

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 10, December 2017

An initiative of the Brown Hill Community Partnership, supported by the Brown Hill Progress Association and the City of Ballarat. We are proud to walk this land with the Wadawurrung people.



Logan from Brown Hill Kindergarten has a snake painted on his face by Leanne Westblade at the 2017 Brown Hill Community Festival. Image: Nigel Stevens.

The best day of my life!

Read the extended report here:
brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-community-festival/2017-festival-report/

On the way home from the 2017 Brown Hill Community Festival, Brown Hill Kindergarten student, Lenny, said to his mum that he had enjoyed "the best day of my life!" What an accolade!

The second community festival, held on Friday 27 October, certainly was a wonderful evening. We saw an increase in numbers compared to the inaugural event in 2016, with the crowd being estimated at 800 to 1000 people. The 'Sausage Index' increased from 600 in 2016 to 700 in 2017, which is a strong indicator of a bigger crowd!

Altogether, community activities made a profit of \$1253.50, which will be invested across groups in Brown Hill. Feedback included: "What a great community festival run by amazing volunteers," (Jane) and "Awesome job! Such a great vibe at the festival." (Bridget).

Entertainment on the festival stage was opened by the Woodman's Hill Stage Band, which was followed by a welcome from Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh and an acknowledgement of country from Ms Alice Barnes on behalf of the Brown Hill Partnership. We also had heart-warming performances from the Brown Hill Kindergarten children and Caledonian Primary School students. New to the stage this year were the Ballarat Highland

Diary Dates

See brownhill.vic.au for details.

DECEMBER

Brown Hill Pool opens. See: brownhill.vic.au/swimming-pool/

Friday 15: Brown Hill Uniting Church Op. Shop closes for 2017 (p.15)

Friday 15 - Monday 18: 'Making a Scene at Christmas', Ballarat Botanic Gardens (p.15)

Wednesday 20: Ballarat Wholefoods Collective closes for 2017 (p.14)

Friday 22: School year finishes

...continued p.2

Dancers, who really impressed the crowds with their energetic moves. To finish off the evening's entertainment, the Federation University Pipe Band marched into the site and played some fantastic music. Well done and thank you to all of our performers. What a show!

Yet again, our local Brown Hill community groups did a super job of providing food on the evening. The Brown Hill Uniting Church sold mountains of pancakes and the Brown Hill Lions Club sold 700 sausages, making \$450 profit. Both of these groups have generously donated these profits to start the 2018 Community Festival fund, which has a target of \$2200.

... continued p.20 (back cover)

...continued from p.1

Monday 25: 9.00 am, Christmas Day Worship at Brown Hill Uniting Church (p.15)

JANUARY

Tuesday 2: Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, Brown Hill Hall (rear) (p.4)

Friday 26: Australia Day Celebration in Brown Hill Reserve and at the Brown Hill Pool (p.4)

Tuesday 30: School year begins (check with your school)

Wednesday 31: Ballarat Wholefoods Collective opens for 2018 (p.14)

Wednesday 31: 9.00 - 11.00 am, Caledonian Playgroup starts for 2018 at Caledonian Primary School. See: brownhill.vic.au/directory/caledonian-playgroup/

FEBRUARY

Monday 5: Brown Hill Seniors 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm (p.16)

Tuesday 6: Submissions and advertising for Edition 11 due (p.17)

Tuesday 6: Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, Brown Hill Hall (rear) (p.4)

Friday 9: Ballarat Rockers rock-and-roll dance classes start for 2018 (p.19)

Saturday 10: 11.00 am - 3.00 pm, Toys at the pool day (p.4)

Thursday 15: Brown Hill Uniting Church Op. Shop opens for 2018 (p.15)

Friday 16: Delivery of Edition 11 begins

Saturday 17: Top Katz Rockers Dance - Pirates and Wenches Night. Brown Hill Hall (p.18)

Celebrating ten editions

Read the extended report here: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/celebrating-ten-editions/

Wow, happy Edition 10 everyone! What a milestone for what began as a small group of six volunteers with \$5000 'seed funding' from the Brown Hill Partnership Group and now regularly involves 29 Brown Hill locals and is financially self-sustaining!

Edition One of the Brown Hill Community Newsletter was six pages and was delivered to around 1700 letterboxes by Australia Post in May 2016. Since then, we have made it to a bumper edition of 24 pages (Edition Four) and have a team of volunteer "posties".

We have developed the Online Community Hub, which includes loads of information about Brown Hill and an extensive community directory.

Another significant achievement has been the inclusion of paid advertising in the newsletter. Not only does this help to promote local businesses, but it also allows the newsletter to be financially self-sustaining, meaning it can continue into the future.

Thank you to our readers, volunteers, contributors and advertisers.

Keep an eye out for our new fluorescent yellow 'Brown Hill Community Volunteer' vests. The vests have been funded by profits generated through advertising in the newsletter. Make sure you say g'day when you see our volunteers coming your way!

In this edition

There were so many great stories and interesting news to include in this edition that we have crept back up to 20 pages! We have also put additional images and extended stories on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub, brownhill.vic.au. Enjoy!

We are pleased to introduce a new competition, which aims to encourage our readers to connect with someone in Brown Hill. Read all about Brown Hill Buddies on page 5.

The 2017 Brown Hill Community Festival was a resounding success! Online, you can read the full report and see more great photos taken by our photographer, Nigel Stevens: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-community-festival/2017-festival-report/

Sadly, two wonderful women in Brown Hill passed away recently, Lyn O'Brien and Rhonda Peters. You can read more about these kind and inspiring women on pages 16 and 17. We know that both ladies enjoyed reading our newsletter and we extend our condolences to their families.

The newsletter team wish you a safe and relaxing start to summer. Please send us your stories and photos - we love to know what is going on around Brown Hill.

See you at the pool!

Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Volunteer Editor, Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee

newsletter@brownhill.vic.au
brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/

Let's get this party started!

Summer the the Brown Hill Pool

On our official opening weekend (December 2 and 3), I looked out of the window and thought, "Please come back Summer! Here we are, all ready for our opening and we have a top of 15 degrees and it is cold and wet." After I turned on the heater, I thought, "Nothing we can do and the heat will come back. It always does." And it has!

On Saturday 10 December, we opened the pool for the 2017/18 season. Over the opening weekend, approximately 40 people visited the pool.

Here is the latest pool news:

- * The kiosk has been cleaned and stocked and is ready to go thanks to Rachel, our new volunteer kiosk manager, and Liz, our former volunteer kiosk manager. They had great help from a great team of lolly baggers.

- * The pool and water are looking magnificent! A big thanks to the team of pool cleaners, painters and repairers, especially Peter, our volunteer pool-plant maintenance guru, who fires up the pumps every year and fine-tunes the chemicals prior to opening.

- * A new team of lifeguards is in place. Thanks to Jason and Brendan for conducting interviews and finalising the selection of team members.

- * The lifeguard team includes some familiar and some new faces. Amongst those who have previously been lifeguards at Brown Hill are Kate, our Manager, Jacqui, Tahlia and Sam. The new



Opening weekend at the Brown Hill Pool. Image supplied by the pool lifeguards.

kids on the block are Josh (x2), Jai, Liam and Millie. Welcome!

- * Lifeguards will keep the community updated on daily pool opening and closing times through the 'Brown Hill Community Pool' Facebook page.

- * Please make the job easy for these guys and girls by good behaviour in and out of the water, tidying up after yourselves and giving them a hand in the kiosk if they need it.

- * Thanks to the City of Ballarat for mowing the grounds.

- * Most of the pre-season preparation is done by a fantastic team of volunteers, so a big, big thank you to all.

- * This season we again have our VIC SWIM Summer Kidz Program in the mornings for two weeks starting on Monday 8 January. Places have almost booked out. Thanks to the Brown Hill Uniting Church and the Brown Hill Progress Association for the financial support, allowing around 65 local children over four years

old to access one week of the program free of charge (valued at \$30 per child).

- * The Australia Day Party is on again from 12 midday on Friday 26 January, with kids' games, a free BBQ and pancakes and a lucky raffle (p.4).

- * Hopefully, Flo will be back in late January and early February with Aqua Zumba in the evenings. Keep an eye on the 'Brown Hill Community Pool' Facebook pages and brownhill.vic.au for updates.

- * It looks like the Eureka Pool is going to be out of action for a while, so our quiet little resort may be a bit busier than usual this season! Please respect the staff, volunteers and property.

- * Remember to protect yourself and your kids. Slip, Slop, Slap over the Summer and have a super time at the pool!



'Toys at the pool' day

The Ballarat Toy Library, in conjunction with Brown Hill Progress Association, presents the inaugural 'Toys at the pool' day.

Saturday 10 February 2018
11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Bring a picnic rug and chairs and come and join in the fun at the Brown Hill Pool with some great toys from the Ballarat Toy Library!

There will be a toy area with a range of toys to entertain children from six months to six years old.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle and games and fun for all.

More details on the 'Brown Hill Community Pool' Facebook page and brownhill.vic.au/swimming-pool/pool-news/

Hannah Ryan-West, Ballarat Toy Library

facebook.com/ballarattoylibrary

Brown Hill Progress Association

The BHPA meets at 7.00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Brown Hill Public Hall (rear room). All welcome.

Minutes of the monthly meetings are available online one month after each meeting. See: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-progress-association/meeting-minutes/

Defibrillator returns to pool

The Brown Hill Progress Association's defibrillator has been moved back to the pool for the Summer. There is no longer a defibrillator in the Brown Hill Public Hall.

Australia Day Breakfast

The Brown Hill Lions Club will run the annual Australia Day Breakfast on Friday 26 January from 8.30 am.

*Held at Brown Hill Reserve next to the Brown Hill Hall

*Free bacon and egg sandwiches

*Tea and coffee stall run by the Brown Hill Lioness Club

*Brown Hill Uniting Church pancake stall

*Face painting

*Kids' activities and spinning wheel

Come along, join in the fun and celebrate Australia Day with your local community.

brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-partnership/australia-day/



Brown Hill Lions Club members cook up a storm at the 2017 Australia Day Breakfast in Brown Hill

Reader feedback

Hi Community Newsletter Team,

I am a volunteer at 99.9 Voice FM and a former Brown Hill resident, so I was interested to glance through some copies of your newsletter that had been left at the station.

I found the article about the Brown Hill Police Station in your latest edition quite interesting. After moving from Coburg at the very end of 1955, my brother and I attended Brown Hill State School from the first day of the 1956 school year. I attended until 1958, and then started at Ballarat East High School on what Don McLean would later call "The Day The Music Died" (3 February 1959), with my brother following two years later.

When we first attended the state school, we used to catch Barry Wilkins' ("Wilkins' Eastern Busways") bus to and from the corner of Humffray and Thompson Streets and I can remember the police station opposite the church. I seem to recall that it had a well-faded "Swallow's Ice Cream" sign painted directly onto the brickwork on the western wall. From memory, the lettering was white (or possibly silver) on a dark blue background. Swallow's Ice Cream was made by Swallow & Ariell, who still made biscuits in the late 1950s, but had discontinued their ice cream some years earlier.

Congratulations on your fantastic newsletter.

Kind regards, Ron Woods

Brown Hill Buddies

Who do you know in Brown Hill? Your neighbour, someone you met through the kindergarten, primary school or church, a fellow dancer from the Brown Hill Hall, one of the local business owners, or someone you met at the Brown Hill Pool? We want to hear their story! Have a chat to your friend and write a short story about them. Here are a few questions to get you started:

1. What is your name?
2. Which part of Brown Hill do you live in?
3. How long have you been living in Brown Hill?
4. What do you like the most about Brown Hill?
5. Tell us something interesting about yourself.

If possible, please also take a photo of your Brown Hill Buddy.

Glenn and Kerry at Bakery Hill Bakers Delight have generously donated a bunch of 'free product' cards, worth up to \$7.00 in value (depending on the product you choose). The author of stories which are published will receive two cards, one for them and one for their Brown Hill Buddy.

More information can be found at: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/brown-hill-buddies/

To submit your story, please email the text and image to: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au or deliver to Brown Hill Kindergarten or Caledonian Primary School between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm on school days. The contact details for both the interviewer and interviewee should be included with your submission.



Fire Aware Mascot, Penny Platypus

FireAware

Summer is quickly heating up – are you prepared?

Did you know that homes have been lost from things as simple as embers landing on a doormat, creating enough fuel to burn down the front door?

Taking a bit of time in the lead-up to the hot, dry, windy days can make a big difference even if you plan to leave early in the event of a fire in the area. If you know a bad day is coming, here are some easy things you can do to reduce fuel around your home and increase the chances of it surviving.

- * Remove doormats
- * Store away combustible outdoor furniture/other items from decks around or under your home, especially near windows and doors, as these are the most vulnerable parts of your home
- * Move pot plants a few metres from your home
- * Mow your lawns
- * Remove build up of fine fuels - leaves and twigs (this will probably be where embers will land)
- * Check your gutters, make sure leaves haven't built up
- * Make sure trees are healthy with

no dead limbs and no vegetation underneath them

* Make sure you've sealed under your house to stop embers entering

For more information search: 'Brown Hill Community FireAware Network be prepared' or contact Hazen on 0408 690 493.

Hazen Cleary, Brown Hill Community FireAware Network Coordinator

brownhill.vic.au/directory/brown-hill-fireaware/

Brown Hill Businesses

In the February 2018 edition of the newsletter, we plan to print a summary of the 86 Brown Hill businesses, 41 community groups and 22 sporting groups that are listed on the Brown Hill Community Online Hub (brownhill.vic.au/directory/). If you have a business or group listed, please check that the details are up to date before **Wednesday 31 January**.

If there are businesses or groups that are based in Brown Hill (or businesses owned by a Brown Hill local) which are not listed on the Hub, please let us know so that we can include them.

Updates should be sent to directory@brownhill.vic.au.

Advertise with us!

We are pleased to offer limited advertising in the Brown Hill Community Newsletter. Visit brownhill.vic.au/newsletter to find out more. Contact: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au



Local fire risks

Just because we do not have a history of many bushfires does not mean we won't have one this summer. Glen Park Fire Brigade attended a car fire at Nerrina in early November 2017 (pictured below). Over the winter there has been a rising incidence of stolen cars being set on fire in our forested areas to the north.

Fire restrictions are now in force and burning off is not allowed without a permit.

Glen Park Fire Brigade is now recruiting.

Tracey Webber, Captain, Glen Park Fire Brigade

0423 056 330 or:
tracey.webber@members.cfa.vic.gov.au

Glen Park CFA, Corner Longs Hill and Ralstons Roads, Glen Park



Car on fire in a forested area in Nerrina, November 2017. Image: Glen Park Fire Brigade

Brown Hill Hall Update

New contact details

The Brown Hill Hall phone number has changed to: 0402 660 836

brownhillhall.webs.com/

brownhill.vic.au/directory/brown-hill-public-hall/

Redevelopment Project

At the Brown Hill Community Partnership meeting on Tuesday 7 November, this update was presented:

*Preliminary plans have been prepared and approved by the Brown Hill Hall Redevelopment Reference Group, these plans are now with the architect.

*The extension of the building will encroach on land owned by the State Government. In-principle approval has been given with some provisions. The City of Ballarat is now waiting on formal advice.

*The work on the Hall will be put to tender.

*The project is to be completed by 30 June 2018, with minimal disruption to user groups.

At the meeting, requests were made to consider:

1. an external power connection;
2. access to water from the outside of the building.

Updates will be made available on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-partnership/



Eureka Mums

Eureka Mums in Brown Hill

Eureka Mums is a volunteer-powered not-for-profit organisation based in Sebastopol, Ballarat. We re-home new and pre-loved baby goods and nursery equipment to families in need. We believe that by reusing and recycling much-loved babies' and children's gear, we not only share the joy of motherhood with each other, but we save the earth's precious resources too.

We are excited to announce that a new 'staging post' has been set up in Brown Hill. That means that you can drop off your donations for Eureka Mums just around the corner!

Our Operations Manager, Trinsa Lewis says, "if people want to contact us about the new Brown Hill Staging Post location, we ask that they email us at: donate@eurekamums.org or send a personal message to us on Facebook with a phone number. We will then get the Staging Post co-ordinator to get in touch with them about the location."

Bridget Veld, Team Leader, Eureka Mums and Brown Hill Resident

eurekamums.org

Getting to know our Councillors

Brown Hill falls in the City of Ballarat's North and Central Wards. The North Ward is north and east of the Western Freeway and the Central Ward is to the west.

The six Councillors for Brown Hill are:

Central Ward: Belinda Coates, Mark Harris and Samantha McIntosh (Mayor).

North Ward: Amy Johnson, Daniel Moloney and Grant Tillett.

In late 2016, Caledonian Primary School grade 5/6 students came up with some questions for our Councillors, to help us learn more about them. We included answers from Cr Moloney and Cr Tillett in Edition Four, Cr Coates in Edition Five and Cr Johnson in Edition Nine. Read on to hear what Cr Harris has to say...

1. "What are your plans to clean up pollution and litter around Ballarat?" - Dylan

I think if we all work hard to pick up everything we see and keep streets looking clean people would be less likely to litter.

2. "Do you have any plans to make a new playground or improve current playgrounds?" - Laylah and Hayley

We have to make sure everyone can walk to a playground, that the equipment is fun and safe and everyone can use them, regardless of physical ability. Maybe you have some ideas to send to Council?



Councillor Mark Harris, City of Ballarat. Image supplied.

3. "Do you plan to make Ballarat bigger?" - Jonnie and Zac

Bigger is great sometimes to offer more choices, but I don't think we need to be bigger, just better!

4. "Do you support anyone in the Ballarat Football League?" - Jonnie and Zac

East Point, always a 'Pointy'.

5. "What do you think of the kids of this generation?" - Xander

Smarter and more caring, I think.

6. "What do you like about Ballarat?" - Ben

Its old streets and buildings, and especially the Art Gallery. Make sure you go, it's free!

7. "Are you going to introduce any more big events to Ballarat?" - Abbie and Emily

We have got some great events, but a big music festival would be good.

8. "What new ideas do you have for Ballarat?" - Abbie and Emily

We need to make sure we have

lots of great things to do and great jobs for people. Also to be proud of our great city and test any idea against that. Many people bring ideas to Council and hopefully we enable the best. Maybe you have some too?

9. "Are you going to improve the pathways around Ballarat? It would really help people to get around more and become more fit." - James

You are right, James, we need to be able to walk and ride safely to get us less reliant on cars.

10. "Could you build elevated tram lines around Ballarat?" - James

Monorail! I think we should start with the footpaths and bike lanes.

Councillor Mark Harris, City of Ballarat

Contact Cr Harris:

0409 930 928

markharris@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Delivery volunteers needed

Join our team of 20 volunteers who deliver the newsletter across Brown Hill six times each year. Volunteers receive around 100 newsletters each, taking around one hour to deliver. We need a few more volunteers to help out when our regular volunteers are unavailable. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Contact us:

newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

Brown Hill Partnership

At the November meeting of the Brown Hill Community partnership, the final investment decisions were made. Over the past two years, \$200,000 of funding from the City of Ballarat has been allocated to projects across Brown Hill. Projects include the community newsletter, online hub, community festival, FireAware program, hall redevelopment, the 'Connecting to Nearby Nature' project, upgrades to the Russell Square kitchen, Brown Hill Cricket clubrooms and Caledonian Primary School multi-purpose hall and several more. For a breakdown of the investment, visit: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-partnership/

In most cases, the funding was matched by additional funding from external sources, bringing even more investment into Brown Hill. However, the most significant achievement of the process has been the strong connections formed between representatives of groups and organisations across Brown Hill. Based on these relationships, the Brown Hill community will continue to thrive, as groups work together and help each other out.

For more information on the Brown Hill Partnership Group contact the City of Ballarat's 'Engaged Communities' Team on 5320 5746.

Sandra Kennedy, City of Ballarat's Engaged Communities Team

Our Local Area Plan

Following on from Council's Engaging Communities Program in Brown Hill the Brown Hill Partnership Group (BHPG) have agreed to work with Council's Strategic Planning Unit in developing the Brown Hill Local Area Plan and Infrastructure Assessment (the Plan).

The Plan will provide an integrated and holistic land use and framework plan for Brown Hill to guide future development and infrastructure provision and identify ways to better protect valued community and environmental features.

The BHPG, on behalf of the broader community, will act as a reference group for the project to



**FAMILY VIOLENCE
HAS NO GOOD DAYS.**

Family Violence stems from men who think they are better than women. Men who exercise control, and misuse power. And they might think it's only their wife or partner they're harming, and that their children are fine. But they're not. In fact the violence their children are witnessing or hearing is just as damaging to them, their futures and their future relationships.

RESPECT WOMEN FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

If you need support, talk to a friend, or go to vic.gov.au/familyviolencesupport or call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188.

VICTORIA
State Government

Frogs, Water Birds & Parrots

The **Nerrina Wetland** is one of a number of wetlands constructed by the City of Ballarat to help reduce flooding. Wetlands also provide a great habitat for native flora and fauna.

A SHORT LIST

This short list includes only the more common frogs and water birds, waders and parrots to be found here in the wetland – it is by no means exhaustive or definitive. Another sign in the wetland lists the more common large, medium and small native birds.

STOP AND LISTEN

Often the best way to see frogs or some birds is to stop and listen for a moment or two: often you can locate them by listening for their calls or the rustling noises they make whilst foraging. If you still can't see them (which is often the case with the frogs), use your smart-phone to record their call to identify them later.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the flora and fauna here, visit the Field Naturalist's Club of Ballarat, BirdLife Ballarat or Viridans.com websites.

www.ballarat.vic.gov.au



New signage about local frogs, water birds and parrots at Nerrina Wetland. Image provided by Daryl Wallis, City of Ballarat.

ensure that extensive community engagement is achieved and that the Plan will provide good outcomes for Brown Hill.

Development of the Brown Hill Local Area Plan will commence early in 2018 and will include a community workshop and consultation sessions (details to be advised in this newsletter, on the 'Making Brown Hill' Facebook page and on: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-progress-association/local-area-plan/).

For more information about the Brown Hill Local Area Plan contact Emily Hobbs, Strategic Planner: strategicplanning@ballarat.vic.gov.au or 5320 5671.

Sandra Kennedy, City of Ballarat's Engaged Communities Team

Ballarat East Local Area Plan

In 2015, the City of Ballarat began a conversation with the community about how to better manage change in Ballarat East through a new Local Area Plan. During this process, the area defined as Ballarat East included the suburbs of Bakery Hill, Ballarat East, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and part of Canadian. It was also defined to include the part of Brown Hill west of the Western Freeway.

If you are interested in understanding the Local Area Plan process and/or have feedback specifically about the area defined as Ballarat East, you can view a 'Directions Paper' online. Visit the Imagine Ballarat East: Local Area Plan page via the City of Ballarat's 'Have Your Say' web portal at mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/mytownhall. If you have feedback, please note that submissions are due by **5 February 2018**.

Nerrina Wetland Signage

The Nerrina Wetland is one of a number of wetlands constructed by the City of Ballarat to help reduce flooding. In December 2017, new signage was installed at the Nerrina Wetland. One sign has information and images about local frogs, water birds and parrots, the other has information about birds of various sizes. Images of the signs are available on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.vic.au/new-to-brown-hill/nerrina-wetlands/

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Nature Play Day

Spring has seen another flurry of events along the Yarrowee in Brown Hill. The Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group has been delighted by the children's enthusiasm for, and involvement in, the 'Connecting to Nearby Nature' project.

On Wednesday 9 August, the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group transported six classes of children from grades one to four at Caledonian Primary School to see a section of the Yarrowee downstream from their school. The aim was to reinforce that everything which happens at the top of the catchment in Brown Hill affects the rest of the waterway.

At the Yuille Wetlands in Sebastopol, the students engaged in two activities; 'Fantastic Frogs' and 'Waterbug Discovery'. They walked through the wetlands and were able to hear frogs and sample live waterbugs.

A month later, children from Little Bendigo Primary School in Nerrina attended the same site where they learnt all about local food webs through an interactive game. They also discovered some of our amazing waterbugs, such as the Damselfly, that breathes through the gills on its three tails!

Connection to nature occurs in children's formative years, so on Wednesday 15 November, Jane Bevelander, Environment Officer, ran a nature-play session for pre-schoolers, particularly members of Caledonian Playgroup. The group of 30 children (and their parents/carers) explored local nature and its creatures by the



Children from Caledonian Playgroup enjoying the Yarrowee and making new connections with nature. Image: Jane Bevelander.

Yarrowee in Brown Hill. This was done through a variety of tools and activities that gave the children opportunities to explore in their own way. Whether it was looking at bark through a magnifying glass or creating creatures out of sticks and gum nuts. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with Sam, 4, from Caledonian Playgroup saying, "It was really good."

This project has been funded through the City of Ballarat's Engaging Communities Program and we are excited to announce that the Brown Hill Partnership Group approved another \$5800 to run more events along the Brown Hill section of the Yarrowee River

in 2018! Activities will include a repeat of the very popular evening frog walk and survey, and the bird walk and talk event. It will also include school excursions and nature-play sessions with the Brown Hill Kindergarten and Caledonian Primary School. Stay tuned and get involved! Community events will be published on the 'Making Brown Hill' Facebook page, on the Brown Hill Community Online Hub and in the newsletter.

Contact Jane: 0426 873 202,
jane@leighcatchmentgroup.org

Jane Bevelander, Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group

brownhill.vic.au/directory/yarrowee-leigh-catchment-group/



Children from Caledonian Primary School visiting the Yuille Wetlands in Sebastopol to see the difference to the Yarrowee in Brown Hill, upstream. Image: Jane Bevelander

Brown Hill Kindergarten

We have had a very busy term at Brown Hill Kindergarten. We have participated in several joint activities with students from Caledonian Primary School, as well as visiting Phoenix College in Sebastopol for a puppet show put on by the Year 7 drama class. We had our end of year concert in the multi-purpose room at Caledonian Primary School.

Lego Robotics

In October, six students from Caledonian Primary School (including some who used to go to Brown Hill Kindergarten) visited us to show the children how they build robots with Lego and program them to move. The school students had participated in competitions in Ballarat and



Students from Caledonian Primary School returning to the Bush Kinder site after five years. Image: Christine Sullivan

Melbourne with the Lego robots. The kindergarten children were fascinated and asked lots of questions. Many of them are now very keen to save up enough money to have their own set of Lego robotics!

Back to Bush Kinder

The kindergarten's 'Bush Kinder' program started in 2012. In early November, ten Caledonian Primary School students, who are currently in Grade Five and were the first group to go to bush kinder in Brown Hill, came back to visit. They joined with the kindergarten's 'Yellow' group to spend some time at bush kinder. The kindergarten children buddied up with the school students to walk to the site along the Yarrowee and to explore. The school children were very excited to see aspects of the bush kinder site that they remembered and to find things they didn't remember. The kindergarten children were proud to show them around 'their' bush kinder. The school students climbed trees, played hide and seek, looked for bugs and had a great time. The kindergarten children were amazed at how high the older children could climb and loved playing games with them.



Cricket on the oval

Following on from connections made through the Brown Hill Partnership Group, the Kindergarten children joined Brown Hill Cricket Club players for cricket activities on the Brown Hill Oval at the end of November. We played catching games and relays with the balls and running games and relays with the bats. It was a very hot day and we needed to have lots of drinks of water. Some children already participate in 'Milo Cricket' and others really like to play cricket, but it was good for everyone to learn some new skills.

School transition visits

As part of the kindergarten's 'transition to school' activities each year, the children participate in an excursion to Caledonian Primary School. This year, the Prep teachers, Mrs. Kate and Mrs P., along with past students, hosted the tour. The kindergarten children were intrigued to see the art room, library, office, sick bay, toilets and lots of classrooms. A highlight was getting to play in the playground. Having a good look at the multi-purpose hall was

especially important as that was where we were to hold our end-of-year concert.

The visit to the primary school is valuable for all the children moving to prep in 2018, not just those attending Caledonian Primary School next year. It gives the children a chance to look at facilities and equipment they might find at school. Back at kindergarten, we talked about what we saw and compared and discussed what other schools might have and how these things might be used. This is a way to prepare the children for their move to school. On the school visits, the children were excited to see their siblings, some of their friends who came to bush kinder or others who demonstrated the Lego robotics.

The walk to the school was also a good opportunity for the kindergarten children to talk about and practise safe pedestrian behaviour and to do some mapping of the route to and from the kindergarten.

Is your child turning two in 2018?

A reminder that children can be enrolled for kindergarten from 1 January in the year that they turn two. See the City of Ballarat's Central Kindergarten Enrolment Scheme page for more: ballarat.vic.gov.au/pc/family-and-children/kindergartens

Christine Sullivan, Education Leader, Brown Hill Kindergarten (a Eureka Community Kindergarten Association [ECKA] Kindergarten)

5332 7973
brown.hill.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au



Brown Hill Kindergarten children enjoying a Lego Robotics demonstration by Caledonian Primary School students. Image: Caledonian Primary School
the robot?"

Caledonian Primary School

Robotics Kinder visit

On Thursday 26 October, two robotics students from Caledonian Primary School, Connor and Jimmy, visited Brown Hill Kindergarten. Four other robotics students, Jonah, Reese, Alana and Molly, had visited the day before.

The purpose of our visit was to show some of the learning opportunities that are available at Caledonian Primary School. From our perspective, the visit was also to practise our skills in talking to groups, answering questions and being prepared for our presentation.

Jimmy made a Lego robotics snake that strikes and moves forwards and backwards. Connor made a Lego robotics rover that moves around on three wheels.

The kindergarten children had a great time and asked a lot of questions about the robots. For example, one of the questions that was commonly asked by the children was, "Where do you keep

We were glad they enjoyed the visit because it takes a lot of effort to build and program the Lego robot. Our visit was a culmination of hard work, tinkering and investigation because we had to be creative and build new robots in a certain amount of time for the visit.

We would like to thank our teachers, Mrs. Kate and Mrs P. from Caledonian Primary School and Christine from Brown Hill Kindergarten for organising the visit. We both hope that we get to do the same next year!

Connor and Jimmy, Grade Five, Caledonian Primary School

RACV Energy Breakthrough 2017

From Thursday 23 to Saturday 25 November, Caledonian Primary School's Energy Breakthrough team went to compete in the 'RACV Energy Breakthrough Competition' at Princes Park, Maryborough. There were over 200 teams competing in the event.

On the Thursday, we had 'scrutineering', when the officials checked if our cart was safe for riding. The officials also asked us questions about how we created our cart, what material our cart was made from and what impact it has on the environment. They also had to check how much our cart weighed, in case it flipped.

Later during the day, each student from every team did three practice laps to get used to the track for the race.

That afternoon, we also had a presentation, which went really well for both teams. During the presentation, each student in our team had different lines that they had to remember off-by-heart, which we recited in front of the judges. Miss Morrison and Mr Harris thought that both teams did amazing presentations.

On Thursday night, every student at Maryborough camped with their teachers/parents/guardians. Each school had a set area for their tents. Our school was camping next to schools from Horsham and Clunes. Our 'pit' was next to schools from Yuille Park and Clunes.

On Friday, everyone got organised to race at 12.00 noon. At that time, everyone got pumped to start the '2017 RACV Energy Breakthrough' competition.



Caledonian Primary School's Energy Breakthrough team in action. Image: Caledonian Primary School

The first two people to start the race from our teams were Alana and Gemma. We had two teams. Team One was called 'Dash Advanced' and Team Two was called 'Optiform'. Everybody did as many laps as they could and most people did more than three laps.

We had a lot of sponsors. We couldn't have made it into this competition without them. Our sponsors were: Swim and Survival Academy, Optiform, Stuart Parry Plumbing, Bakers Delight Bakery Hill, Advanced Self Storage, Electronic Diesel Technology and Gekko. We also had our 'under cart sponsor', Triple C carpentry.

On Saturday, the race continued based on the results of Friday. Everyone was up bright and early because the race began at 6.00 am.

The race was emotional, but, in the end, everyone did a fantastic job and we are very grateful to have such a great team. At the end of the competition, together as a team, we got to carry the carts above our heads into the pit. After all the primary schools finished, the secondary schools started their 24-hour race, which went from 1.00 pm on Saturday until 1.00pm on Sunday.

We would like to thank all the parents and teachers for letting us do the 2017 Energy Breakthrough, providing us with food and also helping out.

Molly and Reese, Grade Five, Caledonian Primary School

caledonianps.vic.edu.au

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Wholesome Wholefoods

Here is the latest news from the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective team:

Boomerang Bags

The 'Boomerang Bags' project has had several successful sewing bees, and have now sewn over 200 bags. There will be an official launch in 2018.



A Boomerang Bag

Investing our grant funding

A new, double-door fridge and a new laptop computer have been purchased with funding from the City of Ballarat's Community Impact Grant Program. A new computer system will be introduced next year to make the shopping experience easier.

Recipe Book

Our second recipe book is at the printers and will be available next week. Perhaps a good, affordable gift idea?



SEASONAL LOCAL ORGANIC WHOLE

Ballarat Wholefoods Recipe Book -
Second Edition: 'Meet the Producers'

New Products

We now stock Inglenook milk, cream and yoghurt.

- * Chocolate-coated cranberries for gifts.
- * Spices.
- * Fresh, seasonal raspberries and cherries. (Also perhaps grapes).

Community Festival

- * We ran a raffle and raised over \$50.00.

* First prize, Gabe: Grounded Pleasures donated a lovely gift pack. Thank you Craig & Sophie.

* Second prize, Rachel: Magic Meadow Fruit & Veggie Hamper. Thank you, Deb.

* Third prize, Jill: Wholefoods Membership. Enjoy!

Thanks to our members

Our 2017 AGM went well with 16 people attending. We have had a very pleasing year and would like to thank our 120 members for their help and support.

Hours

*Ballarat Wholefoods Collective will be closed for the school holiday period. The last day of shopping is on Wednesday 20 December.

* We will open on Wednesday 31 January 2018.

Seasonal Local Organic Wholefoods
Brown Hill Cricket Club

9.00 - 11.00 am and 5.00 - 7.00 pm
Wednesdays (school term only;
closed during school holidays)

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ballaratwholefoodscollective.org

Wendy Aston, Ballarat Wholefoods
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brownhill.vic.au/directory/ballarat-wholefoods-collective/

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Brown Hill Uniting Church Events



On a beautiful Sunday evening in mid-December, visitors from all over Ballarat joined with the Brown Hill Uniting Church community for a BBQ meal and carol singing in the church. Children from Caledonian Primary School delighted the congregation with their sweet singing of 'Away in a Manger' and 'Silent Night.'

Christmas Day

The congregation of Brown Hill Uniting Church invite the Brown Hill community to join them in celebrating Christmas at a Christmas Day worship, starting at 9.00 am.

December/January activities

Wednesdays, 1.30pm: Mid-week Communion in the church hall



Children from Caledonian Primary School singing carols at the Brown Hill Uniting Church. Image: Louise Wright

will finish on 6 December and resume on 10 January 2018.

Sunday 31 December: Visiting other Uniting Churches.

Sunday 7 January, 10.00 am: Combined service at Neil Street Uniting Church, corner Neil and Macarthur Streets, Soldiers Hill.

Sunday 14 January - 28 January, 10.00 am: Sunday morning worship at Brown Hill Uniting Church as usual.

The Brown Hill Uniting Church Op. Shop will close on Friday 15 December and reopen on Thursday 15 February 2018. We thank the Brown Hill community and beyond for their support this year.

Making a Scene at Christmas

Located at the Robert Clarke Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens.

A display of nativity scenes from around the world collected by a small group from different churches. See and smell real frankincense and myrrh. See a coin minted at the time of the census that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. Entry by gold coin donation. December:

Friday 15 : Noon - 4.30 pm
Saturday 16: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm
Sunday 17: 9.00 am - 7.00 pm
Monday 18: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

Liz Mason, Brown Hill Uniting Church

brownhill.vic.au/directory/brown-hill-uniting-church/

Weightmans Meats
207 Humffray Street Nth, Ballarat
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Merry Christmas to the Brown Hill Community...
Please come in and see Tony & Jack for your Turkey, Pork & Ham orders for Christmas.
Thank you for your support in 2017 and our best wishes for a very happy 2018.


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Brown Hill Seniors

On Monday 4 December, we celebrated our birthday with members from senior clubs in Ballarat and our members and friends. The City Council was represented by Councillor Tillett. Our entertainment was 'The Evergreens'. This event was enjoyed by all. We are now moving on to our Christmas break up which is on 18 December at the 'Early Settlers'.

Happy Christmas to everyone - from the Brown Hill Seniors.

Enquiries: Doreen on 5331 2157

Doreen Braebrook, Brown Hill Seniors Coordinator

brownhill.vic.au/directory/brown-hill-senior-citizens-club/



Joan Sargent cutting the cake at the end-of-year celebration, December 2017.

Vale Rhonda Peters (nee Simkin)

Brown Hill local, Rhonda died peacefully on Thursday 30 November 2017 at her home, as was her wish, after a sixteen month illness, with a brain tumour. Rhonda was 59 years old.

Rhonda's family included her beloved husband and soul mate Keith, her daughter Brooke, son Matt and Brooke's husband Andy, with children – Sophie, Finn and Paddy, and Matt's partner Sandi, and their son Gabe, with a new baby due in February, and her stepson, Ashley as well as her much loved father, Roland Cooper (known to all as Roly), and older sister Sandra.

Rhonda and Keith had been enjoying a full and busy life with family and friends, when sixteen months ago, she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Rhonda's health slowly deteriorated. She was cared for by her family, supported by her many friends and Hospice Palliative Care, who did a wonderful job to make her last days, more comfortable.

Rhonda and her family, would sincerely like to thank Craig Carden, her Oncologist, Deb Henty, her GP, the staff at Ballarat Hospice, and the St Johns Health Care Nurses, for the great care they provided for her. We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful people in our community. Also, to Rhonda's friends, who continuously called in for a visit, and never dropped off at any stage. It was very much appreciated.



Rhonda Peters. Image supplied by Rhonda's family.

Words from Rhonda's grandchildren:

I love Grandma's toys and how she always has Saladas biscuits and cranberry juice for me. Gabe (Age 3)

Grandma worked extra hard so she could really spoil us. She was always very generous, just like Papa. When she came to see us, she was always armed with bags of shopping and groceries. We knew Grandma had arrived by the sound of her high heels clicking down the hallway & the smell of her perfume. Grandma knew how to make my bed the very best. Sophie (Age 11)

No-one who knows of Rhonda's death will remain untouched by it.

Please see the Brown Hill Online Community Hub for an extended article about Rhonda:
brownhill.vic.au/news/vale-rhonda-peters

This article was prepared with help from Keith Peters, Brooke Millar, Matt Simkin and Civil Celebrant – Susie Cochrane who prepared Rhonda's funeral service.

Vale Lyn O'Brien

Brown Hill Progress Association Committee Member, John "the postie" O'Brien's wife Lyn passed away in November after a short illness.

Here are some words from her daughter Pauline, on behalf of the O'Brien family:

Lyn was born on 19 December 1941 to Effie and Milton McIntyre. They lived at 123 Scott Parade. She attended St Alipius Primary School and Sacred Heart College. That is the only time I will call her Lyn because she never let us – it was always Mum!

Her first job was at 'Paterson's Furniture Store and Floor Coverings' in Sturt Street. She would ride her bike or catch a tram to work.

Mum and Noelene competed in Scottish dancing and were quite successful. They were also members of the Ballarat Callisthenic College team and competed in the South Street competitions.

Mum met John at a dance in Ballarat East and after that they started going out together in 1957/58 driving around in John's little 1950 Ford Prefect. They were married at St Alipius Church on Easter Monday, 23 April 1962, by Rev. Father Brendan Davey. Their reception was held at Lester House in Sturt Street. After a honeymoon in Adelaide they returned and had rooms at 99 Victoria Street, which is now the Victoria Street Shopping Centre. Mum worked at the newly opened RACV branch on the corner of Sturt and Doveton Streets. Dad



Lyn O'Brien. Image supplied by Lyn's family.

worked as a postie.

In February 1963, their first child Mary was stillborn – it was a very sad time. Soon afterwards they moved to a house in Water Street. Then another child came along which was me, Pauline and I was born on 30 April 1964. On 16 November 1966, Stephen was born and passed away on Christmas day that year at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne – another sad time. Tony was born on 16 May 1968 and because of lack of room our family moved to Daylesford Road (which is now part of the Western Highway bypass). Their last child Chris arrived on 5 May 1975. Many happy times and wonderful childhood memories of big birthday parties and Christmas celebrations and, of course, Mum always had the camera out!

In 1981 progress caused the family to move to Canterbury Street where they have lived ever since. Chris and Tony both attended St Alipius girls and boys school and then St Paul's/Damascus College. I

attended St Alipius and then Sacred Heart College.

Mum played tennis with the St Alipius Tennis Club. During this time she assisted with the Planned Giving Parish Campaign and was Parish Recorder for 28 years and Parish Secretary for a number of years. Until recently she was still involved in the Planned Giving Campaign assembling and sending out envelopes.

Pauline James, Lyn's daughter



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2018

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

This publication is a community project of the Brown Hill Progress Association and is supported by the City of Ballarat through the Engaging Communities Program/Brown Hill Partnership.

It is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Editorial Advisory Committee: Alice Barnes, Brian Green, Geoff Dickson, Sarah Greenwood-Smith and Tania Busse. Proof reader: Jock Freeman. Editorial support: Julie Hayes.

Local volunteers distribute the newsletter to all businesses and residences in Brown Hill, with additional copies available for collection at businesses and community hubs around Brown Hill. Electronic copies are also

available on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.vic.au.

Contributions are welcome from the Brown Hill community. Submissions are due by the first Tuesday of the month in which the edition is published to newsletter@brownhill.vic.au or in hard copy to the reception desk at Caledonian Primary School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill during school term and school hours.

Edition 11 submission are due by **Tuesday 6 February 2018**.

Please read the editorial policy regarding contributions before submitting an article. Go to brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/ for details.

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

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Pirates! & Wenches Wanted...
17 Feb 2018
Come to 'Ye Olde 'Brown Hill Hall'
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Top Katz Rockers

The October 2017 Top Katz Dance, with 'The Fender Benders' was a fabulous night of good old-fashioned fun. The music was more than toe-tapping! People

Roll on Saturday 17 February 2018 for our 'Pirates & Wenches' Night.

Ho Ho HO!

Best wishes from Top Katz Joyce & Kelly, Top Katz Rockers

brownhill.vic.au/directory/top-katz-rockers/

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YOUR TEAM YOUR STORE

travelled from Melbourne, Ararat, Geelong, Melton and Stawell to join in the fun, with many members of the 'Ballarat Rockers' coming along too. Thank-you to the band and the dancers.

We all love the Rock-and-Roll era and we are so very fortunate to have the wonderful musicians to help us celebrate life at its very best. The Brown Hill Hall rocked that night!

If you are considering a small rural school education in 2018 then contact Glen Park PS for an inspection. Contact us via our website or ring 53345360.



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Ballarat Rockers

What a fitting finale to a fantastic year! The Ballarat Rockers final event for 2017 was conducted on Friday 1 December at the Brown Hill Hall.

Almost 120 people attended the Christmas social night and danced away the night to the energetic sounds of the 'One Off' band. As always, supper was an extravagant affair, with loads of home-made goodies.

Rock-and-roll dance classes resume on Friday 9 February 2018, with the usual five-term year. This includes five social nights and two Saturday night dances.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year period from all members.

Queries welcome any time. Contact John on 0418 543 637

The Ballarat Rockers were, entertained by band, 'One Off'.

John Morris, Ballarat Rockers

brownhill.vic.au/directory/ballarat-rockers-rock-roll-dancing/

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BROWN HILL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL 2017



"It was amazing! My favourite part was the ticket raffle. Even though I didn't win, it was still exciting. I was glad I didn't win the pink tutu. I got a snake painted on my arm for the second year in a row." Alexander (7)

Entries for the 'My Brown Hill' Image competition were impressive. See brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-community-festival/image-competition for more.

The 2018 Brown Hill Community Festival will again be run as part of the City of Ballarat's Children's Week Event, in the last week of October. Please mark **Friday 26 October 2018, 5.00 - 7.30 pm** in your diaries and contact us via email (festival@brownhill.vic.au) with your ideas.

A list of Festival suppliers is online: brownhill.vic.au/brown-hill-community-festival/2017-festival-report/

Brown Hill Community Festival Committee



Volunteers from the Brown Hill Uniting Church cooked a stack of pancakes for the 2017 Brown Hill Community Festival. Image: Nigel Stevens

...continued from page 1.

Brock and Nickales from the Woodman's Hill campus of Ballarat Secondary College, did a top job managing the excited hordes of children at the jumping castles and the Ballarat CFA Fire Truck was hugely popular, with many local children climbing through it.

New to the festival this year were Sue and Margaret from the Ballarat Eureka Guides, who led a team providing several kids' activities, and Julie and Jenny from Ballarat Botanikids who had some great nature craft activities and treasures for children to take home.

Thanks to Central Highlands Water for providing their

'Hydration Station' and a bucket of water-saving goodies worth \$100 for the raffle. Both of our food vans made generous donations to the raffle, which also included a pink rock-and-roll skirt from Top Katz Rockers (proudly won by one of the Brown Hill Progress Association gentlemen).

"I liked everything and singing with my friends from kinder." Ivy (5)



Hundreds of locals enjoyed the 2017 Community Festival. Image: Nigel Stevens.