

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 33, Autumn, March 2022

*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.*



Wendy Aston at the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective, which she co-founded in 2013.
Photographer: Penthea Marshall-Radcliffe.

Diary Dates

MARCH

Saturday 19: 8.30 am, Men's Breakfast, Brown Hill Uniting Church (p.21)

Monday 21: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting. Brown Hill Cricket Club, Reid Court. All welcome.

APRIL

Friday 8: Last day of School Term One.

...continued p.2

Brown Hill's Wonderful Wendy Aston

When asked to write an article on Wendy Aston, my mind flew to descriptions such as pillar of the community/salt of the earth/driving force/can-do person/walks the talk ... one could continue to attempt to sum up Wendy but it still seems inadequate.

Any of the hundreds of people who have interacted with Wendy within Ballarat and regions would verify that Wendy has committed time and energy over more than 30 years to focus community attention on 'what we buy and eat and how we can reuse and recycle.' She has been an ambassador for living more sustainably, caring for the planet and enhancing people's health and wellbeing, well before the climate emergency was declared.

Wendy has undertaken community development work in an exemplary fashion. One might be forgiven for thinking she was an expert in the field. She has successfully facilitated community involvement and participation through the development of programs and organisations that have made a positive difference. She has led by example without so much as a hint of eco-shaming. Her positive approach has embodied the message that the individual can make a difference and small steps do contribute to the health of the planet.

Whilst a parent at Caledonian Primary School, she initiated the establishment of the gardening program and farmers' market, at the same time as maintaining a small backyard business in massage, waxing and

aromatherapy products while raising two children, Meg and Ben, with her husband, Jack.

In 2013, following participation in a short course on permaculture through Tread Lightly Permaculture, Wendy and three other participants collaborated and established the not-for-profit Ballarat Wholefoods Collective which sold organic regional produce to interested locals. Initially the small 'shop' operated from Wendy's backyard granny-flat but had outgrown these humble beginnings within a year or two.

The Brown Hill Cricket Clubrooms were a short-term solution but three years ago space was obtained at Barkly Square (managed by Ballarat Group

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Friday 15: Good Friday

Sunday 17: Easter Sunday

APRIL

Monday 18: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting. Venue to be confirmed. All welcome.

Monday 25: ANZAC Day

Tuesday 26: School Term 2 begins

MAY

Monday 16: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting. Venue TBC 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 should 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 should also like to acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

In this edition

Recently, I had the privilege of speaking at a ceremony to recognise the great life of a wonderful friend, Arthur. He was 88 years old and still rode 100km each week with friends. Sadly, he had passed away suddenly at home (after having snuck in one more bike ride that morning).

Arthur had been a volunteer with the Bicycle Network team (who organise the Great Victorian Bike Ride, Ride to Work Day and advocate to get more people riding bikes) for almost 20 years.

About our Newsletter

This publication is a community project of the Brown Hill Progress Association. It is published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Our volunteer team:

Editorial Advisory Committee:

Geoff Dickson, Brian Green and Sarah Greenwood-Smith

Editorial Support: Anne

Rowland, Anna Beesley, Dianne Vanderveer, Hazen Cleary, Sally McAlpin and Julie Hayes

Lead Writer: Louise Jones

Accounts Manager: Ron Damen

Proof Reader: Peter Morton

Social Media: Ellie Thacker and Sherene Mounier.

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 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 34 articles are due by **Monday 2 May 2022**. 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), third Monday every month, 7.00 pm. All welcome.

bhpa@brownhill.vic.au
brownhill.vic.au

PO Box 1863, Bakery Hill 3354



What an amazing contribution.

In my speech, I included this quote from the CEO of Bicycle Network, Craig Richards, who said of Arthur, *"He knew the secret to a happy life was helping others. He was always willing to do something for someone else and not expect anything in return. He was a true leader, as, through his actions, he inspired us all to be better people."*

I took a moment to consider the many Brown Hill (and Nerrina) locals who volunteer their time to produce this newsletter.

There is Louise, our Lead Writer, who seeks out stories and opinions, interviews people, researches information and takes photographs so that we can bring you a range of interesting articles from across Brown Hill.

We have Anne who has recently come on board as a sub-editor, to check articles as they come in and get them prepared for layout.

Ellie and Sherene have taken the lead on our Facebook page, to keep that up-to-date, relevant and engaging.

As long-time residents of Brown Hill and being well connected within the community, Geoff and Brian help to guide editorial decisions to keep this publication on track and a high-quality resource for the Brown Hill

community.

Each edition I also enjoy a late-night phone call before the printing deadline with Peter Morton. Peter is our proof reader and we have great discussions each edition in an effort to ensure the newsletter is easy to read and as grammatically correct as we can manage!

Behind the scenes we have Dianne, who has been coordinating an update of the 25 or so delivery maps and local graphic designer, Tyler, who has updated the maps digitally.

We also have a dedicated team of delivery volunteers who all keenly collect their boxes of newsletters each edition to collectively hand-deliver to over 2000 letterboxes across Brown Hill.

Committee members of the Brown Hill Progress Association also support the publication of this newsletter through submitting articles and checking through each edition before it goes to print...and the list goes on and on!

All of this is volunteer work, done in people's "spare" time. We volunteer for different reasons: to connect with others, to contribute to our local

community, to learn or share a skill, amongst others.

I know that I get a lot out of volunteering on this fantastic community project. I enjoy the connection to a broad range of people from across and beyond Brown Hill. I love the looks on the faces of kids who see their photo or artwork in print. It is great to know when we have shared an important story of a Brown Hill local with or promoted a local business to everyone in our great suburb.

I think we can all learn a lot from my friend Arthur. He did help others. He volunteered a significant amount of his time over the years. He gave a lot, but also gained plenty in return: friends, experiences, confidence, laughs and new skills.

Perhaps helping others is the secret to a happy life?

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

P.S. Looking to volunteer? The Brown Hill Progress Association has opportunities: delivering the newsletter, updating the Brown Hill Business Directory and more! Please contact us if you are keen.

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Michaela Settle MP STATE MEMBER FOR BUNINYONG
15 Main Road, Bakery Hill 3350 P: 5331 7722 E: michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au

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Training) as one of the first community-based tenants. The Ballarat Wholefoods Collective is currently a thriving organisation with Wendy at the helm as President, more than 200 products on the shelves, over 100 active members and a governance committee of nine. There is the sense with Wendy that her interests and passions have coalesced through the development and successful functioning of the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective.

Since I have known Wendy (the best part of 20 years) I have continued to be amazed by the sheer number of people in Ballarat who know and value her. She has enhanced many people's lives in all manner of contexts. Personally, she inspired my family to shop more sustainably, eat more responsibly and to install solar panels on our home much earlier than we had considered possible. Her example of 'getting in and making it happen' and 'can-do attitude' has facilitated positive and ethical action in others.

Wendy is what I think of as a true 'triple threat', a rare combination of a big picture thinker with an understanding and eye for detail



Brown Hill's wonderful Wendy Aston. Image supplied.

and the consistency and energy to follow projects through to fruition. Most of us have been blessed with one or two of these attributes but Wendy clearly has all three. These attributes plus the determination of a prize fighter and well-practised multitasking, appears to have enabled her to continue through enormous adversity and to have maintained focus and developed a wonderful Wholefoods Collective that serves our fortunate community.

Wendy has had more than her share of adversity in the last few years and has personally dealt with a couple of challenging medical procedures. Throughout

she has continued her voluntary commitments consistently and conscientiously. Even during the considerable challenges of COVID, Wendy has continued to provide a market for the local producers and a shopping experience for the community whenever possible within the current guidelines.

I would not describe Wendy as a quiet achiever. She is loud, loves a laugh and will talk about her passions embodied by the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective with whoever will lend an ear. Not backward in coming forward she has gently but firmly suggested different tasks for various members to undertake to enable

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Federal Member for Ballarat

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them to contribute to the Collective. She has recognised tasks that suit members' strengths and never pushed anyone to a discomfort level (note I am authoring this article!). She has the talent for connecting with others quickly and easily, putting people at their ease and allowing them the opportunity to explore and embrace different options. This has served to ensure the Ballarat Wholefood Collectives' survival as it can only continue with the support and voluntary input of its members.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Wendy continues to search for new products, support local producers, create workshop potentials and fundraisers to enhance the functioning of the Ballarat Wholefood Collective within its aims and ideals. Thank you Wendy for your tireless, unpaid work and commitment to our community.

Sally McAlpin (with Wendy Taylor)

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Brown Hill Progress Association

From the Secretary's Desk

Brown Hill Community Hall

It has been pretty difficult to miss all the fencing and contractors' vehicles around the Hall since before Christmas. The contractors are doing their best to finish the following works by late April:

- * Repair and replace all the old rusty iron on the older part of the Hall closest to Humffray Street North,
- * Repair and replace the ceiling in the Hall, and
- * Replace /update the lighting in the Hall.

When they have finished, the Hall committee will arrange to have the floor resurfaced and sealed. This will need to harden for two weeks before our intrepid dance troupes will be allowed to hit the floor again. It will be like a new home and thank goodness the reduction in COVID-19 restrictions will allow people to get back to the activities they love.

Brown Hill Reserve Redevelopment

The proposed restructure and

improvements to the Brown Hill Reserve area are currently in the Masterplanning stage and a Planning Firm has been assigned the job by the City of Ballarat. They will prepare a project design and staging, which is expected to be available for community perusal by July 2022.

The City of Ballarat has nominated this as a project of local significance, which are defined as projects "*which will enhance the everyday lives of residents through new and improved walking trails and wetlands, play spaces, sporting facilities and community hubs. They will bring social, health and wellbeing benefits and improve local community connections.*"

We will have to be patient and see what comes forward and we will do our best to keep the community in the loop.

As always, the Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) is working to help other groups as they emerge from the COVID-fog. These groups include the Wallaby Track Parkrun, the Brown Hill Cricket Club and the Brown Hill Uniting Church. Thanks to all of our Committee.

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



Let's invite them all here

Because everything we love about our city is better when enjoyed with our favourite people.

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Big Little Things

A group of Ballarat locals has got together to assist 'Big Little Things' in Melbourne with a collection of essential items for antenatal/postpartum mothers and their newborns who are affected by the floods in Queensland and New South Wales. Many of these families have literally lost everything. Some are in shelters with babies less than one week old. They have little or no access to essential birthing items such as maternity pads and nappies.

Big Little Things are conscious (as we are) of not creating more work for the tired workers up north so they are gathering real-time information from families about their most needed items. This information is being used to create care packages ready to be handed out when they hit the ground in flood-affected areas. This creates less waste and more meaningful and practical support without increasing the already huge workload.

Items must be new in packaging or opened, but new, and include:

Postpartum items

Underwear (large sizes),



People in floodwaters. Image source @irandaily

maternity bras, maternity singlets, maternity pads/adult diapers, Panadol, Arnica tablets, Haakaa pumps, nursing pads, nipple cream/balm, Hydralyte tablets, face washers, peri bottles, body ice packs (perineum/breast), peri sprays, hand sanitiser.

Newborn items

Nappies, wipes, nappy rash cream/barrier cream, baby Panadol, bottles and teats, baby wash/shampoo, towels, dummies, baby moisturiser (excema friendly), plastic tubs to store packs in.

Contacts

For more information:

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Lauretta Hamilton

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Tess Batchelor

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tess@tessbatchelor-doula.com

Drop-off points

Items will be collected on **Wednesday 16 March** for the first drop off to Melbourne.

Donations can be made during business hours at three locations:

Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

Goldfields Health Collective, 29 Peel Street South, Ballarat

Health Connection, 304 Howitt Street, Ballarat North

Sarah Duncanson, Ballarat local

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Are you a new resident of Brown Hill?

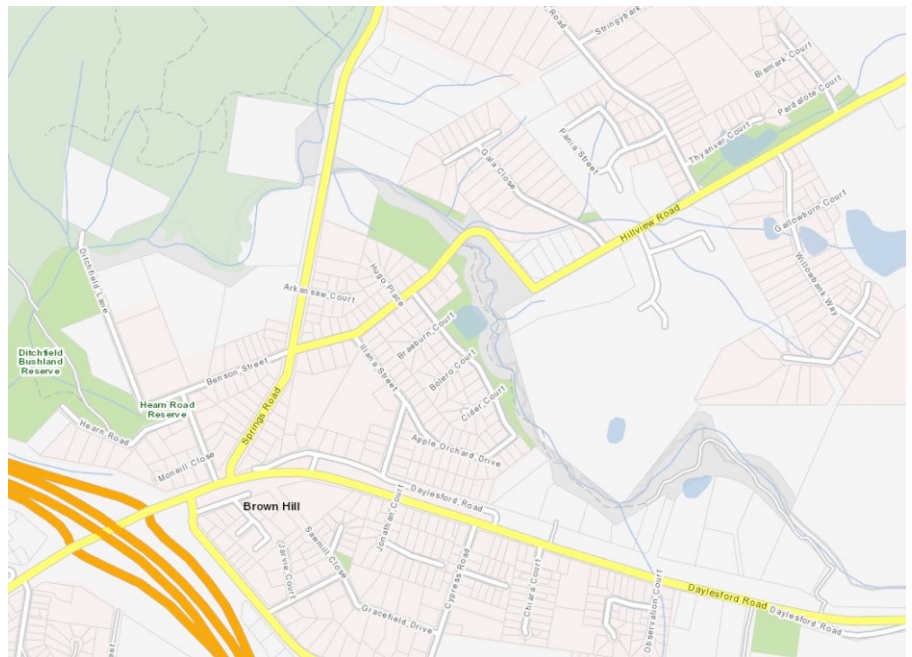
If you have recently moved to Brown Hill, are you aware that you have moved into one of the highest risk areas of Ballarat to experience a bushfire threat?

To understand the bushfire risk to your new home, go to the Brown Hill Community Hub website and access the **Be Bushfire Ready** page: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-are-you-bushfire-ready/

Anyone living in a bushfire-prone area needs to ensure they have a written and up-to-date bushfire plan. It is not good enough to say that “I’ll just leave” because you may find yourself in a situation where you can’t leave. If you can’t leave, then the safest place to be is in a well-prepared home that you can actively defend. A well-prepared home cannot be achieved when a fire is approaching. Preparations need to have occurred **before** the bushfire season and be maintained throughout.

If you have moved into one of the many new estates north of the freeway, you have another major factor to consider – how are you going to leave? Just a simple look at the road network northside will

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The north part of Brown Hill, showing Springs and Hillview Roads. Source: visualisingballarat.org.au/visbal_map.php

show you that there are only two major exit roads from the area – Springs and Hillview Roads that both need to merge into Daylesford Road. Residents who regularly travel these roads to get to work or take kids to school will already have experienced the congestion at these intersections. Can you imagine what it would be like when the **whole** area was trying to escape from an emergency situation?

The Brown Hill Progress Association has already highlighted to Council this dangerous situation which could occur in any emergency event, not only for the residents trying to get

out but also with emergency services trying to get in.

All residents need to seriously think about the many factors that would affect them, their families and their property. It is never too early to do your bushfire risk homework. You need a well-prepared plan (written and practised), with option A – what you would prefer; option B – when you can’t do A; option C – a back-up when A and B aren’t possible. **And** always watch the weather, there is no excuse to be “surprised” by a bushfire event.

Hazen Cleary
Brown Hill FireAware Network
hmc433@hotmail.com



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State Awards

The Brown Hill Community Newsletter was a finalist in three of the nine awards at the 2021 Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV) Annual Awards held on 6 November 2021. Congratulations to all of the wonderful volunteers involved. They each play an important part in the ongoing success of this fantastic community project.

Here are the judges' comments:

Best History Story

(21 entries)

Second Place – Brown Hill Community Newsletter, Edition 27 – ‘The Littlehales’ Brown Hill Family History’ by Roy and Marlene Littlehailes, Brown Hill Residents, interviewed by Kevin Holloway, Brown Hill resident.

"This story looks at a part of the history of Brown Hill, a suburb of Ballarat. It covers local history, family history and social history. The story is the memories of Roy and Marlene Littlehailes whose family operated a local bus service and later a local garage and service station. There is nothing 'grand' about the story. It is just a simple story that captures memories - important memories of the area and the role one family

played in its history, the sort of memories we should all be recording while we can."

Best Editorial Comment

(14 entries)

Equal Second Place – Brown Hill Community Newsletter, Edition 30 – ‘In this Edition’ by Sarah Greenwood-Smith.

Best Community Content

(26 entries)

Third Place – Brown Hill Community Newsletter

"The Brown Hill Community Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Brown Hill Progress Association. Based on the north-east side of Ballarat and cut in half by the Western Freeway to Melbourne, this community is obviously proud of its role in bringing its community together.

The potential opening of a new Water Shed Café is celebrated and the paper certainly recognises its local business sponsors. As well, the Brown Hill Community Newsletter is prepared to lobby the City of Ballarat and to raise issues that affect its residents, including the development of a new Local Area Plan, traffic management issues near the kindergarten and school, the lack of bus shelters and the late opening of the community pool.

As well, their magazine includes good information about Brown Hill Fire Awareness and preparedness for the summer season.

Another important issue the newsletter raises is the lack of a Post Office since Australia Post closed its doors in Brown Hill in 2017.

With news about the Nerrina Wetlands working bees, local Perridak Burrton Early Learning Centre, Playgroup, Kindergarten and Caledonian Primary School, there is a great deal of community information for all residents.

Workshops run by Ballarat Wholefoods Collective and notes about the Community Garden, the local Lions Club and Neighbourhood Houses, parkrun, VicSwim and Auskick certainly give the community plenty of information about how to participate in local activities which bring the community together. "

Well done to all who help to put this Newsletter together - writing, editing, proof reading, taking photos, chasing stories, layout, printing and delivery/distribution! What a great effort.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Editor



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Hideaway Coffee Bar

Like most locals, for three years I've watched the old brick sheds on Water Street come to life. Tucked away behind an enormous eucalyptus tree, they have gone from impending demolition to complete renovation and the Hideaway Coffee Bar is now officially open!

The original buildings are pertinent to the character of "old" Brown Hill and local developers, Mick Harris and Dayle Oldaker, have worked tirelessly to retain the rustic charm and save the buildings in the property's subdivision. Like many others, I assumed the café belonged to the magnificently renovated property facing Humffray Street North but they are in fact separate.

With the bulk of the work now complete, the keys have been handed over to an incredible line up: Rhys, Lachie (owners of Higher Society) alongside Trudi and Ash. They have now put their finishing touches on the building and are busting open the doors, setting out the deck and finally bringing food, coffee and atmosphere to the people of Brown Hill. We've been forgotten for too long and I know how excited I am to now have a great café within walking or biking distance of my home!

For seven months the Hideaway



crew have served coffees and treats from the on-site caravan (formerly known as Water Street Café) and it has become a real 'go-to' venue for customers far and wide. During the lockdowns of 2021 the caravan became the only reason many people within the 5km radius could even leave the house – to get some take away food or coffee.

When I arrived to meet the Hideaway team for this article, local cyclist and regular coffee enthusiast, Lyle, was just about to head back on the road but kindly stayed a few minutes to have a chat. The café vibe is so welcoming and they tell me it's starting to feel like family.

Not only is the new venue a win for coffee and food lovers, it's a win for the entire community. I know I'm not the only one concerned about school traffic and pedestrian safety along Water Street. So it's great to hear that a new path connecting the Perridak Burrton Early Learning Centre to the Caledonian Primary School is to be constructed in coming months which will lead you right to the doors of Hideaway.

With indoor seating, outdoor decking and a lush grassy area for

the kids, Hideaway is sure to become a central hub for Brown Hill. Soak in the idyllic views and treat your senses when you stop by for a coffee on your daily commute or sit in for a beautiful bite to eat.

Hideaway Coffee Bar

69 Water Street, Brown Hill (look for the caravan and little white car)

CAFÉ:

Wednesdays - Fridays
6.00 am – 2.00 pm

Saturdays - Sundays
8.00 am – 3.00 pm

VAN:

Mondays – Tuesdays
6.00 am – 2.00 pm

Louise Jones, Lead Writer and Photographer.





Playgroup children, Jonah and Abel, at Russell Square. Photographer: Aimee Knight

Brown Hill Playgroup

Brown Hill Playgroup is back for 2022. We are currently meeting on Wednesday mornings, during the school term, at the Russell Square playground in Brown Hill. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in schools we are yet to return to Caledonian Primary School.

We have enjoyed five fantastic sessions this year, each with the sun shining although sometimes a little windy. However, the children were usually having too much fun to notice the weather. They were overjoyed with the new seesaw that has been installed at the playground (building the

young ones' co-operation skills) and toy trucks have been well-used in the dirt. We have sent more than a few children home very dirty.

We welcome all families with young children, so please visit our friendly playgroup at Russell Square playground if you are around Brown Hill on a Wednesday morning. Families can drop by any time between 9.00 - 11.00 am and stay for as long or as short as suits you and your child/ren. It has been a tough few years for parents with young children and we want to reach out to any family in Ballarat who is looking to connect. We enjoy meeting new people and over time, friendships blossom.

Finally, goodbye and best of luck

to our playgroup children who have become big Preps this year. It has been great to see you while you have had no school on Wednesdays. We will miss you and look forward to seeing you around in your school uniforms.

Aimee Knight

Brown Hill Playgroup Co-Coordinator

playgroup@brownhill.vic.au

facebook.com/brownhillplaygroup

Caledonian Primary School, 5332 6955

Brown Hill Kindergarten

It has been a busy first term for 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, with the children helping to remove weeds to prepare the boxes for seedlings.

If you have any veggies or plants suitable for this season which you can donate, we would love some!

Laura Draper, Education Leader

Brown Hill Kindergarten

1 Reid Court, Brown Hill

5332 7973

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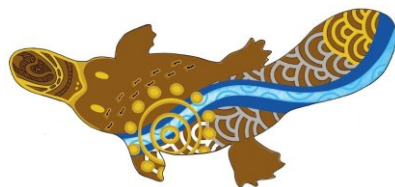
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Perridak Burron Early Learning Centre



It has been a big few months for Perridak Burron Early Learning. We recently celebrated our first Birthday on Tuesday 8 February and it was a great opportunity to reflect on all the amazing things that have been achieved. We have grown from a newly-opened service with a handful of children and about seven staff, to a thriving service with over 150 children and around 30 staff. We are so proud of the relationships that have been built and the quality of our service and excited to see what we can achieve in the many years to come.

We have also recently had the excitement of an outdoor space revamp. Over December and January, the team from Ballarat Groundworks created an amazing outdoor playscape. Despite the children not having access to the yard during this time, their learning was never hindered! Our amazing Educators used this time to teach about machines,

Images of Perridak Burron all supplied.



gardening and working together to care for Country. This learning has now paved the way for the children to work alongside our team in looking after the plants as they grow, including watering them daily and helping to tidy the rock gardens.

The new outdoor environment fosters a sense of exploration and



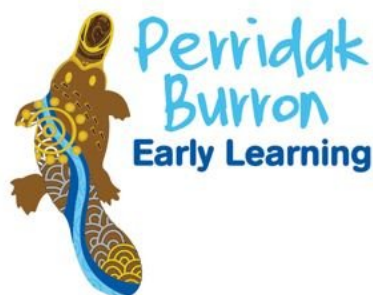
enquiry and encourages the children to test out their ever-growing physical capabilities! The design of the yard also provides little spaces for little people to explore their big ideas and feelings, with some hideaways that allow the children to sit and watch the world go by. We also observe children gathering together, sharing ideas and engaging in conversations with one another.

A busy few months indeed... I wonder what adventures we will have next!



Hayley Wilson,
Quality Assurance Officer
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Perridak Burron Early Learning provides funded three and four-year-old Kindergarten programs in a culturally inclusive environment.

We are passionate about educating children *through* culture and are dedicated to providing a service focused on quality.

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Brown Hill, VIC 3550
W perridakburronel.net.au

Caledonian Primary School

From the Principal's Desk

To the Brown Hill Community,
When looking forward to 2022 we all thought it would be fairly straightforward. The pandemic was nearly over, everyone was getting vaccinated and schools were going to be all business as usual. This didn't quite work out as expected, with air filters and "RATs", but Caledonian Primary School has managed to start the year with incredible success.

What is wonderful is seeing our youngest members of the Caledonian family entering school for the first time, connecting with their peers, making new friends, learning and experiencing joy at being at school. Preps are most precious and ensuring they have the best start possible to their education is a huge responsibility, one we take very seriously at Caledonian.

This year we have been able to start with a structured literacy model including systematic phonics. I had the chance to view some of the Prep testing data after 20 days of learning. Our Prep teachers have been measuring the



One of the Caledonian Primary School students with their Lego Club creations. Photographer: Ben Moody, Principal

rate at which students are learning letter names and the sounds associated with them. As this is a specific focus in reading development, allowing for the skill of decoding text, it is a fundamental skill every student needs. The initial results of the teaching approaches being used are incredible, with many students accelerating in their knowledge and exceeding expectations. Having fabulous teachers helps.

When I taught Prep 15 years ago, we would do a letter a week and by mid-year we would still be doing a letter a week. Even if the students knew all their letters, we would do a letter a week. So, on

reflection we have come a very long way in our understanding of what, and how quickly, children can learn!

This essential skill continues in greater complexity in Grades One and Two as these skills are applied to more complex text, spelling and writing. The best example I can give is that these phonemic skills are the foundations to the wonderful building that is being literate and being able to enjoy reading, compose complex text and understand the written word.

It very important to us as to get this right as a full third of our students at Caledonian Primary School are in Grades One and Two – they are by far the largest cohorts in our school.

We are really pleased with the way our courts, gardens, fruit trees and our classrooms are looking. This year we will be turning our eyes to the external buildings with planned painting to go ahead. This will continue our facilities improvement agenda into 2022 and our School Council is very pleased to continue to ensure Caledonian kids have the best of everything!

One of my projects is Lego Club. Every day several students come and work together to construct masterpieces. While we certainly need more Lego, even with what



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Dr Annie Ramnauth has joined Dr Rod Allen.

**She is currently taking new patients
with special interest in family
and women's health.**



Caledonian Primary School's 2022 School Captains and Vice Captains, from L to R, Hugh, Jack, Jacinta and Kayla, showing the soft plastics collected for recycling. Photographer: Geoff Dickson, Assistant Principal.

we have cities are being designed and friendships are being made. Not all students like to kick a football or climb in the playground, so Lego Club gives them another option. Our teachers are exploring other potential clubs to engage students, as these clubs also serve to help rebuild the social and emotional wellbeing of students who may have found themselves quite isolated in recent times. Structured and organised play can help children feel safe at school.

2023 Prep enrolment has begun and we have had many enquiries already. Enrolment interviews are

available by appointment so if you are thinking to make a time please don't wait. These interviews are held one-on-one as this allows parents to ask questions they may not feel comfortable asking in a group situation. There are no silly questions. When starting Prep for the first time it can be overwhelming and even a little scary (for parents, usually the children are fine) so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

From the Student Leaders

We have had a great start to term one at Caledonian Primary School. The preps have settled in well and are learning lots of new skills.

Our School Athletics Day is on Friday 11 March. Our four Houses are Sturt, Brownbill, Victoria and Eureka, the House with the most points wins.

In week one, the Grade Six students were presented with their school leadership badges. Well done to everyone who received a leadership role.

This term our assemblies are running online. Our School Captains and Vice Captains have been running the assemblies in a different class each week to get to know everyone in every class.

In week three, we started a soft plastic collection. In each classroom there is a special plastic bag where students put their soft plastics. They are then collected and taken to Woolworths and recycled. So far we have collected two whole bags full of soft plastics. We are not taking any wrappers outside in the yard. The yard is already looking much better and we hope we can keep it this way.

Hugh and Kayla (School Captains)
Jacinta and Jack (School Vice Captains)



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Woodmans Hill Secondary College

From the Principal's desk

As I enter my fourth year as principal at Woodmans Hill Secondary College, I am acutely aware of the responsibility I have to the wider community. My school is central to its community and acts as a bridge between the comfort of childhood and the challenging reality of adult life.

As each year goes by, we see the expectations and aspirations of our students being raised by the previous cohort's endeavours. Whilst exam results do not define any individual, the destinations that our students have been able to secure as a result of their determination, resilience and hard work are nothing short of inspirational. Their successes breed confidence in the other students at our school, encouraging them to adopt the mentality that they can achieve their hearts' desires and, in doing so, our students go out into society with the skills, values and capacity to be a force for good. At the end of the day, if our students make a difference in their lives and the lives of others, that is all that matters.

Albeit with the recent developments of short-term isolation and the introduction of regular COVID testing, the year has begun with the adoption of our more recognised rhythms of Year 12 Study Retreat, Year 7 Port Fairy Camp, Swim Sports and Athletics... there's something reassuringly familiar about these events that will help our students



re-engage after two years of disruptive connection. Whilst my usual outlook on life is incredibly optimistic, I am a realist above all else. I know that we have not yet fully healed as a community after such disruption and deregulation. We have a lot of work still to do to get back to anything that is recognisable as 'normal'. That is why we at Woodmans Hill are finely balancing our priorities between a focus on academic growth and student wellbeing. We currently have a generation within our education system that have had to adapt to prolonged periods of isolation on four separate occasions and it will take time for some to readjust.

At Woodmans Hill we recognise the need for structure and stability to provide certainty for our students. This term, the Woodmans Hill staff worked with world-renowned educational consultant Glen Pearsall as part of a masterclass focusing on how to create the right dynamics to maximise learning and engagement within the classroom. As many parents and carers will have experienced through isolation with their children, the route to learning can be challenging for some students and this challenge can only increase

when managing the complex needs of 20+ students in a classroom. If you work as a teacher at Woodmans Hill Secondary College, it is a given that you recognise the truth in Rita F Pierson's often quoted *"every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be"*. High school can be tough in so many unexpected ways, but it is made so much easier if each student believes that they are understood by teachers who can empathise with what they are going through and who believe in them. It was great to see our staff so willing to learn and improve and see the importance of creating the right environment so that every student is encouraged to persist in their learning.

I also recognise how important it is for our students to realise that when they wear the Woodmans Hill uniform they act as ambassadors for our values. Be it volunteering at charitable events or umpiring primary school athletics carnivals, when they are out in the community it is important that they know we will not compromise our values of respect, determination and resilience under any circumstances. We have worked hard to build a school that we can be proud of (and we are!) and we will continue to insist on the highest of standards at all times. Anything less is not enough.

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

Concerns Over Yarrowee River Health

Residents and users of the Yarrowee River Trail have voiced their concerns about damage and contamination to the river following the overflow of sediment from the Vista Brown Hill development on Hillview Road.

Recent posts on social media and discussions among residents have sparked outrage at the situation, with many locals unaware of the damage due to not visiting the river and walking trail very often.



Apple Orchard Drive – riverbed filled with overflow from development visible above.



Gong Gong Creek and Yarrowee River meet near Springs Road.

A number of locals have contacted the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and City of Ballarat, but a resolution has not yet eventuated. One local has posted signs alerting visitors to the area to the ecological vandalism and suggests they can help by also contacting the EPA.

Locals recognise that development is important for the area to provide housing for the growing population. However, works must be completed in accordance with regulations, laws and a moral responsibility to protect the native flora and fauna in the area.

I look forward to sharing a response from the EPA and City of Ballarat in the next edition.

Louise Jones, Lead Writer & Photographer for this article

Autumn Photo Competition



Photo by Maksim Goncharenok from Pexels.

It is amazing Autumn and we want to capture and share beautiful Brown Hill in images.

The Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) is running a competition for the best Autumn photo of Brown Hill. The winner will receive a \$50 cash prize.

To enter, please either:


a) submit your photo via the Brown Hill Community Newsletter Facebook page:
facebook.com/BrownHillCommunityNewsletter

b) email your photo to us:
newsletter@brownhill.vic.au.

Photos may be published on the Brown Hill Community Online Hub, Brown Hill Community Newsletter Facebook page and/or the Brown Hill Community Newsletter. Please include a first name with the photo.

Entries close Friday 22 April.

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Our local Neighbourhood Houses

Neighbourhood Houses bring people together to connect, learn and contribute in their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities, using a unique community development approach.

Ballarat has four Neighbourhood Houses: Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre in Sebastopol, Wendouree Neighbourhood House, Ballarat North Neighbourhood House in Soldier's Hill and Ballarat East Neighbourhood House.



Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

It is great to be back in the swing of activities and classes at the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House.

Eureka Hall

Both our regular and new participants are enjoying our **Drawing Group** (Mondays, 1.00 - 3.00 pm) and **Tai Chi** (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00 am - 11.00 am), held at Eureka Hall, Stawell Street South. These activities are \$10.00 per session. Please contact us to register your details and to check if there is space in the class.



Ballarat East Neighbourhood House's Be Connected Digital Mentor, Greg, teaching Marie some skills to better use her tablet. Photographer: Sarah Greenwood-Smith

Barkly Square

We have two free **Be Connected Digital Literacy** sessions each week. On Tuesday mornings (9.30 am - 11.30 am), our Digital Mentor, Greg, runs group sessions to share tips and tricks for getting the most out of your device - mobile phone/tablet/laptop. On Thursday afternoons, individual bookings can be made with Greg to get specific help with your digital device. There are still places available in both of these sessions, so please call/email us if you are interested.

We welcome Jane to our team, an experienced local teacher who is running two new classes for us.

Adaptable Cooking (Thursdays, 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm) will help you learn how to cook for yourself or others who have special dietary requirements (Coeliac, FODMAPS, dairy/egg/wheat/nut intolerances, vegan, vegetarian etc.).

On Fridays (9.30 am - 11.30 am),

Jane will be teaching **Beginner's AUSLAN**.

Our very popular **Watercolour** class with amazing local artist, Kelsie White, is on Friday afternoons (2.30 pm - 4.30 pm).

Contact us if you are interested in any of these classes.

On Tuesday mornings, we host our **Playgroup** in partnership with the Ballarat Toy Library. There is a great range of toys and a singalong with local musician Shel, a volunteer of the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House.

To stay up-to-date online, follow us on Facebook and/or register for our e-news:

ballarateastnh.org.au/contact-us

Give us a call or come and see us at Barkly Square, Ballarat East!

Bronze Sponsor

Mental Health and Wellbeing

In partnership with Wellways, the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House will be delivering a series of five free Mental Health and Wellbeing webinars held regularly from 7.30 - 8.30 pm Wednesday evenings from 4 May 2022.

The webinars will be delivered by speakers from Wellways, Uniting, Parents in Partnering Program, Ballarat Community Health, Women's Health Grampians, Partners in Wellbeing and more.

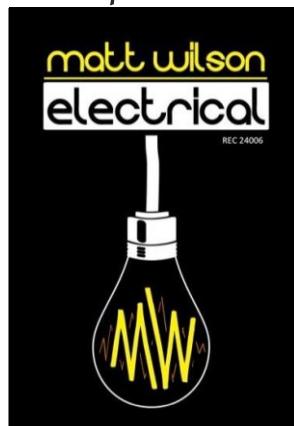
Wellways

Wellways is a leading not-for-profit mental health and disability support organisation with services across Australia. Their services span mental health, disability and community care and reach thousands of people each year. They were established in 1978 by families advocating to improve the services, information and support available to people with mental health issues, their carers, families and communities.

Wellways work in partnership with people and their families to identify their own needs and goals and support them to attain a great life in the community.

Contact us to register for these free webinars.

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Local musician and Koori Educator, Deb Clarke, and others making the 'break the bias' symbol at the inaugural International Women's Day lunch celebration at Barkly Square, Ballarat East. Photographer: Sarah Greenwood-Smith

International Women's Day

On Tuesday 8 March, the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House and A Pot of Courage Cafe teams partnered to host a wonderful lunch in recognition of International Women's Day.

Around 40 people attended and enjoyed a delicious Malaysian meal (Roti Jala) prepared by the A Pot of Courage Team. We heard from two speakers, Torres Strait Islander Deb Clarke who works in Koori Education and Libby Jewson, CEO of WRISC Family Violence Support in Ballarat. Both spoke about the topic of 'Break the Bias'.

Entertainment included songs by local musicians, Shel O'Toole and Deb Clarke.


It was a wonderful event and so lovely to be able to come together with a great group of people in a beautiful space in recognition of this important day.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Manager,
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House
Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street,
Ballarat East

0422 612 052

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Ballarat Community Garden

The start to 2022 has been rather a roller coaster of events. Omicron has been able to travel internationally when we have not, fires have ravaged Western Australia and floods are causing much sadness and destruction in Queensland and New South Wales. Whenever will we find time to think about our changing climate and what we can do about it?

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and unable to do anything, even though there is plenty that can be done. I have been reading some great books lately. One by Paul Behrens is, in parts, difficult to read as he very plainly outlines the problems we face (complete with statistics) but interspersed between the hard truths are shards of hope. Paul talks about ways in which good things are happening already and tells of ways in which we can transition to a 'greener' future.

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The other book is also full of information and totally uplifting. Written by Matthew Evans, the food critic turned farmer and restaurateur, 'Soil - The incredible story of what keeps the earth, and us, healthy' is a breath of fresh air. Matthew came to visit the Ballarat Community Garden, all too briefly, when he was travelling round giving talks and promoting his book. He is passionate about gardening and food. He was also quite impressed with our community garden, just quietly! He has done some amazing research and written such an entertaining and informative book that I keep recommending it to everyone.

One way we can make good environmental change at an individual level, but which then becomes bigger than all of us, is to work on our food security. Community gardens are a great place to share ideas and learn good gardening skills. They also encourage other people to have a go at growing food in their own back garden (or front garden or balcony, roof - wherever!) It is not

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only about making the connection with where our food comes from, but the comparisons of taste, the skill of using it to nourish ourselves and the joy of sharing it with others.

Good, healthy soil is the basis for growing good wholesome food. By learning how to improve our soil we are reclaiming a resource that is rapidly being depleted. The improvements will assist the environment as well as our crops. The bigger picture around soil protection is in good land management in which some farmers are leading the charge.

I am not a scientist but I am passionate about environmental issues because I have grandchildren. In the lead-up to this upcoming election I shall be lobbying for positive change and working on the power of one person, me, to make a small difference...and watch it grow!

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

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Bakery Hill

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After being closed for 8 days in early February it is business as usual in our fully re-furbished bakery. The feedback has been so positive from everyone who has been in - thank you!

It's now our turn to give something back. With Easter just around the corner, we'd love you to try some of our award-winning Hot Cross Buns... and if you buy a 6 pack we will throw in any loaf to the value of \$5 for FREE!

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Shop 6, 73 Victoria Street,
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Your Autumn Garden with Anna

Welcome to my first article to help you get the best out of your garden.

Like you, I am a Brown Hill local, and passionate gardener. My garden is a mix of ornamental plantings (native and exotic), lawn, trees and a veggie garden.

In this column I want to introduce to you some plants that thrive in Ballarat's conditions that you may not have heard of, share with you tips on how to keep your garden water-wise, pet-friendly and sustainable and show you how to care for your soil. Although you can't always choose your soil, you can do things to help improve its health, such as incorporating compost and other organic matter and covering bare areas with mulch to limit evaporation. Together with choosing the right plants for your garden – plants that match the site and its conditions – good soil health is key to healthy and happy plants.

Do you have a veggie patch? For those of you who may have a bed or two, you may want to think about sowing some broad beans or carrots or planting some broccoli



Anna. Photographer: Mike O'Loughlin

or cauliflower seedlings. Autumn is also time to order your fruit (and other deciduous) trees for planting in winter when the trees are dormant.

For those with an ornamental garden, now is the time to take cuttings of favourite plants but remember to remove any flower buds and reduce the leaf area by a third – the plant can then put its energy into developing new roots rather than supporting leaves or a flower. Dipping the base of the cutting in rooting hormone to help stimulate root growth is worthwhile before you pot them up in good quality cutting mix. You can buy or make your own cutting mix and you will find lots of good recipes online. So long as you care for them over winter, remembering to water them and protect them from frost, the cuttings will be ready for planting out in Spring.

Autumn is also a fantastic time for planting in your ornamental garden. I do most planting in Autumn as this allows plants time over winter to establish a good network of roots which stands them in good stead for new foliage growth in Spring and helps them withstand the heat and other stressors of Summer.

Are you looking for new plants to add some interest to your garden? Here's some unusual plants that look striking in the garden:

***Melianthus major* (Honey Bush)** – a fast growing handsome foliage plant with great architectural form. The leaves are a soft grey-blue-green and coarsely lobed with deep red-brown nectar-rich flowers in spikes to 80cm. Height 2-4m. Copes with both sun and shade. Originally from South Africa.



*Melianthus major (Honey Bush) -
Photographer: Anna Beesley*

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Berberis napaulensis syn *Mahonia nepalensis* – another great foliage plant with leathery, toothed leaves and clusters of fragrant yellow flowers followed by black or purple berries. Height to 2.5m. Prefers part shade and well-drained moist soil. Requires sheltered position. Native to China and the Himalayas.



Let me know (by emailing newsletter@brownhill.vic.au) what you're planting in your garden – in words and/or pictures – and if you have a garden question you'd like answered.

Happy gardening!

Garden dates for your diary

Ballarat Begonia Festival.

Celebrating its 70th year, the Ballarat Begonia Festival is on again between 11-20 March 2022 with events in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and in the Ballarat CBD. For further details visit: ballaratbegoniafestival.com

Open Gardens Victoria has several garden openings and online events between March-May 2022. For details visit: opengardensvictoria.org.au/coming-open-gardens

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. 30 March – 3 April 2022 at the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens, Melbourne. For more information and to book tickets visit: melbflowershow.com.au

Anna Beesley, Brown Hill Local

World Piano Day 2022

The German musician Nils Frahm founded World Piano Day in 2015. He nominated 29 March, the 88th day of the year, in recognition of the 88 keys on the piano.

Come and celebrate in Ballarat at the Anglican Synod Hall in Lydiard Street South on Saturday 26 March from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Participate in the Piano Marathon or come to listen. At 2.00 pm, piano technician Andrew Vogel will open up the piano and demonstrate the intricacies of the over 4,000 moving parts.

On Sunday 27 March, a Piano for Pleasure concert will be held in the Synod Hall. This one-hour concert commences at 2.00 pm, followed by afternoon tea.

These two events are free. Donations will be requested to support the Anglican Cathedral Music Foundation.

Enquiries 5345 7522.

Music Diary

Sunday 20 March, 2.30pm

Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts: Ballarat Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 30 April

11.00 am-1.00 pm

Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts: Piano Masterclass with Anna Goldsworthy

7.30pm

The Don Huntley Memorial Piano Recital

Contact

wcpa.com.au or 5338 0980

Bronislaw Sozanski

Brown Hill Lions Club

Well, as with most volunteer clubs, COVID-19 has certainly slowed us down over past months. Hopefully everyone is moving on now and able to get out and about.

We have still been able to help some people in need. Projects included tidying up gardens and flood damage cleanup in Creswick with the Creswick Lions Club.

Christmas Cake sales again proved very successful during November and December, a record year of sales allowing us to donate to worthy causes both local and nationally.

We recently held a social Bowls night. We continue to support the farmers' market by conducting BBQs.

Current President Bryan and Secretary Barry are looking for incoming officers for next year in order to plan events and fundraisers for our next financial year.

We recently inducted new members, two former Lioness members Raelene and Glenis and a young local, Patrick. Please remember that we are always looking for new members so we can help those less fortunate in our community.

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Contact Secretary Barry on 0418 580 971 for more details.

Barry Davis

Secretary, Brown Hill Lions Club



Brown Hill Uniting Church

Thought for the month

"On the cross, God stretched out his hands to embrace the ends of the earth..."

Cyril of Jerusalem. (313-386)

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.

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

Led by Rev Laleti Tu'inavai from Central Uniting Church, Rev Bill Clark or Lay Preacher Jim de Jong



Pancakes for Dessert at the Brown Hill Uniting Church on Shrove Tuesday, 2022. Image supplied.

assisted by other Lay Worship leaders.

Easter Sunday, 17 April, at Brown Hill Uniting Church at 10.00 am, Holy Communion.

A HAPPY ENDING

A father took his little boy to a pet shop to pick out a puppy for his birthday present. For half-an-hour he looked at the assortment in the window. "Decided which one you want?" asked his Daddy. "Yes", the little fellow replied, pointing to one which was enthusiastically wagging his tail. "I want the one with the happy ending." For all the tears of sorrow, disappointment and tragedy celebrated during Lent, Easter is the Happy Ending to this season.

Pancakes for Dessert

On Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day the Brown Hill Uniting Church held a 'Pancakes for Dessert' evening. This event raised funds to support vulnerable and marginalised people through programs and services offered by 'Uniting', the community services arm of the Uniting Church.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 19 March from 8.30 am. \$5.00 for a full cooked breakfast at the Brown Hill Uniting Church Hall with guest speaker, Mr Lachlan Dodds, Head of the Urology Unit at Ballarat Health Services. Enquiries 0407 893 468 (Louise)

Op. Shop

Our Op. Shop is open on Thursdays and Fridays, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.

Craft group

Our craft group meets in the church hall from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month starting on 17 March 2022. Bring along a craft item or just come along for a chat. All welcome.

Louise Wright, Brown Hill Uniting Church, 16 Thompson Street, Brown Hill (corner of Humffray Street North)

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SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Brown Hill Cricket Club

Auskick

Brown Hill Auskick will commence on Friday 29 April. There will be a BBQ every Friday with a coffee van on hand.

The AFL Store is making available Auskick packs again this season.

Buy a footy pack (guernsey, shorts & socks) for \$110.00 and receive a free football valued at \$19.99.

Football boots are available for \$44.99. If you purchase a pair with a footy pack, the cost will be only \$25.00/pair.

To find out more:
facebook.com/BrownHillAuskick/
brownhillauskick@yahoo.com

New Sponsor



The Brown Hill Cricket Club (BHCC) have signed up a new sponsor for the next 3 years.

The company is Sun2solar. They will be installing a solar system free of charge on the clubrooms within the next four to six weeks.

Solar System is Valued @ \$6000.

The BHCC would like to thank Rajinder Singh and his company for their support.

Their contact details are:
1300 471 291
0430 749 666
sun2solar.com.au

*Phil Knowles,
President,
Brown Hill Cricket Club
0407 399 971*

Russell Square

Work has begun on the construction of new cricket nets. The facility will be fully enclosed and will include six pitches, one of which will be available to the public. With four senior and 14 junior teams, the nets will provide the East Ballarat Cricket Club with a much-needed boost to managing its players. When the old nets are removed, additional car parking will be built to help cater for the large number of participants at Russell Square. Thank you to the City of Ballarat for making this project possible.

A grant from the Federal Powering Communities Program will soon see the installation of solar panels on the hall building. With electricity costing over \$3000 per annum to run the hall, the solar panels will provide significant savings for the User Groups and will make a worthwhile contribution to lowering the facility's carbon footprint.

A State Government grant through Juliana Addison MP, Member for Wendouree, will soon see the addition of four exercise stations located along the walking track. This will be a welcome addition particularly for the many casual users of the walking track at Russell Square.

*Damian Ryan
Russell Square Co-ordinator*

Brown Hill Senior Citizen's Club

Due to the Brown Hill Hall renovations, the Brown Hill Seniors are meeting at the Victoria Bowling Club, Victoria Street.

We are hoping to be back at our clubrooms in the second week of April.

Four bus trips are planned for this year. The first is to the KaBloom Festival at Tesselaar, Silvan, on Wednesday 6 April, leaving Brown Hill Hall at 8.30 am.

On Wednesday, 8 June, we will go on a local bus trip.

In early September, we will travel from Southbank to Williamstown by ferry.

On Wednesday 9 November our bus trip will be to Star Spanner Sculpture Garden, Boort.

Non-members of the club are welcome to enjoy these trips with us.

For further information contact us.

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

Interviewing and writing

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

Wallaby Track parkrun

Wallaby Track parkrun Celebrates 50th Event

On a drizzly Autumn Saturday morning the faint sounds of clapping and cheering can be heard from behind the pub. Undeterred by a little rain, 68 participants were spurring on their peers as they completed the 50th parkrun event in Brown Hill.

Beginning back in 2019, the event has run every Saturday morning since, except during multiple lockdowns, becoming a highlight run for the Ballarat area, showcasing Brown Hill to runners from far and wide.

Organisers Aaron and Laurinda helped bring the international event to Brown Hill as an expansion of the Ballarat parkrun at Vic Park. Supported by a grant from the City of Ballarat to purchase equipment and safety gear, the event now attracts around 60 participants each week and 8 volunteers. Covering everything from safety checks, time keeping and more, without the volunteers the event would not be possible.

Starting behind the playground, the course covers a 5km circuit through the freeway tunnel up to Springs Road and back. Participants range from six months (in prams) to 60 and beyond. The track is suitable for walking, jogging and running but may be difficult in some spots for wheelchair access although all are welcome! A real benefit of the Wallaby Track is that there are no road crossings and once the drinking tap promised by the City



Image: Wallaby Track parkrun volunteers and participants – Runners – Bruce and Kirsti, volunteers – Michaela and Maxine. Photographer: Louise Jones

of Ballarat has been installed, the location will be perfect.

The excitement in the air on the 50th run may be intensified by the promise of milestone running shirts for participants who have completed 50 parkruns or volunteered 50 times. We hope it won't take another 2 years for them to reach 100.

If you would like more information on the Wallaby Track parkrun, please visit:

parkrun.com.au/wallabytrack/

Contact:

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Find us on Facebook

Louise Jones, Lead Writer

Got any fresher?

Since the loss of the farmers' market at Brown Hill Reserve, it has been necessary to search for local growers and their roadside stalls around Brown Hill. So the kids and I recently took a drive to see what we could find within a few kilometres of home.

Being so close to potato growers, we are lucky to have easy access to fresh local spuds right in town. You can get 5kg of fresh potatoes for \$5 at the box beside Shell Service Station on Water Street, and on Stawell Street at the bottom of the Chisholm Street hill (where the creek and walking track cross).



For fresh free-range eggs, head out through Springs Road and continue all the way past White Swan Reservoir. It's the very last house on the left before the road turns hard right towards Wattle Flat. \$5 for a dozen eggs.

And for home grown frozen berries, home made beeswax and tubs of honey head out of town on



Eureka Street and you'll find the drive through gate on the bend at 1049 Eureka Street.

It's not unusual to spot seasonal buckets and boxes of plants or produce out the front of Brown Hill homes. Over the years we've seen lemons, plums and nectarines to name a few. So next time you see one, be sure to stop



and throw in a coin for a fresh fruit or veg to take home. You'll be supporting a fellow Brown Hill resident and taking the freshest bite you can get.

Louise Jones, Lead Writer and Photographer

