

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 30, April - June 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.



Some of the 30 volunteers who are members of the Brown Hill Progress Association and have created and delivered the Brown Hill Community Newsletter since May 2016. Photographer: Sherene Mounier

Five years, 30 editions - a continuing success!

Volunteers from the Brown Hill Community Newsletter team celebrate five years of connecting locals through news, stories and information from local businesses, community, sporting and activity groups.

In late 2015, at a community meeting run by the City of Ballarat, a retired farmer from the Wimmera, the late Ian Westerland, quietly shared his community-building idea. A member of the Brown Hill Progress Association for the previous 10 years, Ian spoke of the value of a local, printed community newsletter.

He said it would help connect the community. Let people know what was going on and who to contact about local activities and issues. He said it would be a good project for the Brown Hill community. Ian was right.

Not only has the Brown Hill

Community Newsletter been a great success, proving to be very popular amongst locals, winning statewide awards and becoming financially self-sufficient, it is also a great community development project.

Over 30 people have volunteered their time to create and deliver the newsletter six times each year to every letterbox in Brown Hill. These volunteers feel a sense of belonging, being part of a team and a project, helping to make our part of Ballarat a great place to live.

The Brown Hill Community Newsletter is a key project of the Brown Hill Progress Association. We should like to thank the City of Ballarat for their seed-funding of the project through the Engaging Communities/Brown Hill Partnership program.

Thanks also to our sponsors and

advertisers who have contributed since Edition 7 to the financial sustainability of this great project.

To our contributors who write articles and supply photos, thank you for building this newsletter up from 6 to 24 pages of interesting and relevant content.

Thanks amazing volunteers! Your commitment and dedication to this important project for the Brown Hill community is really appreciated.

*Sarah Greenwood-Smith
Founding Volunteer Editor
Brown Hill Community Newsletter*

Diary Dates

MAY

Monday 17: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting. Brown Hill Hall. All welcome.

...continued p.2

...continued from p.1

MAY

Monday 17 - Sunday 23: National Volunteer Week.

JUNE

Monday 7: Articles for Edition 31 due (see below for details).

Monday 14: Queen's Birthday Holiday.

Friday 18: Delivery of Edition 31 across Brown Hill.

Monday 21: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting. Brown Hill Hall. All welcome.

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.

In this edition

I was feeling a bit overwhelmed this morning. It is the first week back at school for our kids and we are finding our new morning routine. I thought we could get through another day without a trip to the shops...but then realised that we didn't have enough bread. Oh dear!

A quick trip down to see the team at Baker's Delight Bakery Hill not only filled the bread bag, but also filled my emotional bucket. It was so lovely to have a quick chat with owners, Glenn and Kerry, share

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, Sally McAlpin and Julie Hayes

Writer: Louise Jones

Accounts Manager: Andrea Perrin

Proof Reader: 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 31 articles are due by **Monday 7 June 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/

Layout using Scribus 1.4.3

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ISSN 2209-9050

Brown Hill Progress Association

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

bhpa@brownhill.vic.au

brownhill.vic.au

PO Box 1863, Bakery Hill 3354



some stories about the chaos of getting everyone out of the door on a frosty Ballarat morning and have a laugh together. This small interaction made me feel connected, heard and less in a tizz.

It made me think about how important social connections are, as shown in the ABC show, 'Old People's Home for Four Year Olds'. I've watched several episodes, none without a few tears! It is challenging to see and hear about the barriers faced by the older people in the show to get out of their homes and be around other people and equally as lovely to see the smiles on their faces when the young kids say something honest or funny!

What a great experiment, showing how important it is to spend time with other people, whether it is a short chat at the shops, a cup of tea or a walk with a friend.

The ABC show reminded me of the wonderful contribution that Brown Hill's Joy Bawden (Edition 27, back page) made to the Brown Hill Playgroup. Joy would light up the room, cuddle all the babies so the exhausted parents could have a break and be a lovely, friendly and encouraging grandmother-figure to all of the cheeky and the shy toddlers. We all got so much out of Joy spending time at Playgroup

Silver Sponsor

and will be sad to farewell her at a memorial service this week.

In this edition, you can read about some great connections being made in our local schools and by our local community groups. We hope that this fantastic newsletter continues for at least another five years, if not fifty, helping to give the Brown Hill community a sense of belonging, keep everyone informed, aware of the the local groups and activities and give plenty of opportunities to spend time with others.

Reducing our carbon footprint

The Brown Hill Community Newsletter team approached local Brown Hill organisation, Fifteen Trees, to ask them what would be involved in off-setting the annual environmental impact of printing 2650 copies of the 20 -24 page newsletter each edition for six editions.

Fifteen Trees is a social enterprise which helps individuals, organisations and companies reduce their carbon footprint. This is achieved through community tree-planting projects. This winter/spring, 180 trees will be planted in the Ballarat district and once planted the Brown Hill community can find their trees by typing 'Brown Hill' into the search box on the Fifteen Trees website: 15trees.com.au.

Local Julie is in the Yellow Pages

It was wonderful to see Brown Hill local, Julie Collins, on the front cover of the Yellow Pages this month. Julie's business, Boronia Florist, is in Sturt Street and has been operating for an amazing 85 years! Well done Julie for promoting family-owned local businesses.

To find businesses in Brown Hill or owned by a Brown Hill resident, visit: brownhill.vic.au/directory/business/

Thank you to our sponsors:

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

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

We are ready for Brown Hill Post Office to return

The Brown Hill community and those living in surrounding suburbs would benefit from the return of the Brown Hill Post Office in a new location and we are looking forward to confirming a plan.

Supporting communities to thrive is one of five strategic priorities in 2020/21 that Australia Post has identified in their 2020 Annual Report.

The petition distributed to local businesses and available online had a strong response from the community providing over 500 signatures at local businesses and via the online petition.

We are requesting that Australia Post works with our community and all interested parties to bring back our Brown Hill Post Office in 2021.

A concerned local resident and post office box holder was recently advised that the redirection of mail to the Bakery Hill Post Office would end shortly, as it has been going for three



years.

We need a clear strategy where Australia Post, all stakeholders and our community have a chance to progress the process, with actions, answers, timelines and an open dialogue to restore the Brown Hill Post Office.

Our community is a great growth story and even though the Brown Hill Local Area Plan is currently on hold, Stage One Community Engagement participants identified the return of the Brown Post Office as one of a number of essential services for our community.

In a letter from the National Farmers Federation, dated 17 July 2020, Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer, said, "Australia Post is a vital institution that creates significant social and economic value in regional Australia. Australia Post's national post office and delivery networks support a diverse range of economic and social activity in regional Australia, providing employment and economic opportunities, contributing to a

supportive community culture and improving the liveability of these communities."

The local interest around the return of the Brown Hill Post Office has been strong, discussed on radio station 3BA. WIN News journalist Sam Mills has also approached Brendan Stevens from the Brown Hill Progress Association to confirm the petition's success and to get some background about the issue.

We look forward to meeting with Australia Post, our local Member and all interested parties to expedite the process which was originally agreed to in 2017.

Andrew Johnson, Brown Hill Progress Association

Defibrillators in Brown Hill

The Brown Hill Progress Association is compiling a list of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) around Brown Hill. If your business or organisation has an AED which could be used in the case of an emergency, please get in touch. Please also register it on the Ambulance Victoria website. We will report back to the community in a future edition.

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

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The logo for 'The Hair Room By Elaine'. It features a stylized line drawing of a hair salon interior with a chair and a mirror. Below the drawing, the text 'THE HAIR ROOM' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, and 'By Elaine' is written in a cursive script font inside a rectangular frame.

7 Sawmill Close
Brown Hill
0434 522 477

Family concerns over Humffray Street North Crossing

Last month *The Courier* kindly published a front page article featuring local families who have raised concerns about children crossing at the Humffray Street North and Thompson Street intersection in Brown Hill.

Parents often comment on the lack of safety measures for children crossing this increasingly busy thoroughfare on a school day, particularly in the morning rush.

With children attending kindergarten, primary and secondary school and accessing the playground and sports at the Brown Hill Reserve, crossing Humffray Street North continues to be dangerous, especially between 8.30 am and 9.00 am with school and commuter traffic.

Brown Hill is a high growth area for new housing and consistent development within existing areas and, as such, the traffic on suburban streets is increasing. There are numerous side streets



Caledonian Primary School Prep Student, Jimmy, waiting to cross Humffray Street North. Photographer: Louise Jones

around the kinder and schools that have no footpaths. With increasing traffic, groups of children and parents can be seen waiting up to five or more minutes to cross Humffray Street North.

The article focused on the lack of crossing infrastructure which could be resolved with a number of simple measures in Humffray Street North such as:

- * School Zone speed limits
- * Flashing lights and pedestrian crossing stripes
- * Crossing Supervisor in the morning / afternoon.

The crossing concerns have also been raised through the Brown Hill Progress Association and an online petition. However, there has been little response from the City of Ballarat.

We are all aware of how much the Brown Hill community continues to grow, because it is a fabulous area in which to live, so we need to ensure the safety of our children getting to school and kinder each day.

You can read the article at: thecourier.com.au/story/7177321/parents-plead-for-safer-roads-around-brown-hill

Louise Jones, Brown Hill Resident

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Neighbourhood Watch

New e-learning tool to help parents and kids

It can be tough as a parent to know when your child is ready to walk to school or their friend's house on their own and then teach them how to recognise and react to unsafe situations without scaring them. While travelling alone is a critical step towards a child's emerging independence, they need to know how to stay safe before they take that step.

Neighbourhood Watch's new interactive e-learning journey, *Neighbourhood Watch 4 Kids*, uses fun and educational activities such as safety games, videos and scenarios that you and your child can do together to help prepare them to travel in your community independently.

There's also a virtual neighbourhood tool, where you can plan the best route with your child and familiarise them with any potential dangers they might encounter on the way, like reversing cars, strangers, roundabouts and road crossings.

Visit: nhw4kidsvic.com.au

Advertisement



Transformation of the old Brown Hill Post Office into the new Molly Pip & Co space. Image supplied.

Molly Pip & Co

The next era for the old Brown Hill Post Office

Hello from the owners of Molly Pip & Co. Our names are Christine and Felicity and we are high school friends of 38 years.

We are both married with two adult children each and are Brown Hill locals.

The name of the shop, Molly Pip & Co, comes from Molly, Christine's dog, and Pip & Co from Felicity's dogs, Pip & Gus. All very important members of our families.

We are bringing our love for fashion and flair for home styling into one location.

We will provide gorgeous homewares, some local products, women's clothing and accessories.

Our clothing will suit ladies of all sizes and body shape. It is affordable clothing in which you will feel great every day.

We want our customers to enjoy visiting Molly Pip & Co or just dropping by to say hi and see what is new in-store.

Molly Pip & Co are hoping to be open late April / early May 2021.

See you soon!

Christine & Felicity

shop@mollypipco.com.au

facebook.com/mollypipandco

407 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill

CATHERINE KING

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

STANDING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Labor

03 5338 8123

Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

@CatherineKingMP

www.catherineking.com.au



Water Street Cafe

Hot off the production line, the Water Street Cafe caravan is getting the final internal fit-out to be ready for the first week of May!

Located at 69 Water Street Brown Hill, we are just down the road from the recently opened Perridak Burron Early Learning Centre. Construction of the cafe has commenced. For now, we will be operating from the coffee caravan.

We will be open early, from 6.00 am - 10.00 am, seven days a week.

On offer will be toasties, Vegas and Rose brownies and famous savoury muffins (both gluten-free and made in Brown Hill), cold drinks, boutique coffee from

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Coffee Caravan. Image supplied

Apollo Bay, 'Hello Coffee' and Ballarat's Grounded Pleasures hot chocolate and chai.

Our take-away cups are plant-based from 'I am not paper' and are fully compostable.

Orders can be placed online using the 'Skip' App. for those short on time.

We are looking forward to throwing open the caravan windows to everyone in Brown Hill!

Jenine and Mick Harris
Water Street Cafe
69 Water Street, Brown Hill
0438 974 887

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Ballarat Wholefoods Collective

Keep an eye out for our new look signs and website. Volunteer Emma has designed a new logo and signs. A big thank you to volunteer Gavin for always helping out. There are lots of exciting things happening in Term Two, including workshops. Stay tuned!

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

New members are always welcome. Yearly membership to Ballarat Wholefoods Collective costs \$50.00, with a \$20.00 renewal each June.

Wendy Aston
Ballarat Wholefoods Collective
ballaratwholefoodscollective@gmail.com
ballaratwholefoodscollective.org
Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street,
Ballarat East

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Meet our Councillors: Belinda Coates, Central 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. Here is the response from Cr Belinda Coates.

It's fantastic that so many students in the Brown Hill area are keen on issues around reducing waste, recycling and nature and the environment. These are all important issues and relate to our connection with the environment and our need to act on climate change for the long-term sustainability of our city and planet.

Is Caledonian Primary School a member of the Resource Smart Schools Program (through Grampians Central Waste and Resource Recovery Group)? This is a great way for your school to get ongoing information, education and support around reducing waste and increasing recycling, also advice like reducing energy and water use and other ways you can reduce your school's environmental footprint. I can also get back to your principal and follow up on these questions.

Answering your questions below:

1. Could we possibly get a recycling bin for plastics as well?

For households, plastic bottles and containers from your kitchen, bathroom and laundry can be placed in your kerbside yellow-lid recycling bin. Soft plastics such as



Cr Belinda Coates. Image supplied.

bread bags, pasta bags and chip and lolly packaging can be taken to any Coles or Woolworths store in Ballarat where they are recycled locally (through REDcycle).

Schools don't have their waste and recycling collection via Council-run services but I can make some enquires about some other options for your school and pass them on to your principal.

2. We would like nature classes to learn about native plants and animals, or go on bushwalks.

That's terrific that you're interested in learning more about nature. In your area the Brown Hill Kindergarten have a great Bush Kinder program to start teaching children early about nature. Perhaps someone could have a chat to your principal about getting some support from local environment groups such as Friends of Yarrowee River, Leigh Catchment Group, Wildlife for Gardens or Ballarat Environment Network.

State Government departments such as the Department of

Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) or Parks Victoria might be able to provide some guidance too. Let me know if I can help your school to get in touch with any of these contacts.

3. Maybe we could set up either a bigger green waste bin/collection more often?

For households, the kerbside green waste bin is 240L in size and is collected fortnightly to accommodate the garden waste removal from properties. If residents would like a second green waste bin, this can be arranged through Customer Service at City of Ballarat on 03 5320 5500.

Schools also don't have green waste collected by Council services but perhaps your school would like some advice about composting your green waste to use on the gardens.

4. Could there be more publicity about the REDcycle system and more bins around the place?

The REDcycle program and the location of their bins is not a council run service but this is great feedback that we can provide to REDcycle to improve their program.

REDcycle is a great program and initiative that is provided to the Ballarat community. The service is promoted on the City of Ballarat website and can be included in future educational material from us.

5. Could there be more eco-friendly drink bottles. Something easy to produce? Maybe a bio-degradable bottle to reduce the amount of plastic drink bottles.

The City of Ballarat encourages all

residents to choose reusable items as best practice such as drink bottles, containers and shopping bags. Single-use plastics and even bio-degradable items still need to be disposed of after use which contributes to the waste generation stream. If you bring your own reusable water bottle or food container, this has a greater sustainability outcome for the environment than bio-degradable items. It is important to remember as well that if we are purchasing non-reusable items, we should choose packaging that is made from recycled content or is more sustainable.

Manufacturers will eventually need to move towards

biodegradable or re-usable bottles and packaging over the next five years as part of a national commitment to the "Australian Packaging Covenant". In the mean time avoiding single-use plastics, like drink bottles, is definitely the best way to go.

Victoria will also have a container deposit scheme by 2023 which means you can collect cans and bottles and then return them to be recycled and collect 10 cents per container.

Cr Belinda Coates
Central Ward Councillor
0417 456 513
BelindaCoates@ballarat.vic.gov.au

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*

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Born in Melbourne, raised in Mt Beauty and then Ballarat, **Andrew Johnson** has spent more than 30 years in senior management in Australia and worldwide. His Real Estate career started in Australia in 2006 and in 2010 he moved to Hong Kong to set up a new business selling Australian, Luxury and International properties. In 2014 he also became a partner in a dynamic high end furniture manufacturing business providing customised procurement solutions for the Gaming, Hospitality, Resorts, Corporate & Residential Industry worldwide. Returning to Ballarat in 2019 to live with family, the MAXJRE boutique real estate business is all about personalised service, community and helping guide our customers to a solution that builds trust, long term relationships and generates referrals for sustainable growth.

New Residents

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

Find out more at our Brown Hill Community Online Hub:
brownhill.vic.au/new-to-brown-hill/

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 Newsletter and 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

Cayden's Greatest Shave

Cayden Russell, a Grade 6 student from Caledonian Primary School, smashed his goal of \$3000 and raised a whopping \$6,015.09 for the Leukemia Foundation through the 'World's Greatest Shave'.

With support from my family, we ran a great Garage Sale one Friday afternoon at Caledonian Primary School. We would like to thank the businesses and people who donated items for the raffle and the Garage Sale.

I had my hair shaved at a school assembly by the school principal on Friday 12 March.

I liked doing the World's Greatest Shave because it helps people who



*Cayden before having his hair shaved.
Image supplied.*



*Cayden after having his hair shaved.
Image supplied.*

need help. I also liked doing it because I like my new cut - it is really good!

The best part is that I raised over \$6000. My goal was \$3000. It is all for a good cause.

Cayden Russell, Grade Six, Caledonian Primary School

Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School

Brown Hill Playgroup has had a fabulous start to the year. Thank you to all the new families who have joined us throughout Term One. We have enjoyed getting to know you all. It has been great to catch up with our regular families too. Many have rejoined us after nearly a year away from Playgroup due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is always amazing to see how much children grow!

As the weather in Ballarat cools down our Playgroup, which runs on Wednesday mornings from 9.00 am - 11.00 am during school terms, is a warm, dry location for babies and pre-schoolers to come, play and make new friends. It's a place for caregivers to have a hot drink, some adult conversation and to meet other local families.

Throughout this term we hope to continue to have Mrs Gleeson's sing-alongs, a Kelly Sports session, and several other activities.

We always welcome new families and ask that you bring a fruit snack for your child and a gold coin donation. There is no need to book but please do stay home if you or your child feel unwell.

We hope to see you soon.

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

A look inside Perridak Burron

The Brown Hill community recently welcomed its very own children's day care centre to the area. The new centre, Perridak Burron (meaning "platypus children" in Wadawurrung), opened on Humffray Street North and Water Street in early February and is quickly becoming an icon for early learning around the community.

Created by the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC) in collaboration with Des Rix Homes, the centre offers a not-for-profit service to Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and their families with a unique approach.

While the day-to-day operations of the centre will look the same as any early learning facility, the team of Educators have a unique opportunity to embed Aboriginal perspectives into the program, the environment and the children's learning experiences. Native



Gardening at Perridak Burron. Image supplied by Perridak Burron.



Sandpit play at Perridak Burron. Image supplied by Perridak Burron.

plants, bush tucker and Aboriginal stories, songs, toys, art work and dance will form just some of the ways in which Indigenous culture and tradition can be embedded into the children's learning. The daily structure will include special additions such as acknowledgement of country.

Extra activities will be welcomed to the centre over the coming months such as Bush Kinder sessions at the Brown Hill Reserve and Elder programs with elders visiting to share their stories, crafts and Culture. Koorie Preschool Assistants will also visit fortnightly to support the Educators with culturally appropriate and exciting educational activities.

Centre Manager, Casey Brown, is excited about the opportunity for the children and their families to engage with the Brown Hill community through special events such as local celebrations, local initiatives, offering their services where applicable and supporting the local families and businesses around Brown Hill. Their team of Educators is a great mix of talent, some of whom are local residents in the area too, so the trip to work has become a lot easier for them.

The location offers great benefit to Brown Hill residents who previously had no facilities close by and is positioned perfectly for commuters heading out of town and wanting drop their children off to daycare on the way. In such a rapid growth area of Ballarat, the opportunity for the builders and for BADAC came together wonderfully.

The children and families of Ballarat are incredibly lucky to have one of the only Aboriginal-owned and -operated child care and kinder facilities in the state; a place where everyone is welcome, Indigenous and non-Indigenous families alike and where children can be welcomed into a rich and culturally diverse learning experience that will have a huge impact on their future in ways we could never imagine.

Please join me in welcoming Perridak Burron to Brown Hill as we look forward to meeting the team and the children at local events in the not-too-distant future.

Louise Jones, Brown Hill Resident

Contact Perridak Burron:

facebook.com/perridakburronel
5334 4727

admin@perridakburronel.com.au
perridakburronel.net.au

Looking back at Brown Hill Kindergarten

For many Brown Hill residents, the name Sharmeon Holden is synonymous with Kindergarten. Sharmeon was the founding teacher of Brown Hill Kindergarten, working there for 30 years! She takes us for a trip down memory lane looking back at how it all began.

The Brown Hill Kindergarten started in 1975, operating out of the Brown Hill Hall while our centre was being built. It took about 18 months before we moved over to the new premises. With minimal equipment, we initially set up the furniture in the immense hall space, but later reducing it by half with trestle tables down the middle. We shared the facilities, including the kitchen and toilets, with other community groups and made do with an 'office' at the front entrance consisting of a table, a chair and a phone. Each week



Sharmeon playing guitar to the children. Image supplied.

myself and assistant, Louise Burton/Chapman, would set up and pack up the Kinder furniture so other groups could use the space over the weekends. Fortunately for us, the local playgroup had disbanded so we were able to use some of their equipment such as the 'home corner' furniture.

While at the Hall, we had only the basics like puzzles, books and walks along the creek. Our tiny playground was to the side of the hall consisting of a swing, outdoor

blocks, a slide and some sand trucks. We made do! Indoors included lots of music, dancing and fun because we had plenty of SPACE. With the cassette player in hand we sang and danced to classic 1970s tracks such as *Dancing Queen*, *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies* and *Fox on the Run*.

Our Kinder logo back then was a yellow platypus on a brown background as a platypus lived in the creek nearby. We took many walks once we were in our new centre but there were only pylons for the children to cross the creek and we found it too risky. So as a member of the Progress Association, my suggestion to the council resulted in their building the wooden walking bridge next to the children's playground and the Brownbill Memorial Garden. William Brownbill was a gold fossicker in the 1800s and thus 'Brownbill' became 'Brown Hill'. The creek was an inspiration to the children, with storytelling sessions of imaginary pirates looking to bury their treasure on the island. Home-made boats were launched up one end and sailed downstream.

The block that was first chosen for the new building was where the



Sharmeon (centre-right) with Brown Hill Kindergarten students on her 30th anniversary as the founding teacher (2005). Image supplied.

Brown Hill Cricket Club is now but was rejected as too many mine shafts were located there. Another site was selected – only to encounter yet another mine shaft opening up every winter in our playground. The council eventually capped it. Our new playground was designed by Eddy Van Orschot after visits to modern kindergartens in Geelong by the committee and myself. A lot of thought also went into planting the garden. We selected native banksias to attract bird life and chose specific trees to show the changing seasons. A viewing platform was erected for observing the many moods of the creek. Sadly our gumtrees died off during the same year, possibly to do with the gold activities of the past and its impacts on the environment. Back then climbing trees was a great challenge for the children and the oval was a wonderful asset for sporting events, boomerang throwing and of course Bonfire Night with the whole community. I loved this event!

Christmas was a special time, finishing off the year with our Community Carols in the Hall.



1986 Brown Hill Kindergarten Class Photo. Sharmeon back row, left. Vale Mathew Wright (1982-2019), front row centre. Image supplied by Elise Fleming.

Phyllis Quick kindly provided the piano music for the children who sang carols to the community and dressed up as christmas trees - in green garbage bags adorned with tinsel and stars. The Brown Hill Hall, as well as the kinder, has many good memories for me. A lifetime of memories in fact, after 30 years of teaching at the Brown Hill Kinder. It was a privilege to work and live in this area, teaching multiple generations of families over that time. Christine Sullivan took over from me in 2005 and stayed for another 14 ½

years. There must have been something really special that kept us there!

Sharmeon Holden
Brown Hill Kindergarten Teacher
1975-2005 with Louise Jones, Brown Hill resident

Student memories of Sharmeon

We asked some of Sharmeon's past students for their fondest memories at Brown Hill Kindergarten.

My fondest memory would be the great mates that I made, one of whom I'm still friends with today.
Kelly Walker, 1988

My favourite things at kinder were finger painting and playing in the sandpit. And everyone loved when my Dad did fruit duty for the day.
Marselle Seers, 1986

I loved the rabbits we had at kinder and doing painting. My teachers were Sharmeon and Debbie. I'd love to know where everyone is these days!
Elise Fleming, 1986



2003 Brown Hill Kindergarten's Carols in the Hall. Image supplied.

Brown Hill Kindergarten

It has been a busy first term as usual, here at Brown Hill Kindergarten. The children have settled in to their new kinder routines fantastically and have begun forming friendships with their peers. They are developing a strong sense of belonging, learning to self-regulate and separate confidently from their families.

This term we have begun working on our garden/veggie boxes in our outdoor environment. The children planted some seedlings generously donated by Bunnings. If you have any veggies or plants suitable for this season that you would like to donate, we would love some!

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

Advertise

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

Caledonian Primary School

From the Principal's Desk

To the Brown Hill community, Children can be pretty gross. They tend to pick things, eat the things they pick and have very little concept of personal space. So it has been a surprise to see how even our youngest students are now fully accustomed to sanitising. Before last year sanitising was something you might do at a hospital, now it's part of every day as students make their way into classrooms.

A year on from the first Victorian lockdown period we can't help but feel reflective. So much has changed and yet life is beginning to feel a little normal. This weekend I didn't have to wear a mask at the supermarket and felt strangely exposed!

The rules and regulations that shifted constantly for the last 12 months have left many of us fatigued, frustrated and more than a little isolated. However, we are in an amazing position, one that we all took for granted a year ago. We are safe.

We have come through a global

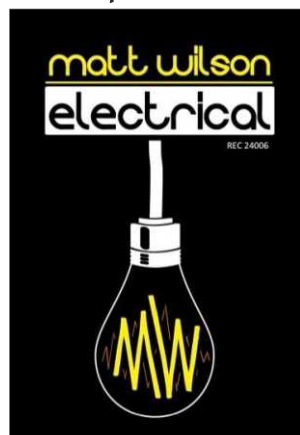
pandemic. This is the sort of thing you see in movies, not real life, and yet here we are! As there are news reports of 'third waves' overseas and countries returning to lockdowns due to staggering numbers, I can't help but recognise how fortunate we have been.

2021 started brilliantly and apart from one small "snap" lockdown we have had a fantastic term!

Following a challenging year last year, we were concerned for the wellbeing of our students. With such significant time out of the school environment we could not predict how children would return to a relatively normal year. We provisioned additional staffing, resources and time allocations to ensure students are supported when planning for this year. However, it seems we over-prepared. A bit like the family holiday when you take way too much stuff!

Students this term participated in a full range of learning opportunities as well as sporting events with enthusiasm and an overwhelmingly positive attitude. The resilience and maturity of our students demonstrate that the school community is a wonderful place to be. Credit where it's due! Parents, you have done an amazing job with your kids over

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the past 12 months and their resilience is reflective of the support you have given them.

This term our athletics carnival was a wonderful event to celebrate with our community. As the first event with parents and carers able to attend, I felt a bit overwhelmed at first, almost like my first ever 'Big Day Out' in the 90s. Nerves did settle and our students had a fantastic day. Our helpers from Woodmans Secondary College were brilliant and parent volunteers helped man the stations with high-pressure jobs like timing the sprints and running triple jump (which I still can't work out how to do). Their support was greatly appreciated.

Our facilities improvement agenda has continued this year with a significant and fairly visual upgrade to both our netball and basketball courts. The bright blue surfaces are a significant improvement on the 'cheese grater' asphalt we had previously. The kids have been really excited to get onto the courts and it has been fabulous to see heaps of sports equipment left out. Not because leaving balls outside is a good thing, but because kids are actually using the sports equipment so it gets left outside. We are even seeing a return of 'Four Square' - everyone's



Caledonian Primary School students, siblings Hugh and Ivy, playing netball on one of the recently re-surfaced courts. Image supplied.

favourite primary school game!

This term we have also moved forward with a robust improvement agenda behind the scenes. Staff have been attending professional learning once a week at 7.00 am (which has not made me very popular) in writing and our maths team is participating in high-level learning through the Bastow Institute. Improving learning outcomes are always at the forefront of our work and the team have been committed to our agenda in writing, reading and mathematics.

We have been very busy already with Prep 2022 enrolment interviews and tours, with lots of

interest in our school. Our tours continue to be one-to-one and when we show parents around we love it when they bring their little person. Kids are great judges and don't have any filters so say exactly what they think! If you need to make a time please call our office on 5332 6955.

I hope you all had a lovely Easter this year, being able to spend it with friends and family.

Ben Moody,
Principal, Caledonian Primary School
5332 6955
caledonian.ps@education.vic.gov.au
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Woodmans Hill Secondary College

From the Principal's desk

As I look back at Term 1 of 2021 - a term that saw, amongst so many other great things, our first review - I can't help but reflect on how the pace of change at Woodmans Hill Secondary College is very much now our 'norm'.

The school review was such a positive experience and has been a welcome reminder as to how far we have come in just over two years. As principal, I can often get caught up focusing too much on where I want us to get to and can run the risk of losing sight of how far we have come. As a school we have high aspirations and ambitions with regards to securing the best academic, social and emotional outcomes for our students and we recognise where our focus needs to be in order to achieve these goals. We are truthful with ourselves because this is how we will learn so that we can effect a real and powerful change together. It has therefore been incredibly encouraging to find that the school review panel completely endorse the work in which we are engaged and the direction in which we are going and are impressed by the speed and momentum at which we are currently travelling.

As well as recognition of the high level of professional learning that staff have been engaged in over the course of the last few years, the panel has highlighted the genuine sense of connection that staff, students and families have



Aerial photograph of students who identify as female. Image supplied.

towards our school. In every staff, student and parent forum, there has been a consistent level of engagement and positive atmosphere. Our community tells it like it is and the impression that they left on the panel is something that can't be faked. If we are going to achieve our long-term goals we need to do this together. We have been completely transparent around this process because we want to learn and we want to get better. The message that has been sent out loud and clear is that we have a strong foundation on which to build something special here at Woodmans Hill.

The things that we are doing well we will continue to focus on and strive to get better at. Our students tell us that they value the feedback that they receive because it tells them what they need to do and learn in order to make progress. We all know from our own experiences that education cannot be one size fits all and it is encouraging to see how far teachers have come in ensuring that we have classrooms where students are consistently met at their individual point of need. At Woodmans Hill, positive relationships are not just about asking about someone's weekend.

It is more about knowing their needs and working together in order to meet that need. That means understanding that social, emotional and academic growth are intertwined: our role as educators is to cater for the multiple and complex needs of every student. I sometimes feel awkward using terms like 'holistic', but focusing on the whole child is what we do. It's tough being a teenager and it is important to draw on experience and remember that, with the right support, young people make it through and make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

Our school is full of glowing examples of students willing to be that change! There has been a real buzz around the school so far this year with so much going on and so many highlights with regard to student participation and leadership. I've been really proud of our student leadership group, led by staff member Jess Rainsford, and the events that they have organised so far this term. Seeing the picture in *The Courier*, taken by the school drone, of all our students who identify as female out on the oval was a really powerful indicator as to how far

we've come as a school and how powerful a force for change our school captains will be this year. This was followed by our stand against bullying, another event that provided a platform for our students to have their voices heard and shape their school culture. It's also brilliant to see students find their passion and create something for everyone to enjoy. A great example of this is the radio show/podcast that a group of students broadcast every Friday lunchtime. Aided by Mr Strachan, this has taken on a life of its own and is now an important part of our school's week. When visiting our feeder primary schools, and again during our recent small group tours for Year Six students and their families, I have been repeatedly asked whether or not we run this or that club. My response is always the same: find your passion and if we don't run it now, come up with a solid plan and talk with me then. We know that with our students on board, we can achieve anything at Woodmans Hill - Term Two is going to be a cracker!

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

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Juliana Addison MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE

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P: 5331 1003

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i julianaaddison



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

Ballarat Community Garden

The Committee and members of the Ballarat Community Garden would like to thank everyone who braved the cold, wet and wintery weather on Saturday 10 April to come and support our Garage Sale.

We managed to raise enough money to replace our trailer that was stolen just a few weeks ago. The plants were popular, as ever, and the Garage Sale, which was a new venture for us, was successful too. The Sausage Sizzle nearly sold out!

With the changing of the season the gardeners are pulling out their summer crops and getting their beds ready to plant up in Spring. This involves cleaning out plants such as sweet corn and other woody stemmed vegetables, which just need taking to the tip. (Ever tried composting a sweet corn stalk? They take a long time to break down in a cold compost heap!)

We try to compost most of our green waste but there are still some things that we need to take to the tip. Then there is the soil preparation which might involve

bringing in manure and mulch in bulk for 75 garden beds. All this requires the use of a trailer, so you can see how grateful we are that we are now able to replace ours!

If you have not yet had a chance to visit the community garden, there will be a Local Produce Swap on the first Saturday of next month. Come along and see what we do. It doesn't matter if you don't have anything to swap, just come and see us.

Until then, thank you again for your support and ongoing interest in our community garden.

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

Older Adult Exercise Classes

Join Steve Holmes and his group of older adults at exercise classes at the Brown Hill Hall.

- * 9.30 am - 10.15 am on Tuesdays and Fridays
 - * Following all COVID-Safe protocols.
 - * Everyone welcome.
 - * \$7.50 for 45 minute classes.
- Contact Steve: 0447 780 152

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HEALTH MY WAY

Good nutrition and physical activity are important parts of leading a healthy lifestyle. A balanced diet can help you to reach and maintain a healthy weight, being active and busy can enhance your overall good health. The Ballarat North Neighbourhood House is presenting during April, May & June various sessions for you to join for FREE to learn more.

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Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

Term One was a roaring success. Highlights were the launch of our Drawing Group's online exhibition (ballarateastnh.org.au/what-s-on/drawing-group-online-gallery) and delivery of the first two editions of the Ballarat East Community News.

We're looking forward to Term Two and we hope you'll join us.

Ballarat East Community News

"Connecting people in Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant, Warrenheip and surrounds"

Editions One and Two of the Ballarat East Community News were delivered by Australia Post and some residents in Brown Hill received a copy. From Edition Three, delivery will not include Brown Hill. If you would like to access a copy, visit Baker's Delight Bakery will or ballarateastnh.org.au/ballarat-east-community-news

Volunteer delivery team

Local volunteers will each deliver around 100 printed copies of every edition six times each year. If you

would like to join the volunteer delivery team, please get in touch. The first edition will be delivered in the week starting 17 May.

Term Two Activities

All of our classes/activities run during school term and can be booked online or contact us for cash payment options:
0422 612 052
reception@ballarateastnh.org.au

Free: Be Connected Digital Skills Classes

Wednesdays: 1.00 - 3.00 pm
Fridays: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon.
Focusing on different topics each week, these classes include 1 hour of learning followed by 1 hour of drop in/question time. Topics include: 'How to book tickets online', 'How to use social media' and so much more!

Classes at Eureka Hall \$8-\$12/class

Our **Tai Chi** classes run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 - 11.00 am at Eureka Hall with Jeni. Term Passes are available online. Classes begin on Tuesday 27 and Thursday 29 April.

Art Classes for Kids

We are planning to run some Art Classes for primary school aged children on Wednesday afternoons (3.45 pm - 4.45 pm). Interested? Please let us know.

Exercise Classes for Older Adults

We are taking expressions of interest for exercise classes for older adults run by Stephen Holmes. If we get enough interest, they will take place at 10.00 am Wednesdays at Eureka Hall. \$10.00 for a 45 minute classes. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Would you like to run a group or class or give a presentation?

We are on the look-out for people to join our gardening group and would also like to help locals find art and craft classes and learn new skills. If you have a skill to teach or would like to give an interesting presentation, please call us or send an email.

Donations welcome

If you have any kids' books, board games or craft supplies to donate for us to use during our after-school activities, please drop them off at our Barkly Square office.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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

reception@ballarateastnh.org.au
facebook.com/BallaratEastNH/
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**9.00 am - 5.00 pm Tuesdays to
Fridays during school term**



NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK

8-14 MAY 2021

'Honouring our community heroes during COVID'



Brown Hill Uniting Church

Thought for the month

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding ; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight" Proverbs 3:5

Worship services at Brown Hill Uniting Church

**Sunday morning worship is at
10.00 am**

Led by a variety of Lay Worship Leaders and an accredited Lay Preacher. Holy Communion is on the fourth Sunday of the month.

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

With spatial distancing we can fit 40 people in the church so there is no need to book in at present and 2 or 3 visitors are welcome.

**Ballarat Churches Midweek
Communion is on Wednesdays at
1.30 pm.**

In the Church Hall, combined with Central Uniting Church. Led by Rev Lauleti Tu'inavai from Central Uniting Church, Rev Bill Clark or Lay Preacher Jim de Jong assisted by other Lay Worship leaders.

With a capacity of 32 people in the hall there is no need to book in

and visitors are welcome.

On-line Worship

Our accredited Lay Preacher, Jim de Jong, continues to offer a weekly on-line worship service and other resources on his website:

dejongs.id.au/home/church.

Ballarat Central Uniting Church offers live-streamed services each Sunday at 10.00 am. Search online: Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Ballarat Regional Healthcare Chaplaincy are providing a half-hour Chapel Service aimed at those in hospital, Aged Care or isolated at home. Leaders are members of the Chaplaincy Committee and Ballarat Uniting Churches. This will now be recorded at the Chaplaincy centre and available to watch on Wednesday each week. Visit: ballaratchaplaincy.com.au.

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 Street in the Ballarat CBD.

Use of our buildings

We are a registered organisation with separate Service Victoria QR

codes for the Church area and the Op Shop. Our premises have been sanitised and we maintain contact registers for those users unable to register digitally. Hand sanitiser and cleaning equipment is available and each area is wiped down after use. Spatial distancing dictates the numbers allowed.

Op. Shop

Our Op Shop re-opened on 26 February and continues as normal on Thursday and Fridays from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm with COVID-19 restrictions. Entry via side door off the Humffray Street North car park, QR code entry and sanitiser hand station. The capacity is 10 people including volunteer staff. Please exit via the usual entrance.

Craft group

Craft group has started again in the church hall from 1.30 – 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.

Community Support

In partnership with the Brown Hill Progress Association, we are pleased to contribute to sponsorship of the upgraded lighting for the Brown Hill Cricket Club grounds. This will enable the Auskick program to take place.

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

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*

Brown Hill Senior Citizens Club

The Brown Hill Senior Citizens Club has been meeting weekly again this year (apart from a little COVID-hiccup), commencing on Monday 1 February.

March saw two events with a luncheon at the Queen's Head Hotel and a train trip to Ararat which took advantage of the free week of public transport travel for Seniors.

A fish and chip lunch was held at the Club on 3 May followed by Community Singing and Bingo, as well as indoor bowls.

In June, we enjoyed a movie afternoon with lunch. Further movie days, luncheons and bus trips are being planned.

Members have been slow to return to the Club but each week sees an increase in numbers. **New members are welcome.** They will bring new energy and ideas to the Club.

From May, community singing will be held every second month. Every other month will be board games or other activities that members suggest. Indoor bowls continues.

Where: Brown Hill Hall, 375 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill

When: Monday afternoons, activities commence 1.30 pm - 3.45 pm.

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

Supporting suicide prevention

Lifeline Ballarat are delivering a Suicide Prevention Education and Training project, funded by the Western Victoria Primary Health Network as part of the Ballarat Suicide Place Based Trial

Sometimes friends, family, colleagues, even a professional connection, can be the first to see that someone they care about is having mental ill health issues.

This training was developed to give community members the

confidence and ability to identify and support someone who may be at risk of suicide. The free courses will teach the skills to recognise when someone is at risk, to identify signs and to know how to speak to someone about suicide and then support them to seek the professional help they may need.

Funded places are available across four different workshops, particularly targeting the wider Ballarat community.

More information on each workshop can be found online: meetingplacewestvicphn.com.au/education-and-training-ballarat



Carers Victoria is delivering 'Mind the Step', a **FREE** four-week online program for carers who feel they would benefit from building their personal resilience and connecting with others in similar situations. The program is facilitated by qualified counsellors via Zoom for 90 minutes each week to support carers in Western Victoria. Participant numbers are kept small to provide a safe and supportive environment.



Come along and join other carers to:

- Enrich your mental health and wellbeing
- Explore how to create balance in your life
- Build awareness of resources and support services
- Connect with other carers and support networks
- Share your experiences in a safe space
- Feel more empowered as a carer

This program is for anyone living in Western Victoria who is in a caring role.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND FIND OUT MORE BY VISITING
www.carersvictoria.org.au/mindthestep
or email mts@carersvictoria.org.au
Please let us know if you need support to attend

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Wallaby Track parkrun

After reaching the one-year anniversary of the Wallaby Track parkrun in December last year, having only completed 13 events, it is nice to now report we have had another 13 events for a grand total of 26 events. We have had 956 different people complete our parkrun which is absolutely amazing!

It has been great to see so many people getting up on a Saturday morning as the weather starts to cool a little and it gets just that bit harder to get out of bed. For all those who do manage though, they are joined by an amazing group of people who encourage everyone who completes the course. From our super fast runners who regularly complete the course in under 20 minutes to those who take a more leisurely approach and enjoy the walk through the beautiful bush, everyone is enjoying their morning activity.

There has been lots of maintenance work going on out on the Wallaby Track lately and we would again like to thank the City of Ballarat for keeping the



parkrun volunteers on the Wallaby Track. Image supplied.

course looking as good as it does.

We get many visitors coming to Ballarat to complete our parkrun and they regularly tell us how beautiful the course is, with many people rating it as the prettiest parkrun they have completed.

Of course our event wouldn't happen each week without the wonderful volunteers we have and so we like to take every opportunity we can to thank them. Volunteering is a great way to be involved if you're not too keen on completing the five kilometre course or if you currently have an injury. It can be a way to still be part of the community.

We can't wait to see more locals coming along on Saturday mornings to get involved in this free event by walking, running or volunteering to help out.

parkrun is held every Saturday morning at 8.00 am on the Wallaby Track. The start is across the Yarrowee River from the Brown Hill Reserve playground, pedestrian access is via the wooden bridge.

If you would like more information on our parkrun, please visit parkrun.com.au/wallabytrack/

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

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Ballarat North United Soccer Club

Founded in 1974 by the merging of two existing clubs, Ballarat North United Soccer Club (BNUSC) is one of Ballarat and District Soccer Association's largest and strongest clubs. Our club home at Russell Square has great facilities.

We are a family-friendly club and warmly welcome players of all abilities. BNUSC is committed to the health and safety of all its members, proudly achieving Good Sports Level 3 accreditation.

Our dedicated team of coaches, team managers, volunteers and committee members ensure players are coached and supported in accordance with the spirit of the game, with participation, development and enjoyment our priority.

Mini Roos (U8-U11) training is on Wednesdays 4.30-5.40 pm at Russell Square. This is a nation-wide initiative, designed for kids of all abilities, aged 4 – 11 years. It uses short, fun, game-based sessions to introduce soccer to newcomers in an inclusive way. MiniRoos focuses on learning new skills and being active, all while having a great time!

Junior training (U12-U17) is on Thursdays 4.30-5.45 pm.

Training for **Senior Women's**, **Senior Men's** and **Reserves** teams is on Thursdays 6.00 pm.

James Hocking,
Committee member, Ballarat North United Soccer Club
bnusc.org.au



Celebrating new facilities at Russell Square. Image: Supplied by City of Ballarat

Russell Square upgrade completed

On Thursday 15 April we celebrated the opening of a major upgrade of sporting facilities at Russell Square, including AFL local level compliant female-friendly change rooms, umpires' change rooms, netball change rooms, storage space, landscaping and connections and verandah.

Those in attendance included Senator for Victoria Sarah Henderson, Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, City of Ballarat Mayor Cr Daniel Moloney, Council officers and members from several Russell Square User Groups.

The project was funded by \$500,000 from Sport Australia Community Sports Infrastructure grant program and \$250,000 from the City of Ballarat.

"Community sport is a binding force in our local communities and Ballarat residents will now have access to the premier

sporting facilities that they deserve," Ms Henderson said.

"Our sporting groups and the volunteers that dedicate their time to keeping clubs running all deserve equal access to the best sporting facilities in the State and that's just what we are delivering right here in Brown Hill."

Those who will benefit the most will be junior and female participants. The new facility has also enabled modifications to the existing community building to provide greater flexibility of use.

Cr Moloney said, "We know that a lack of proper facilities can be a major setback for people taking those first steps to living more active and healthy lives. The City of Ballarat is working to ensure the people of Ballarat have the necessary amenities they need to take those steps."

Please contact me should you be interested in becoming a User Group at Russell Square or wish to hire the facility.

Damian Ryan
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Brown Hill's Auskickers on the national stage

Ten local kids recently took to Mars Stadium to show the crowd their footy skills!

In the half-time break of the Western Bulldogs vs Brisbane Lions AFL match, participants from the new Brown Hill Auskick Centre had a kick of the footy.

Macklin said, "Playing at Mars Stadium was so exciting and it was great getting to have a kick and play with the Bulldogs. I'm looking



Local Auskick participants at Mars Stadium. Photographer: Megan Wellman

forward to learning to kick better and seeing my friends at Auskick."

Lily said, "I had lots of fun, it was exciting playing, watching an AFL

game and I got a few kicks."

Seventy children will soon be running out onto the oval at the Brown Hill Recreation reserve for the first Auskick session.

I am blown away by the number of registrations. When I first took on this role I thought maybe we could see 30 or 40 children at the most... and to be edging closer to the 70 mark is a huge achievement for our first ever Auskick season at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve.

This year, Auskick Centres in/close to Brown Hill are at Russell Square (East Point), Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and at Little Bendigo Primary School in Nerrina.

Auskick at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve will run from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm Fridays in Term Two.

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

Megan Wellman
2021 Brown Hill Recreation Reserve
Auskick Coordinator
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Local Auskick participants at Mars Stadium. Photographer: Megan Wellman