one of the Mums who was always helping at school and I wondered if I would be like her. I pondered how much the school had changed in 25 years, aside from the uniform. My son will never know how lucky he is to wear navy and jade while I donned the yellow and brown!

This reminded me of my high school uniform, first red and grey then blue and white. Colours of the old East High, then Ballarat Secondary College and now Woodman's Hill Secondary College with the navy and jade. But

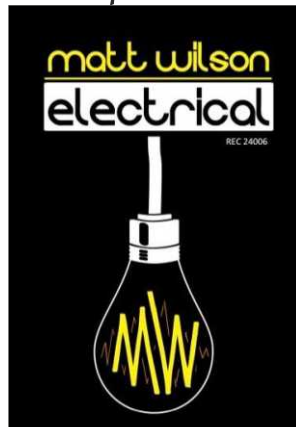
forever the place where I met my husband and made life- long friends.

So looking back at my own school days, the good, the bad and the ugly, I know that I cannot control the journey my son will have. There will be good days and bad. All I can really do now is be the best parent I know how, to guide my son and be there whenever he needs me, like trying to cross the road at Humffray Street North!

And after all that worrying, pondering and reminiscing, his first day of school was just fine!

Louise Jones
Brown Hill Resident

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"Proudly Locally owned and operated"

We pride ourselves on having a wonderful school community where children can flourish. Our staffing design this year has been carefully curated to ensure there are additional supports in place for children post-2020 which as we all know was not the easiest year.

In 2021 we have additional staff working to tutor students who may not have reached their full potential last year, we have additional staff to support social development and we have additional staff to assist teachers to plan and deliver learning for our students.

This year will also see some continuing improvements to our grounds as we resurface our outdoor sports courts and explore further play space options.

So, yep, we are all pretty pleased to welcome kids back!

As we return to a more normal school environment, we can once again look forward to all the important stuff. Although, as teachers, we all wish children would remember our amazing Maths and English lessons, the reality is that it's the extracurricular activities that kids love. Camps, sporting events, concerts and arts shows, as well as

excursions. I like to think of it as the "icing" and in 2021 we are back on.

Our newest students, the 2021 prep cohort, have settled in to begin their learning journey (although I am pretty sure they love the playground the most). Now that I have also settled into Caledonian Primary School, having started in Term Four 2019, it's wonderful that I have been able to be part of their transition to school (although I think they believe a principal is just some funny person that hangs out with them). So far, I have been in charge of returning lunchboxes, fixing headbands, carrying bags and in one case, dancing...

We have some exciting news this term. One of our Grade Six students, Cayden, has been growing his hair for quite some time and will be participating in the World's Greatest Shave (p.6). He has done an amazing job getting donations for a special "garage sale" fundraiser that will be held on the front lawn at Caledonian Primary School, as well as other fundraising activities. We are very proud to support Cayden's efforts. Helping children learn is really important, and seeing children move beyond learning Maths and English and

become young citizens with a sense of social responsibility is incredible.

Once again we reach that time of year when families are starting kinder and the decisions about where to send their children to school is upon them. We are offering individual enrolment interviews again in 2021. These interviews include a discussion about schooling, a tour of our facilities and the chance to ask all the questions about how school works. Please contact us directly on 5332 6955 to arrange your time!

Ben

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

Ballarat: Our Future

A city-wide community conversation to help shape the future of Ballarat has begun. "Ballarat: Our Future" will offer Ballarat residents the chance to share with the City of Ballarat their priorities for the future of our city.

Feedback gathered will inform key council planning documents including a Community Vision,

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Juliana Addison MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE
17 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350
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the 2021-2025 Council Plan, future council budgets and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

On Tuesday 16 February there will be a 'Community Conversation' from 4.30 pm - 6.00 pm at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve. Meet with Council Officers and your Councillors. Come along and join in the conversation!

Mayor of Ballarat, Cr Daniel Moloney, said, "We want our community to share what they want for Ballarat over the next four years of this council term, as well as longer-term priorities, aims for their local neighbourhood and emerging issues and opportunities for the whole city."

The key questions being asked are:

** By 2031, we want Ballarat to be an even greater place to live. What is the most important initiative or priority for Council to work on over the next 10 years in order to make that happen?*

** What one project or priority do you think Council should focus on over the next four years?*

In late 2019, Council engaged with community about the Ballarat they wanted to see in the future. From that emerged 'Ballarat's Prosperity Framework' with its five 'golden threads' that weave the future of Ballarat. They are:

1. Our appetite for innovation, entrepreneurship and technology

– we adapt and respond to opportunities and challenges to build a strong local economy and a better life for all.

2. Our innate creativity - we assist in the development and sustainability of the creative individual, businesses and sectors.

3. Our heritage – we value and protect our heritage including our streetscapes, public spaces, stories, people and culture, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, and sense of place.

4. Our future sustainability – we value and protect our natural environment and look for opportunities to improve health, quality of life and the economy at the same time

5. Our resilient and supportive community – we are a connected, healthy and compassionate community where everyone feels

welcome and valued.

Another question to consider:

** Would you change or add anything else to the five elements listed? If so, what and why?*

The Brown Hill Progress Association is encouraging all residents and business owners to get involved and to send a copy of your ideas and suggestions to bhpa@brownhill.vic.au or drop off a hard copy at the Caledonian Primary School Office.

The City of Ballarat has a range of different ways to be involved including:

- * Short Survey.
- * Community Priorities Survey.
- * Day of a Thousand Conversations (host a conversation with your friends, family, group or club before 19 February).
- * Community Conversations in a park near you (Brown Hill, 16 February).
- * Activities where you tell us how you would allocate resources to infrastructure, services and activities.

For more information, key dates and to have your say, visit mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/ballarat-our-future.

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Brown Hill Progress Association

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Gracefield Rd residents jingle and mingle

The Gracefield Road neighbourhood was filled with festive cheer at the inaugural "Jingle and Mingle" Christmas street party.

Held on the evening of Friday 11 December, residents from lower Gracefield Road united to have a laugh and share a Christmas drink. With the road closed for roadworks, children played in the street whilst adults mingled around the fire pit. For many, it was the first time meeting nearby neighbours and a wonderful opportunity to put names to faces.

Organised by residents Maria Whitford and Abby Irving, the event was a huge success at uniting the neighbourhood. All who attended agreed it was a fun night and hopefully the first of more street parties to come.

*Rachael Houtsma
Brown Hill Resident*



Some of the lovely, fresh produce available at the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective. Image supplied.

Ballarat Wholefoods Collective

Ballarat Wholefood Collective is excited to welcome the new year with fully stocked shelves of organic local and regional wholefood produce.

Come and check out our new floor covering and shelving rearrangements. The premises at Barkly Square are looking terrific.

This year we plan to reintroduce experiential workshops conducted by our talented members and producers. Workshops were

unable to proceed in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions but this year there are clear health guidelines to work within so we are confident it will be possible.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page - Ballarat Wholefoods Collective - to ensure you don't miss out.

Opening hours are Thursdays and Saturdays 9.00 am - 12.00 noon.

New members are always welcome.

*Sally McAlpin,
Ballarat Wholefoods Collective
ballaratwholefoodscollective@gmail.com
ballaratwholefoodscollective.org
Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street,
Ballarat East*

Dog Trials

On Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 April, the North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) Australian Division will hold their Dog Trials at the Brown Hill Cricket Oval.

Contact Shirlene Clark to find out more:
pawstoconsider@optusnet.com.au
nadacastralia.com

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Gracefield Road residents jingling and mingling. Photographer: Rachael Houtsma

Ballarat Community Garden

It is summer, despite what the temperature might be, and the vegetables are growing nicely. Slowly but nicely! Every gardener has a different way of growing their produce and it is a valuable learning experience to walk around the garden and take note of those differences. Over the last year it has been difficult to involve the wider community in our events but the time is coming when we will be able to open our gates again. Sadly, we won't be holding our Harvest Festival this year. We hope to have a Plant Sale in March. See the 'Friends of the Ballarat Community Garden' Facebook page for information. I



wanted to share with you some of the joy we witness when we go to the garden to work. Such a pleasurable way to keep fit!

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

A demonstration of difference!

(Image above) This garden looks absolutely stunning! The owners have worked hard and used quite unusual methods to create this amazing garden. Contact us via Facebook to find out more.

A vision of hope and joy!

(Image to the left) The gardener who has created this masterpiece obviously loves flowers and has the magic touch with them. It is so necessary to have flowers in amongst the vegetables to encourage the bees and insects to come and pollinate everything. We are very grateful to this person for enhancing the productivity of our garden and bringing joy as we work.



BROWN HILL & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

Are you interested in helping your community?



We are looking for new members who have a passion to be part of a group who not only help the local community but also the environment and other volunteer organisations.

We welcome people from all walks of life and gender. You can help fundraise in your local community for local and international projects. For more information please contact:

*Secretary, Barry, on 0418 580 971 or President, Darryl, on 0437 314 708
barglen9@bigpond.net.au*

Our local Neighbourhood Houses



Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

Barkly Square, Ballarat East

We are super excited to be joining 18 other local community groups in calling Barkly Square our new home! We have set up our office and have started to get to know just a few of the amazing groups operating out of this fantastic community space. Come and have a look around Barkly Square, there is lots to see and the fabulous Pot of Courage cafe is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30 am - 2.00 pm.

Ballarat East Community News

Thanks to a Community Impact Grant from the City of Ballarat, the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House has launched the Ballarat East Community News. Based on the model of Brown Hill's very successful community newsletter, this publication will be delivered to 8230 letterboxes in the suburbs of Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip. To get emailed an electronic version, subscribe online: ballarateastnh.org.au

Volunteer delivery team

We need a team of over 80 volunteers to each deliver around 100 copies of the Ballarat East Community News six times each year. Interested? Please contact us.

Classes at Eureka Hall

During school term, we are running weekly classes at Eureka Hall (Stawell Street South, Ballarat East, next to the Eureka Pool).

Yoga

Join our weekly Yoga classes with Jen from 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm on Tuesdays at Eureka Hall. \$10.00 per class if you pay on the day or \$8.00 per class if you register and pay online by 12.00 noon the day before. Places limited.

Tai Chi

Join our weekly Tai Chi classes with Jeni from 10.00 am to 11.00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Eureka Hall. \$10.00 per class if you pay on the day or \$8.00 per class if you register and pay online by 12.00 noon the day before. Places limited.

Drawing Group

Join our weekly Drawing Group classes with Jenette from 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm on Mondays at Eureka Hall. \$10.00 per class if you pay on the day or \$8.00 per class if you register and pay online by 12.00 noon the day before. Places limited.

Walking Group

Our free-of-charge Heart Foundation Walking Group is being led by volunteers Jeni and Bernadette. Starting at the Barkly Square car park (Princes Street South) at 10.00 am on Mondays, the group walks along the Specimen Vale Creek to the

Eureka Centre and back. The walk takes up to one hour. Register via the Heart Foundation website. Numbers are limited.

Be Connected

Aged over 50 and keen to improve your online skills? Join our free-of-charge Be Connected classes. Contact us for more information.

*Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Manager,
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House
0422 612 052*

*reception@ballarateastnh.org.au
facebook.com/BallaratEastNH/
ballarateastnh.org.au*



Ballarat North Neighbourhood House

Ballarat North Neighbourhood House remains closed to the public until further notice. To see what is going at the House, visit:

socialplanet.com.au/at/ballarat-north-neighbourhood-house

Information is updated fortnightly with new and free classes. We are operating via phone and online via Zoom. Please contact Alison with questions or to register for classes.

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*

Neighbour Day 2021

Relationships Australia, as the home of Neighbour Day, encourages people across all communities to build and strengthen their social connections. Because every day is neighbour day.

Neighbour Day is celebrated on the last Sunday in March every year with the aim of fostering strong personal connections that last beyond the day. This year Neighbour Day is on Sunday 28 March.

The official theme for Neighbour Day 2021 is 'Every day is neighbour day' – building on the growing movement of people taking neighbourly actions every day of the year and the changing concept of what it means to be a neighbour.

Neighbours matter (whether near, far, or online) and now, more than ever, is the time to find creative connections and to stay connected.

Whether through a cuppa, a picnic in the park, a neighbourly action or a message of support, Neighbour Day is the perfect opportunity to reach out to your neighbours.

Who is a neighbour?

The word 'neighbour' has undergone a revival during last summer's bushfires and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, the term 'neighbour' is well understood as someone who supports others in times of need. Someone who picks up shopping or other essentials for others. Someone who checks in regularly

to make sure people are ok. Someone who volunteers to help those needing support.

A neighbour can be someone in your street or the wider community, your workplace, or online. Maybe in Australia, perhaps overseas.

Neighbours connect and provide support to those living next door and to those further away. We have the capacity to build communities beyond our physical locations. Neighbours can be anyone.

Pick a time and place

Whether it's a cuppa with a few people or a barbecue for your block, your Neighbour Day can be as big or small as you'd like. Decide what's manageable. If possible, pick a communal area (such as the front lawn or car park) rather than inside an apartment or house. This will be less intimidating for residents who don't know many people and it will encourage more people to join in.

Or you may choose to take some neighbourly action such as dropping off a calling card, connection card or other message of support or thanks to a neighbour.

Register your event

We encourage everyone organising a Neighbour Day event or those who are planning on doing some neighbourly action to register online. The online registration form takes about 30 seconds to complete.

If you prefer not to register your support, you can still access the free resources.

For more, visit: neighbourday.org



Let's Pivot

Register now for the Let's Pivot Zoom Series!

Join this free facilitated discussion series for not-for-profits, community groups, leaders, and anyone who wants to be more effective or make a positive impact.

The series includes short sessions delivered on Wednesdays 10.30 am – 12.00 noon until 24 March.

Take this opportunity to bounce ideas, get support, develop plans and connect with others working on adapting to a new normal.

Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, however each session has a limit of 30 places, so it's best to register now to secure your place!

Weekly themes will build upon one another and include 'Taking Care of Self and Others', 'Recreating Vision', 'Strategising', 'Digital Systems for Success', 'Being Heard' and more.

These sessions and topics are particularly relevant if you are looking for support to: Adapt services and programs, Implement new projects, Change approaches and plans, Build resilience and strengthen community connections, Increase community involvement and/or Improve online delivery.

Find out more and register at: makeachange.org.au/event/lets-pivot-discussion-series-2



Brown Hill Uniting Church

Thought for the month

“...Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Sunday Morning and Midweek Worship

Wednesday Midweek Communion in the Church hall began again on 2 December with attendees booking in to meet COVID-19 restrictions. Plans for outdoor services in December were scuppered by Ballarat’s cold weather but we did manage to fit inside the church and Sunday Worship services continue. On 13 December we joined with Central Uniting Church in Advent Worship at the North Gardens, opposite Lake Wendouree.

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month we join in worship at Central Uniting Church in Lydiard Street North at 10.00 am.

Our accredited Lay Preacher, Jim de Jong, continues to offer a weekly on-line worship service and other resources on his website:
dejong.id.au/home/church
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 to find the link.

Opening of the Bev Pratt Chaplaincy Centre

The house at 14 Thompson Street, Brown Hill, formerly the Manse attached to the Brown Hill Uniting Church, has been gifted to the Presbytery to be the home for the chaplaincy ministry. It was furnished by the Wendouree Uniting Church on its closure.

The Centre acknowledges the ministry of Rev (Deacon) Bev Pratt, the first Uniting Church Chaplain and the Ballarat Base Hospital Chaplain. Bev pioneered this ministry of care from 1978 and the Church receives this current ministry as her legacy. The Centre was opened and dedicated by the Chair of Presbytery, Andrew Boatman, on Sunday afternoon 31 January 2021.

Ballarat Regional Healthcare Chaplaincy is a ministry of the Uniting Church Presbytery of Western Victoria. The aim is to provide quality and meaningful pastoral support to patients and residents while they are in Ballarat, either for healthcare or aged care. It does so through the twin ministries of the Assistant Chaplains Program and the Worship Teams program.

Support of Uniting Ballarat (formerly UnitingCare Ballarat)

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.

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 free lunchtime meals available from Uniting on the corner of Dana and Albert Streets in central Ballarat.

Use of our buildings

We are now a registered organisation with a Service Victoria QR code. Our premises have been disinfected and sanitised and we maintain contact registers for those users unable to register digitally by mobile phone. Hand sanitiser and cleaning equipment is available for each of our areas and each area is wiped down after use. Spatial distancing dictates the numbers we are allowed. All former hall users have been contacted and some of the smaller groups have returned. We appreciate the work of our COVID-Safe team who have been working hard to keep up with the various changes in restrictions and ensure that we are compliant.

Op. Shop

Our Op. Shop will re-open on Friday 26 February and then continue as normal: Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm, with COVID restrictions. Entry via the side door off the Humffray

Street North car park. There is a QR code on entry and a sanitiser hand station. The capacity in the Op. Shop is currently 10 people, including volunteer staff. Please exit via the usual entrance. Our Op. Shop manager is Angela Beattie.

Craft group

Craft group has started again in the Church Hall from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month. Bring along a craft item or just come for a chat. All welcome.

Annual Fair and Car boot sale

Unfortunately, due to the complications of COVID-19 restrictions and lack of sun to ripen any produce, we have made the decision to postpone our annual fair car boot sale until 2022.

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

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Kath Morton (centre) with Neil Para (back row) and his family. Image supplied.

Vale Kath Morton

We were very sad to hear that Nerrina local, Kath Morton, passed away on 16 December 2020, aged 92. Neil Para, a friend of Kath's who lives in Ballarat North, wrote to us about Kath.

We met Kath for the first time after we had moved to Ballarat. It was at the end of 2013 at the Ballarat Library. The same day, she visited us for the first time. We don't remember the date and we did not know that we were going to have such an amazing relationship.

Kath was like our grandparent. She wanted my kids to call her 'Grandma Kath'. As our life was new in Australia, we did not know anyone here my kids could call their grandma. Kath has become part of our life.

Kath founded and led the Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) Group in 2014. She was a personal friend of many refugees and asylum seekers and was loved for her commitment and passion

for social justice.

In 2017 Kath was named as Ballarat's Citizen of the Year. In an article written about this award in the Brown Hill Community Newsletter (Edition 5, February 2017, p.1), Kath was said to have worked hard to "improve the lives of refugees and asylum seekers" and that she was "truly inspiring".

Kath spoke about wanting to make Ballarat a warm and welcoming community. She encouraged us to welcome people into Ballarat with open arms and said, "We all need support in the community."

Kath has been living in aged care in Geelong for the past two years, supported by her family.

Kath will be sorely missed by many. Her legacy will live on.

Neil Para, Ballarat North local

Interviewing, writing and editing

We need volunteers to help interview, write and/or edit articles. There are so many great stories. Please contact us if you are interested:
newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

Wallaby Track parkrun

On a cool, fresh morning on Saturday 16 January 2021, we celebrated the re-launch of parkrun events in Victoria. At Wallaby Track parkrun, 70 people came and ran or walked the 5 km course and had a great time getting back into parkrun and meeting up with lots of old friends whom they may not have seen since we had to stop back in March last year. Our friends at Ballarat parkrun in Victoria Park also re-launched on the same day and enjoyed a successful event as well.

Like many events, parkrun was stopped in March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and after only 13 events Wallaby Track parkrun was on hold indefinitely. We have spent a long ten months waiting for the right time to re-launch events. During this time life parkrun global and parkrun Australia were working very hard to put together a framework for what parkrun would look like once it returned. There were many suggestions as to how it could be made possible including staggered start times, limiting numbers and having a booking system. However, many of those ideas would mean changing some of the fundamentals of parkrun and taking away from what makes parkrun so special.

At the centre of all decisions about re-launching was the importance of not over-burdening volunteers, not presenting significant barriers to participation, not creating precedents we cannot maintain and not setting unrealistic expectations. The vision for



Wallaby Track parkrun volunteers - the 'Vollabys'. Image supplied.

parkrun events to reopen is also that, whilst proximity and interaction are significantly reduced, the essence of parkrun is very much there.

In mid-December we received the news that all parkrun events in Victoria would be able to open up again on 16 January. The City of Ballarat gave their approval to re-launch and we started putting plans in place to get underway again. Luckily for us, the Wallaby Track is always well maintained and regularly utilised by local walkers, runners and cyclists and so we knew the track was ready to go.

Being back at parkrun reminded us all of what we have been missing and how great it is to be able to participate in parkrun events once again. The encouragement from fellow parkrunners and volunteers is always amazing and it's what brings many people back time and time again. There are many reasons why people join in parkrun events each week; for some it's the chance to participate in an event with their family or friends; for others it's motivation

to get up and exercise and for many it's a chance to volunteer and be part of something special.

We are all so pleased to once again have the chance to participate in parkrun each week and we look forward to seeing many of you there each Saturday morning at 8.00 am. We would like to thank everyone for the support provided in getting our event back up and running. Thanks to everyone who participates, volunteers or is part of our amazing community supporting local events.

We can't wait to see everyone join us each week and if you need more information please follow Wallaby Track parkrun on Facebook for updates.

Aaron and Laurinda Coulter
Wallaby Track parkrun coordinators
wallabytrack@parkrun.com
parkrun.com.au/wallabytrack/

Advertise

This newsletter is a well-respected, successful community project.

For advertising and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

Brown Hill Cricket Club

The Brown Hill Cricket Club (BHCC) would like to thank the Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) for their financial contribution to upgrading the lighting on both its clubrooms and training nets.

The BHCC will once again be running the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Auskick Program this year on behalf of the community.

The \$5000 donation from the BHPA will allow the cricket club to have suitable lighting to run the program on the oval and, if need be, subject to weather and ground conditions, run it in our training nets.

The Brown Hill Reserve, Hall and Swimming Pool are the hub of the community. Local community groups should work closely (as one) with the City of Ballarat and endeavour to obtain further upgrading to what I'd call its assets. For example, there are sporting groups in Ballarat that could or would relocate to Brown Hill and use the reserve if it had adequate drainage and lighting along with improved fencing and a better watering system. Please get in touch with me with ideas.

The Brown Hill Cricket Club are looking forward to working with local volunteers to deliver the Auskick program to local kids.

Once again, thank you to the Brown Hill Progress Association for their support.

*Phil Knowles, President
Brown Hill Cricket Club
phillip.knowles1960@gmail.com
0407 399 971*



IGNITE A PASSION FOR THE GAME!

Auskick

Auskick is coming! In 2021. Auskick Centres in Brown Hill are at Russell Square (East Point) and Brown Hill Recreation Reserve (on the Brown Hill Cricket Oval behind the Pool and Hall - corner of Reid Street and Reid Court). There is also an AusKick Centre at Little Bendigo Primary School in Nerrina.

2020 was set to be the first year of Auskick at the new Brown Hill Auskick Centre with 23 kids signed up to participate. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to get started. There is much excitement from the kids who have been waiting a whole year to get out there and kick their new Auskick footy!

Auskick at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve will run on Fridays in Term Two, starting on Friday 23 April. It will run from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

The first 20 kids to register will

get a free backpack and a mini-football from The AFL Store Ballarat.

Registrations are available online. Visit: play.afl.com.au/auskick/
aflauskick@afl.com.au

*Megan Wellman
2021 Brown Hill Recreation Reserve
Auskick Coordinator
0402 200 314*

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Ballarat

Shop 50, Central Square
Armstrong Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350

(03) 5332 3400
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2021 VicSwim at the Brown Hill Pool

What an unbelievable year it has been for VicSwim with record enrolments in 2021. Across the state, 16,143 children participated. This has doubled in five years and eclipsed last year's total of 15,585.

VicSwim ran at 168 venues across Victoria and there were a total of 8715 hours of lessons over the three weeks run by 309 teachers.

Brown Hill VicSwim ran for two of the three weeks. The weather for the most part was very kind, only giving a couple of cold days. Lucy, who ran the program at Brown Hill, did an amazing job and feedback was amazing. Lucy expressed her gratitude to the parents, children and volunteers for their support throughout the two weeks (in addition to the warm drinks). Lucy can be found teaching on Saturdays at the Ballarat Aquatic Centre.

Lucy says, "The two weeks of VicSwim was one of the most special programs of which I have been a part. 2020 was a really difficult year so all the kids were super excited to be in the water, learning, developing and strengthening their skills. I was able to create some strong connections with the families, teach them the value of swimming lessons for their kids and many went on to enrol their kids in full-time swimming lessons. There were some very timid kids who braved the cold days and progressed from not being able to put their faces in the water to learning torpedo. The VicSwim program is perfect for families



Cohen with teacher, Lucy at the Brown Hill Pool. Photographer: Cohen's mum, Jodie

who are looking for something fun to do in the holidays and/or wanting their kids to excel more at swimming."

Feedback from the families involved was great too. Parent Jodie says, "Personally, my opinion of the VicSwim program was fantastic. I thought it was well run and organised."

Lucy was a lovely instructor and taught Cohen so much in just one week. He loves the water but had even more confidence while being taught by Lucy.

Maybe the water at Brown Hill Pool could have been heated in some way for VicSwim sessions as it was freezing for the kids.

The Milo and biscuit after the session was a great idea but this only happened for the first week and one afternoon in the second week and then it was stopped by Council - a bit disappointing, especially after Cohen and the

other kids were looking forward to a little treat after they finished - even for a little warmth."

We are certainly hoping that VicSwim will be back running at the Brown Hill Pool again next year and, fingers crossed, with two teachers, for three weeks and more hours.

Apologies to families who missed out due to VicSwim at Brown Hill filling very quickly. Next year VicSwim will have a waiting list. VicSwim also runs at Eureka Pool, Black Hill Pool and in Buninyong.

With so many children being out of the water in 2020 and the increase in drownings, it is imperative that all children (and adults) learn the basics of swimming.

Thank you again to all involved and especially to the children, parents and volunteers.

*Linda Shannon
Vicswim Regional Coordinator*