

# Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 4, November 2016

An initiative of the Brown Hill Community Partnership, supported by  
the Brown Hill Progress Association and the City of Ballarat



## Brown Hill Community Festival

What a night! Thanks to the hundreds of people who came to enjoy the beautiful Brown Hill Recreation Reserve / Progress Park on Friday 28 October for the first Brown Hill Community Festival.

With fantastic performances from the Brown Hill Kindergarten and Caledonian Primary School children, followed by the moving sounds of the Federation University Pipe Band, we were all well entertained!

Brown Hill Progress Association sold 650 sausages, the Uniting Church 280 pancakes (yum!) and Caledonian Primary School's Energy Breakthrough team sold 98 fruit cups.

Thank you to Nykiah and James, our MCs and all of the community volunteers - what a team!

*What a wonderful evening! Congrats to all who organised tonight's event. You've started something wonderful that can grow & flourish as the years pass. It was so nice to see so many turn out to enjoy the fun. Thank you It was fabulous! Jodi (...more p. 2)*



## Diary Dates

### DECEMBER

**Friday 2:** 50th Anniversary of the Brown Hill Public Hall

**Saturday 3:** Brown Hill Pool opens for the Summer

**Sunday 4:** 6 p.m., BBQ and Carols at Brown Hill Uniting Church

**Tuesday 6:** 6 p.m., Brown Hill Partnership Meeting (p.2)

**Friday 9:** Brown Hill Uniting Church Op. Shop closes for Christmas/New Year

**Friday 16:** 7 p.m., Wholefoods Ballarat closed for Christmas/New Year

**Wednesday 21:** School Term 4 finishes

### 2017

### JANUARY

**Thursday 26:** Australia Day celebrations at Brown Hill Reserve and Brown Hill Pool.

**Monday 30:** School Term 1 starts

### FEBRUARY

**Wednesday 1:** 9 a.m., Wholefoods Ballarat opens for 2017

**Friday 3:** Newsletter Edition 5 submissions due to [brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 7:** 7 p.m., Brown Hill Progress Association Meeting, Brown Hill Hall (p.4)

**Tuesday 14:** Brown Hill Uniting Church Op. Shop opens for 2017

# Welcome to Edition 4

There is so much in this Edition that only a teeny tiny space is left for the Newsletter Committee! We hope you enjoy all of the wonderful stories about our community.

We have included the first Brown Hill Business and Service Directory on 8 pages in the centre. You should be able to carefully remove it to put it up on your fridge!

We received this great feedback about Edition 3: "WOW, what a brilliant collection of Brown Hill articles. Congratulations. I would rather read this than any other newspaper. Well Done." Laura.

To give your feedback, ideas for stories, or join the volunteer team, email us at [brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com) or drop off a note to the office at Caledonian Primary School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill (during school term).

We will be back with Edition 5 in February 2017!

*Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee*



*Brown Hill Progress Association cooked 650 sausages!*

## **Brown Hill Community Festival** (continued from page 1)

*A big thank you to all involved in the organization of this fantastic event! What a lucky community we are in Brown Hill, we've had a lovely evening. Danielle*

*It was a great night & a big turnout. Judy*

To see more comments and photos, visit the '**Making Brown Hill**' Facebook page. Photos and feedback welcome to: [brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com)

## **Gemma, Connor & Walter - Finalists!**

On Saturday 8 October, the 2016 Community Newspapers Association of Victoria (CNAV) Conference and Awards were held in Bendigo.

Three volunteers from the Brown Hill community attended the Conference and enjoyed sharing ideas with many other groups who run community newspapers across Victoria.

In the Awards category 'Best article by a person 18 years or younger', the Brown Hill Community Newsletter was a **finalist**, with the article, 'Quick

Witted Walter' by Gemma and Connor (Edition 2).

*A very fun character piece that captured the spirit of the interviewee and the interviewers. I'm sure the readers loved this piece! I did!*

Judge: Stuart Winsor – Librarian, Goldfields Library Corporation.

Well done to Gemma and Connor, who received their certificates at the Brown Hill Community Festival. Thanks Walter for telling such entertaining stories!

## **Partnership Update**

City of Ballarat's Engaging Communities Program – Brown Hill

The Brown Hill Partnership Group (BHPG), supported through Council's Engaging Communities Program (ECP), met on Tuesday, 8 November 2016. The group considered funding pitches for 3 community-based initiatives in Brown Hill.

The BHPG agreed to allocate financial support to these projects:

\*Contribution to Stage One of the Refurbishment of the Brown Hill Community Hall Project;

\*Brown Hill Community Newsletter – Securing the Legacy; and

\*Brown Hill Online Community Hub Project.

Interested in finding out more about the Engaging Communities Program in Brown Hill?

Contact Council's Engaged Communities Unit on 5320 5746 or go online and "like" the **Making Brown Hill** Facebook page.



# Do you really think that people should be surprised?

How often do we hear after a major fire has affected households, especially on the urban-rural fringe of towns and cities, that "they had not been given adequate warning of the danger they were in"?

Leading up to 'Ash Wednesday' Victorians were experiencing the worst drought on record; there had been 3 days over 40°C and 8 days over 35°C in the 2 weeks preceding 16 February 1983. The Bureau of Meteorology had issued bushfire alerts for SA and a Total Fire Ban for Victoria on the morning of the 16th. People could see and smell the smoke of bushfires all around them, there had been disastrous bushfires earlier in the season, and they could feel the gusty, hot, violent wind early in the day and knew a wind change was expected. How much more warning did they need?

Brown Hill is one of the most vulnerable and at-risk suburbs in Ballarat, along with Nerrina and Invermay, of being potentially impacted by a bushfire. Will you be one of those saying, "Why weren't we told..."

To learn more about the bushfire risk to your suburb and ways to prepare your household and property for the bushfire season, access the following link to the Brown Hill Community FireAware Network web pages:  
[www.pleanetwork.com.au/fireaware-network-understanding-risk/](http://www.pleanetwork.com.au/fireaware-network-understanding-risk/)

Remember: being aware of and preparing for the bushfire season is just like taking out insurance – it can prevent or lower the risk of potential loss and damage, both in human terms and property, and if you don't need it this season then well and good, but if you do....

For more information about the Network and the resources it can provide, contact the Network Coordinator Hazen Cleary 0408 690 493.



*FireAware mascot, Penny Platypus*

## Fire at Brown Hill Cricket Club

The Brown Hill Cricket Club was broken into on Friday 21 October and the kitchen was set on fire. Fortunately, the fire did not take hold and was confined to a section of the kitchen, but both the fire and smoke have caused considerable damage to the rooms.

The Club had just finished having the rooms completely repainted thanks to the City of Ballarat's funded Brown Hill Partnership, but it will need the main hall & kitchen completely repainted, new kitchen fittings and both carpet & vinyl floorings to be replaced.

A significant amount of stock from Ballarat Wholefoods was also damaged.

The community needs to be made aware that there has been an increase in arson activity in the Brown Hill area in recent times.

*Phillip Knowles, President, Brown Hill Cricket Club, 0407 399 971.*

## Attention Brown Hill Walkers!

The Brown Hill Newsletter Committee is seeking volunteers to hand-deliver the newsletter to their neighbourhoods - which is good for the environment and fosters a more connected community!

When the next edition is published, 100 copies of the newsletter would be dropped off at your address to be delivered to your allocated streets.

If this sounds like something you might be able to help with, please fill in this online form:

<http://goo.gl/3eanoX> (scan the QR code below to go directly to the website) or contact us by email:

[brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com).



# Splish Splash Splosh - time to swim!

The Brown Hill Community Pool will open on **Saturday 3**

**December.** Come along for fun & games in the two pools. Pack some snags and cook dinner on the new BBQ. Snacks are available from the kiosk. In warm weather, opening times are:

\*12 noon to 7 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

\*2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on school days.

Earlier times are available for groups with prior bookings.

Summer activities include: Zumba (fun water aerobics to funky tunes) and VicSWIM in January (for children over 4 years old, call 9271 3800 to book. Limited places available).

Stay in touch via the '**Brown Hill Community Pool**' Facebook page or phone 5338 8663 or 0438 282 899 after 1 December 2016.

## 2016/17 Brown Hill Pool prices

### General Admission

Adult	\$ 4.00
Adult Concession	\$ 3.50
- Seniors, Students & Healthcare Card Holders	
Child (3 - 15 years)	\$ 2.50
Child (under 3)	FREE
Spectator	\$ 2.00
Family Day Pass	\$11.00
- 2 adults & up to 4 children	
Group Rate 20+ (per person)	\$ 2.00

### Season Pass

Family from Dec 6	\$130.00
Pro rata from Jan 1	\$100.00
Pro rata from Feb 1	\$ 60.00
Adult	\$ 70.00
Child	\$ 50.00



## 2016-17 Lifeguards

This season we welcome back: Jacqui, Kate, Tahlia, Egan, Kieran, Ryan, Riley and Sam. All these people have worked for us in the past year or two and are proven performers.

## The Brown Hill Progress Association - a short history

The Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) was formed as an umbrella association by the existing Brown Hill Public Hall Committee at a public meeting on 14 May 1969. The meeting was chaired by His Worship Cr. M. Brown, Mayor of the City of Ballarat. The Association Aims and Objectives as per the Constitution are:

\*To promote the economic, social and cultural development and progress of Ballarat as a whole and Brown Hill in particular.

\*To raise funds to further these aims.

The BHPA has stuck to these aims diligently ever since its inception,

with financial and manpower assistance to community members and other local organisations such as the primary school, kindergarten, swimming pool, church and community groups etc. The jewel in the crown of the BHPA has always been the Brown Hill Public Hall, which has seen several major upgrades over the years (mostly self-funded) and the adjacent Progress Park / Brown Hill Recreation Reserve. The Hall has been the focus for hundreds of social events ranging from bird shows to rock and roll dances over many years.

In 2005, the Ballarat City Council threatened to close the local pool and a public rally was held. The BHPA stepped in and the Pool Committee was formed. This committee continues to run and improve the pool with the assistance of the City of Ballarat.

The latest phase of 'development' in our suburb has come with the assistance of the Brown Hill Partnership, bringing together local schools, the kindergarten, sporting associations, business and dedicated community members with the BHPA. The establishment of the Community Newsletter has been a great link with the community and over the next year or two we hope to develop a web presence with the Brown Hill Community Online Hub and another major upgrade to the hall to make it more multi-functional.

The BHPA always welcomes new members and meets the first Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at the rear of the Hall. Become a member for \$2. Contact Brendan Stevens on 5334 8014 (evenings).



# Brown Hill Hall turns 50

Early in 1952, the Brown Hill Swimming and Advancement Committee had its monthly meeting and raised the question: "Why not build a new hall?" The next month's meeting would be a vote, for or against.

Mr W. Bawden (my father) sent me to this night, to apologise for him. The vote was "for" and fund raising events were planned - bottle drives and euchre (cards) nights. (At one night I recall we made 19/6 i.e. \$1.95.) The old hall beside the pool (ex tram shelter from Sturt St) was not suitable for cards, so St. Mark's Hall and committee members' houses were used.

The land east of the pool and next to Callinan's house seemed the logical spot, so the Council were approached for assistance. In 1964/65 we had raised what we hoped might be sufficient to call for tenders. However, the cheapest quote was above our funds, so we formed a co-operative and, with 'paid up' money, started our new hall.

In mid-1966 the roof went on, the walls were going up and locals, under leader Kelly Thurling, started buying timber, sorting and stacking it before laying. Members, including G. Davidson, F. Tolliday, N. Whitcher and L. Rinaldi waxed and waxed again this new floor.

The Brown Hill Public Hall opened on 2 December 1966, with a very full house and a successful night.

From 1967 regular bookings started - a couple of groups are still with us. The Committee held



*Ed Bawden at the Brown Hill Public Hall, November 2016*

balls, dances, cabarets, tropical island night, New Orleans Jazz and started débutante balls.

About this time we paid for a ceiling to be added. The kitchen, in the corner of the hall, was not very satisfactory, so we planned to add more room at the rear. Mr Tom Evans (MLA) was successful with securing some funding, so a meeting room and kitchen were added.

Late in the 1980s, we decided to extend again. A small meeting room and a 'proper' kitchen were added with kind financial help from a member of the senior citizens. At this time, and also later, it was suggested my bed should also be at the hall!

The next extension was down the east side, providing more dancing space. This work cost more than the original building!

Move to 2015, when we assisted the Council by paying for outside electrical work - a major upgrade that was not budgeted for. Then the Council paid to replace the main floor, done early in 2016.

Future work on our much-loved

Brown Hill Public Hall is being planned.

2 December 2016 marks 50 years since the Hall first opened. Keep an eye on the **Making Brown Hill** Facebook page.

*Ed Bawden, Brown Hill Public Hall Committee member since 1952*



At the Brown Hill Church Op-Shop

but not between  
December 9<sup>th</sup> 2016  
and  
February 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

'Cause we're on a break for Christmas

**Hey! GUYS n DOLLS It's Time to Rip Up The Floor!**  
**...With the 'TOP KATZ ROCKERS'**  
**at The Brown Hill Hall 375 Humffray St Nth, Ballarat**

**18th Feb 2017**  
 \$28 adults, under 15 free

**Direct Deposit: Bendigo Bank**  
 BSB: 633 000 A/C: 156133462  
 Please use name as reference

**Contact:**  
 Kelly: 0419 319 417  
 Joyce: 0438 830 707  
 03 9463 2337

**Let's ROCK THE JOINT with The Smokin' Wingtips**

**BYO: Cans & Munchies**  
**No Jumps or L/Fit** **Tips & Coffee supplied**

# Rocking Brown Hill.....

Top Katz Rockers, Kelly and I, both belong to other rock-n-roll clubs - the Geelong Jukebox Rockers and the Ballarat Rockers. We have made many friends over the years and feel privileged to know so many fine, fun-filled people. We can heartily recommend the 'rock and roll dance' experience to people who would like to try something a little different. Dancing is a great way to maintain fitness and the added camaraderie of like-minded people adds such joy to our lives.

The Brown Hill Public Hall is a terrific dance space and the facilities meet our needs admirably. The floor is beautiful and dancing there is always fun. We have 3 dances a year, the third Saturday of February, June and October.

We often get premier bands from Melbourne to play at Brown Hill, presenting top class performances. Bands report good acoustics in the hall.

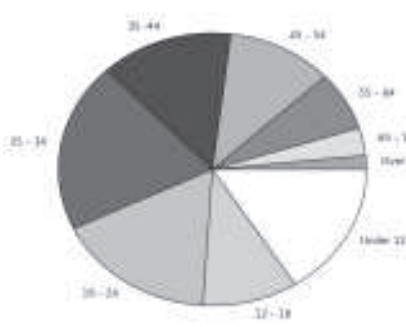
We are always seeking out new bands to bring to Brown Hill and

are happy to host The Smokin' Wingtips in February , a terrific band of talented musicians, and we are itching to dance to and be entertained by them.

Top Kats, Joyce & Kelly

## It's in the bag

Currently in Australia there are over 105,000 individuals experiencing homelessness. Almost 23,000 of these are Victorians.



Percentage of Victorians who are homeless, graphed by age

It can be a real struggle to gain access to the basic necessities that we all take for granted every day.

We have been collecting items and bagging them up, doing our little bit to help those in need. These bags are being donated to the

'Ballarat Shower Bus' and also to the 'Pop Up Shop for the Homeless and Those in Need - Ballarat.'

The idea is really simple. If you would like to help, simply start buying/collecting items that would be of assistance. Pass them on to us, and we will bag and deliver them. So far we have bagged 38 toiletry bags, two teenage girls' handbags, two women's handbags and two Mum and Bub handbags.

Items can include, but certainly aren't limited to: pads and tampons, toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant, hairbrush and hairties, shampoo & conditioner, soap/shower gel, face wipes, sanitiser, tissues, moisturiser, sunscreen, chapstick, baby wash, baby lotion, socks, underclothes and backpacks and handbags to pack items in.

Would you like to join us in providing some dignity and hope to others?

Please contact Angela on [tinettifamily@tpg.com.au](mailto:tinettifamily@tpg.com.au)

Find out more on Facebook: 'It's in the bag - help for the homeless'





# Eureka Mums – helping local families

Eureka Mums is a volunteer-run 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.

I started volunteering with Eureka Mums when my little boy was 12 months old. I appreciated how incredibly lucky I was to have financial resources to provide for my child and wanted to assist other families to feel a sense of dignity and pride when watching their little person grow and develop. Eureka Mums provides me with the opportunity to play an active role within the community and teach my son that helping others can be a rewarding experience.

If you would like to assist Eureka Mums with donations, please visit



*Bridget (centre) volunteering at Eureka Mums*

[www.eurekamums.org](http://www.eurekamums.org) for a list of items we re-home, or email [donate@eurekamums.org](mailto:donate@eurekamums.org).

*Bridget Veld – Eureka Mums  
Volunteer & Team Leader and Brown  
Hill resident*

## Brock leads by example

Meet Brock. Brock has spent his 15 years growing up in the Brown Hill area. He attended both the three-year-old and four-year-old groups at the Brown Hill Kindergarten, where the foundations for some amazing friendships began and still continue for both himself and his family.

In 2007, Brock moved on to the local Caledonian Primary School. Here he had the opportunity to strive for his personal best, while being supported by warm and understanding teachers. He had the chance to participate in many extra-curricular activities such as sports, Lego robotics, science days, Energy Breakthrough and the school choir. In 2013, Brock was proud to represent the school as Vice-Captain before graduating and beginning his adventure into secondary school.

At the Ballarat Secondary College - East Campus, Brock was welcomed and supported by a team of enthusiastic, caring and motivated teachers. He strived for academic excellence, which was recognised with numerous awards for excellence throughout years 7 and 8, then being selected as Sports Captain in year 9.

In September of this year Brock was 1 of 9 students throughout Ballarat to receive The Order Of



*Brock receiving his award from then Mayor Des Hudson (September 2016)*

Australia School Citizenship Award. This was a major achievement.

Brock's nomination submitted by his school read: "for being a wonderful, mature and community-minded young person, who has contributed in a multitude of different ways to the school community. He sets a fine example through modelling the school's expectations of respect for others. Brock has also led the College Community Energy Breakthrough team. In this, he is supporting and mentoring younger and less experienced students, as well as providing invaluable experience and expert advice to the staff. The college is proud to have such a wise, young man among its students."

Brock has also been a member of the East Ballarat Cricket Club for the past 4 years, where he currently plays in the under 16's.

Brock is a proud and active member of the Brown Hill Community.

*Angela Tinetti, Brown Hill*

# 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.

## Editorial Advisory Committee:

Alice Barnes, Geoff Dickson, Brian Green, Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Megan Hekkema and Ian Westerland. Proof reader: Jock Freeman.

Distribution is via Australia Post to all businesses and residences in Brown Hill (except those with a 'No Junk Mail' sign). Additional copies will be available for collection at businesses and community hubs around Brown Hill. Electronic copies will be available in PDF format on the '**Brown Hill Community Newsletter**', '**Making Brown Hill**' and '**Brown Hill Community Pool**' Facebook pages, or by emailing [brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com).

Contributions for Edition 5 must be submitted by **Friday 3 February** to [brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com) or in hard copy to the reception desk at Caledonian Primary School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill.

Contributions should not exceed 250 words and up to two photographs per item may be submitted (but may not necessarily be published). Material may be edited due to space, style, clarity or for legal reasons.

The name and address of the

person submitting any material must be provided (address not for publication).

The Editorial Advisory Committee reserves the right not to publish material considered to be offensive or inappropriate or which is not deemed to have community interest or relevance.

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

Printed by Ballarat Mailworks on 100% recycled paper.



## Brown Hill Seniors

Our open day on 10 October was enjoyed by all. On October 19, we visited Boort to look at the Spanner Sculptures, all made with spanners, thousands of them.

We are now looking forward to a drive around Ballarat, finishing with lunch at the Brown Hill Hotel.

On 5 December we are celebrating our 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday and on 19 December we will have our Christmas lunch. Then we close until early February.

A happy Christmas to all the community from Brown Hill Seniors.

Enquiries Doreen 5331 2157

# 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. After the recent Council elections, the six Councillors for Brown Hill are:

## Central Ward

\*Belinda Coates

\*Mark Harris

\*Samantha McIntosh (Mayor)

## North Ward

\*Amy Johnson

\*Daniel Moloney

\*Grant Tillett

Caledonian Primary School grade 5/6 students came up with ten questions for our Councillors, to help us learn more about them. We have included answers from two Councillors. We hope to publish answers from the other four Councillors in future editions.

## Getting to know Cr. Daniel Moloney, North Ward

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

I think we all play a role in keeping Ballarat a beautiful place to live and I hate seeing a small number of people dumping their rubbish and expecting others (including the Council) to clean up after them. I'm especially disappointed to see people dumping TVs, mattresses and other large rubbish in the environment, so I'd like us to



consider a hard waste collection at some point in the near future, though that is not currently part of the Council's plans.

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

I'd love to hear your ideas, Laylah and Hayley, about improvements to playground equipment, as our young people are the experts here.

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

Ballarat is already growing at a fairly rapid rate, to the west of the city in particular. We are fairly unique here in Victoria, where most of the population lives in one city (Melbourne). In most other states and other parts of the world, you see three or four large cities in each state, with the population more evenly spread around, so I do see Ballarat getting bigger in coming years.

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

I must confess I don't get to the footy much here, so I'm open to suggestions, Jonnie and Zac. But I do get to a few Collingwood games per year (so the black and white has me leaning toward supporting the Roosters).

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

I have a son in primary school and a daughter near the end of high school here in Ballarat. I'm always incredibly impressed by how smart and dedicated so many of Ballarat's kids are. I think the kids of this generation are so intelligent and well-connected online, but I like to remind them



*Cr. Daniel Moloney, North Ward*

to not forget about directly connecting with the community through volunteering.

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

Gee, Ben, where do I start? There's so much I love about Ballarat. At the top of my list, though, I'd have to say that I really like how friendly and accepting people are here.. And I must say that Lake Wendouree is one of my favourite places on the planet.

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

We already have an event of some size in Ballarat most weekends of the year, though I'd love to see a couple of big show-stoppers come to town. I'm really looking forward to seeing White Night come to Ballarat in early 2017 (the first time in the world it will go to a non-capital city).

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

I'd like to see some changes to the way we get feedback and ideas from the community, including kids. Giving people the chance to

offer their ideas to make Ballarat better is really important.

*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're absolutely spot-on, that good paths encourage people to walk and run more by having a safe place to get fit (and get out of the car). Many of our footpaths are starting to get a bit old and I know there's a big challenge to keep up with the maintenance of hundreds of kilometres of paths, but I'd like to see more improvements.

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

Hi James. You haven't been watching the Simpsons by any chance, have you? (The monorail didn't end so well for Homer and the residents of Springfield.) I guess there's nothing you can't do with unlimited money, but I reckon this one would be a bit too expensive. It's such a pity that the extensive tram network we used to have in Ballarat was ripped up, and there's only a small bit around the lake now.

## Getting to know Cr. Grant Tillett. North Ward

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

The problem of pollution and litter is not just a Ballarat problem. It is a universal problem for which there is no real, single answer.

I come from outside the built-up area and nothing disappoints me more than to drive up Gillies Road early in the morning and to find someone has dumped a boot-full of rubbish on the roadside overnight.

I guess community education is one answer to the matter, and, of course community participation. Do not walk past small pieces of rubbish - pick them up. One should not have to do that but... !!!

Council has a responsibility to provide ongoing education and, of course, things like rubbish bins at appropriate locations - and, naturally, these bins need regular emptying. As I sit and ponder this question, however, I keep coming back to community pride and community education as being the best guardians against littering, etc.

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

It is a long time since I used a playground, but my expectation is that Council will certainly continue to maintain existing facilities and provide new ones as demand can be demonstrated.

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

Well, the decisions to make Ballarat bigger do not come from



Council as much as from State Government. My own view is that Ballarat should try to maintain the charm and dignity of the Ballarat of old, and any expansion must (should) only come after strong consideration of the downside, and with full understanding of the outcomes.

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

No, I do not support any particular team in any particular sporting discipline, but I enjoy them all.

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

You know, the kids of today are pretty smart. But so they should be, because modern technology has the capacity to make them so - no computers, calculators or mobile phones when I went to school. Pen, but usually pencil (and a good rubber to fix up the errors we made), was the best we had. No heating or cooling in the class rooms, and often kids with no shoes on (in the summertime at least). Many parents could not afford shoes.

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

Ballarat is a good place to live, with excellent medical facilities,

plenty of open space to move about, pretty good sporting facilities, generally speaking, and all the things to be found in a large city - but with just enough of the rural outlook to enable a relaxed lifestyle.

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

This is a good question. Ballarat does have a number of big events. There is one on this weekend as I type this letter - the Ballarat Show.

Then we have the Begonias and the big cycle race; even the ice skating rink. But what we do not have is lots and lots of money, and what we have must go around all of Ballarat.

The Show is run by a committee of locals; the Begonias by a similar group but with some Council support; the cycle race and the skating come at enormous cost - like it or not, money is the key to all things. So, no, I do not support lots of new big events if the Council has to pay, but I do support the notion that Council can support groups (like the Begonias) who contribute to the events.

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

Ballarat has just gone through a whole series of big new ideas, most of which have not been properly funded and cannot be completed without significant extra money. So, my big idea is to get all those half-finished things done and then let us look for the new challenges.

*9. Are you going to improve the pathways around Ballarat? It would really help people to get around more*



## Getting to know Cr. Grant Tillett. North Ward continued...

*and become more fit – James*

Unfortunately, because of poor maintenance and the wet winter, the roads around Ballarat are in bad shape – sorry, no cash for new pathways. Once the roads are fixed, then let's have a go.

*10. Could you build elevated tram lines around Ballarat? – James*

It is a great shame the old tramway was removed – not one of our finest hours – but building a new one would be an impossible task, I fear.

# Wholesome Wholefoods

## Wholefoods Ballarat Christmas Break

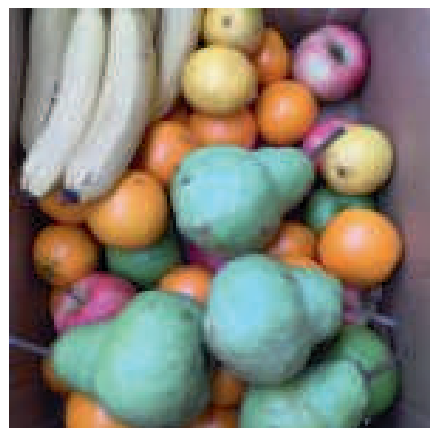
Wholefoods will close for the Christmas/New Year period on Friday 16 December at 7 p.m.

We will re-open on Wednesday 1 February 2017 at 9 a.m.

## Results of the Ballarat Wholefoods Festival Raffle

At the Brown Hill Community Festival, the Ballarat Wholefoods team sold 103 raffle tickets.

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and to the very generous prize donations.



*Magic Meadows Fruit Box*

Congratulations to the winners!

### First Prize: Aaron

Family Day Pass to Sovereign Hill, donated by the City of Ballarat.  
[sovereignhill.com.au](http://sovereignhill.com.au)

### Second Prize: Sarah

A seasonal fruit and a seasonal veggie box donated by Magic Meadows via Ballarat Wholefoods.  
[magicmeadow.com.au](http://magicmeadow.com.au)



*Magic Meadows Veggie Box*

### Third Prize: Izzy

Grounded Pleasures gift box with a range of delicious drinking chocolate.  
[groundedpleasures.com.au](http://groundedpleasures.com.au)



### Fourth Prize: Lisa

Two Family Day-Passes to the Brown Hill Pool, donated by the Brown Hill Progress Association.

## Homemade Lemonade



### Ingredients:

1 lemon or lime, cut into wedges

1/2 cup apple cider vinegar (preferably with mother/culture)

500 ml mineral or soda water, chilled

2 teaspoons of honey, maple syrup or agave (to taste)

### Directions:

Squeeze lemon/lime wedges into a jug, leaving wedges in jug once squeezed.

Add apple cider vinegar, sparkling water and honey to jug. Stir vigorously with a chopstick or wooden spoon. Serve over ice.

*Recipe from the Ballarat Wholefoods Recipe Book.*



# Brown Hill State School No.35 - A History

The name Brown Hill started off as Brownbill in the times of gold discoveries in October 1851. In Golden Point, William and Hiscock Brownbill found there were too many diggers there and came to the spot that is now Brown Hill. Here they struck gold and in their honour the diggers called it Brownbill's diggings. Over time Brownbill gradually changed into the name we use now - Brown Hill.

Brown Hill has been home to many schools before our current state school. John Finlay established the first two. In December 1867, he opened Plank Road School and, in January 1868, the Gracefield School (named after his daughter in England). The Brown Hill Primary State School first opened as the Eureka National School in September 1853. It had been bought by the national school inspector from a

digger. Mr Spencer Creeny was the first head master and within 3 months had 50 students attending.

After Mr. Creeny resigned, Mr. M.C. Carey took over. At this stage, only 21 students were in attendance. When Mr. Carey resigned there were only 2 students attending. However, in September 1856 there were again 50 students and by 1872 there 227 in attendance. Mr. Nicholson was headmaster at the time and he established the school's first library. Because of the bigger numbers, another building was leased and became the junior school. Years later, Mr. Potter was head teacher. He continually worried about the abandoned mine shafts in the school grounds. In 1876, a five-year-old drowned in one of the mine shafts.

In 1877 a new school building was started (which is the front portion of our present state school). The old building was sold by 1878 and in 1884 there were 150 students attending. Jumping years forward, in 1946 the number of students was greatly increased. The increase meant more space was

needed. In 1959, one more classroom, a staff room and the present office were added. In 1963, two classrooms were added and the attendance was 258. In Mr. Ryan's term as head teacher, two ovals (both with cricket pitches) were constructed and the gardens were looking beautiful.

*Annie, Grade 5, Caledonian Primary School*

## Parents without Partners

The Ballarat Branch of Parents Without Partners was formed in 1969. The aim of the organisation was to support single parents and their children, regardless of marital states or custody.

Various social functions were organised for adults and children and were always well supported.

In 1976 we started holding a dance each month at the Brown Hill Hall and, 40 years on, these are still very popular. Over the years though, membership numbers have decreased.

One of the highlights of the branch was to instigate the forming of the Eureka Ward Neighbourhood Childcare Centre in 1976.

Any enquiries regarding the organisation would be welcomed.

Margaret: 5338 2978

Trevor: 0409 433 522

Shirley: 5335 6180



*Caledonian Primary School circa 1970*

Did you know that you can cancel your white and yellow pages delivery: [www.directoryselect.com](http://www.directoryselect.com)



# Yarrowee River Highlights Tour

On a rather drizzly Sunday (18 September) 24 local community members gathered at Gong Gong Reservoir to begin a tour of the Yarrowee River. The tour was to showcase the works of the three year 'Breathing Life Back Into the Yarrowee River' project, which saw the state government allocate \$1 million into revitalising the River. The Yarrowee River begins in the hills at Gong Gong, then flows through Nerrina, Brown Hill, Black Hill, Ballarat East, Ballarat Central, Golden Point, Redan, Mount Pleasant, Sebastopol, Mount Clear, Magpie and Cambrian Hill, where it turns into the Leigh River and flows into the Barwon River at Inverleigh.

After leaving the reservoir we travelled downstream to our first stop at the newly constructed Brown Hill wetland. As it was shortly after the large rainfall events Victoria experienced this Spring, the wetland had expanded dramatically. This wetland will act



*Warming up in the bus between sites*

as a great habitat refuge for creatures such as frogs and waterbugs and is a great place for kids and adults to explore nearby nature.

At both Dowcra Street, Sebastopol and Humffray Street South in Mount Pleasant, we showed the amazing work that the community has contributed to this project in the form of clean-ups and plantings. Initially, Ballarat Council had removed a lot of blackberry and willow. This was followed by 10 community and schools planting days when 3,500 indigenous plants were put in the ground and guarded from the ever-present rabbits.

Our following stop at Bala Street, Sebastopol, was to highlight the biggest infrastructure portion of the project, which is mostly unseen. A gross pollutant trap (large pieces of rubbish) was installed in this area due to its being identified as a pollution hotspot. This means it will collect the rubbish at the end of the stormwater drain before it hits the river or nearby Redan wetlands, reducing pollutant impacts on the water.

We finished the chilly but pleasant morning with a lunch back at Gong Gong, which was a great chance to talk about future involvement in the Yarrowee River and how we can all work together.

If you would like to be alerted about some of the upcoming Yarrowee River events in Brown Hill or are interested in joining the Friends of Yarrowee River, please contact our Yarrowee River Project Officer on [janelcg@iinet.net](mailto:janelcg@iinet.net) to be put on the mailing list, or keep an eye out in this newsletter.

*Jane Bevelander, Yarrowee-Leigh Catchment Group*



*Looking at the gross pollutant trap in Sebastopol.*

# Obituaries

## Vale Eric Carthy

17 February 1917 - 13 November 2016

We acknowledge the recent passing of Eric Carthy, a long-standing and well-known member of the Brown Hill community. Eric was 99 and worked at Caledonian Garage for many years. Our sympathy goes to Eric's family and friends.



## Vale Wallie Coles

Long-term Brown Hill resident, footballer, umpire and bird-watcher, Wallie Coles died last month. Wallie was born at Quambatook on 15 November, 1931 and died in Ballarat on 26 October, 2016. Wallie lived in Reid Street, Brown Hill, for 54 years with his wife Elaine and their 3 children, Sharyon, Colleen and Glenn. Because of his failing health in recent years, their home was sold and they relocated to Invermay Park to be nearer to their family.

Wallie had a real passion for bird-watching and had an enviable ability to immediately whistle the call of lots of birds. He could remember the call, the key, the pitch and so on, and come up with a perfect rendition of an amazing number of bush birds and others.

There were few people who could match him with that. Wallie was contacted by a number of bird-watchers from interstate and overseas because of his local knowledge and he gave his time freely to them whenever he could.

As far as the local branch of bird observers is concerned, he was a

### *Wallie Coles*

co-founder in 1983 and continued active membership until illness prevented it about five years ago. He was the Branch Conservation Officer for many years and did his best for the birds and the environment in whatever way he could.

Wallie had seen more than 650 different sorts of Australian birds; he gave occasional talks to students and others and escorted them on bird-watching outings. In 2007 he was given a Distinguished Service Award by the Bird

Observers Club of Australia.

Later in life his passion was for the Ditchfield Nature Reserve along the Yarrowee River, which was within walking distance from home. Wallie could be seen walking the tracks, bird-watching and talking to other people along the way, often sitting on a chair waiting for a square-tailed kite to fly over.

*Roger Thomas and Helen O'Donnell,  
BirdLife Ballarat.*



### *Wallie Coles*



# My Local Shopping Strip

In a rare moment of sunshine this week, when I was enjoying a stroll up to my local shop, I got thinking about the mini-shopping strips that adorn our surrounding suburbs. We take them for granted - they are always there - yet we head into town to the big stores. So what happens to the little shops in the suburbs?

In my local strip there is a milkbar, post office, service station, fish & chip shop, hairdresser, laundromat, and within walking distance there is a mechanic and pub with bistro, bar & bottle shop. I'm happy to say I use most of those businesses regularly.

I often head to the shop, even just as an excuse to get out and walk. I used to visit the fish & chip shop often, too, but since pregnancy fish & chips hasn't really been my thing, I still love to send people there! I use the laundromat when I have 'big' things that need washing. I haven't visited the mechanic for a few years, but, now that I'm home more often these days a local service is just what the car needs!

The convenience of the servo is too good to worry about collecting docketts and driving all over town to find a few cents' discount. We don't visit the pub as much these days, with a baby, but it's nice to be able to walk up and get a nice meal while enjoying the views of the creek over the back deck. I have also used the pub as a baby shower venue on a quiet afternoon. We have booked the

hall to have our little guy's first birthday and we are very much looking forward to heading to the swimming pool when the hot weather comes back, too.

It's these things that make our little piece of Ballarat

unique, but also bring it together as a community. It's no surprise to see someone you know at the shop, or get a toot from a friend while you're at the park or out for a walk and you get to know the people running the businesses in the area.

Some days, when I have been home for a few days in a row with not many outdoor adventures, it's nice to get out and see real people, so I head to the shop. It saddens me to see shops close down. Every now and then I drive past an old milk bar that has recently closed, another pub that has shut down, or another business building that has the blinds closed.



*Local shops, Humffray Street North*



*Local mechanic, Humffray Street North, Brown Hill*

So, as a community, in each of our suburbs, we need to do our best to support those small businesses away from the big shopping centres. Is the difference of a few cents or a couple of dollars really that big that we need to drive longer distances (and spend more on fuel) to get the few conveniences that we might need on occasion? It seems to be that only once these small businesses close down do we stop and realise what we had and suddenly miss it. Let's all do our bit and keep our local businesses running.

I'm also loving the committees that City of Ballarat has set up; in my case it's "Making Brown Hill" (Brown Hill Partnership), a committee of local residents working with the Council to make our area even better!

Recently, new barbeques and picnic tables have been put in the park. I'm very much looking forward to having a picnic or two this Summer.

*Louise Jones, Blossom Connect*

First published on Louise's blog : [www.blossomconnect.com.au](http://www.blossomconnect.com.au)

# Brown Hill Community Festival Photo Competition



The inaugural 'My Brown Hill' photo competition was run in the lead up to the Brown Hill Community Festival in October. Residents were asked to submit photos that represented Brown Hill to them.

Entries will be printed over several editions of the newsletter and posted on the '**Making Brown Hill**' and '**Brown Hill Community Newsletter**' Facebook pages. They will also be on display during December at the Ballarat Central Library, Doveton Street North.

The judging panel included staff from Brown Hill Kindergarten and Caledonian Primary School. Entries were judged on the way in which both the image and the description captured the essence of Brown Hill.

We thank those who entered the competition and encourage everyone to email your Brown Hill photos to:  
[brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com).

*Brown Hill Festival Committee*

## 1st Prize: Harry

*'Brown Hill Playground'*

I love Brown Hill Playground because I can play Fireman Sam there. I use the binoculars as water cannons. The fireman pole is fun!

## Pre-school category

### 2nd Prize: Oscar

*'At the Creek'*

This is my Brown Hill because we have adventures with Daddy here.



### 3rd Prize: Lydia

*'Golden bloom'*

I like exploring Brown Hill while walking with my mum.

The Festival Committee would like to thank **Thornton Richards Camera House** (416 Sturt Street, Ballarat, [camerahouseballarat.com.au](http://camerahouseballarat.com.au)) for donating a \$20 gift voucher for first prize and the **Brown Hill Progress Association** for donating two Brown Hill Pool Family Day Passes given as the second and third prizes.