

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 5, February 2017

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



Festival Committee Members, Sarah Greenwood-Smith and Christine Sullivan (L) with Kath Morton (Centre) (Ballarat's Citizen of the Year), Cr. Samantha McIntosh and Chloe Waddell (Ballarat's Young Citizen of the Year) celebrating the awards on Australia Day. Photo by Andrew Wilson.

Award winning festival!

Congratulations to all involved with the inaugural Brown Hill Community Festival, held on 28 October 2016. On Australia Day, the Festival was named as Ballarat's 2017 Community Event of the Year. The seven nominations were: *Ballarat Community Garden Festival, Ballarat Memorial Concert Band, Civic Hall 60th Anniversary, Kindness Meters Ballarat, Friends of the Canadian Corridor and Need For Feed Disaster - Mt Bolton and Scotsburn Bush Fire Hay Run.*

When receiving the award from

...continued p.3

Citizen Kath

As a Ballarat citizen of 22 years, Kath Morton never thought that she would receive one of the City of Ballarat's highest awards. However, with her lifetime of community work to improve the lives of Australian refugees, she was a sure-fire winner from the word go.

Before moving to Ballarat, Kath lived in Charlton, located half-way between Melbourne and Mildura. With a population of just over 1,000 people, it's a far cry from the bustling city of Ballarat, which has a population of more than 99,000 people. In Charlton, Kath raised five children, three of whom now live in Melbourne.

...continued p.9

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

Sunday 26: 11am-3pm, Ballarat Community Garden Harvest Festival. Corner of Queen Street and Dyte Parade, Ballarat East. ballaratcommunitygarden.org.au

Tuesday 28: 7pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancakes in the Brown Hill Uniting Church Hall. (p.13)

MARCH

Wednesday 1: Brown Hill Seniors trip to Queenscliff. (p.12)

Sunday 5: 9:30am, Dye Hard Fun Run from Brown Hill Reserve along the Yarrowee Trail. (p.15)

Sunday 5: 10am-12 noon, Clean Up Australia Day, Ditchfield Reserve. (p.10)

Tuesday 7: 6pm and 7pm, Woodmans Hill Secondary College Tours and Information Evening. (p.11)

Tuesday 7: 7pm, Brown Hill Progress Association Meeting. Brown Hill Hall. (p.3)

Wednesday 8: 5-6pm, Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group Working Bee. (p.10)

Friday 10: 9:15am and 11am Woodmans Hill Secondary College Tours and Information Sessions. (p.11)

Sunday 12: Brown Hill Pool's last day for the 2016/17 season. (p.3)

Thursday 16: 4:30-6pm, Riverside Botanical Drawing Class, Brown

...continued p.2

Welcome to Edition 5

The Brown Hill Community Newsletter is proud to walk this land with the Wadawurrung people.

Welcome to our first edition for 2017! It's been a few months since our last edition, so this is another bumper issue.

We received some lovely feedback about Edition 4 from our Federal Member of Parliament, Catherine King. She wrote: *"I am in Canberra so I have had a lovely time looking through all of the community activities and the life of people in Brown Hill. Nice to have a slice of home here in Canberra".*

In this edition, we are pleased to welcome students from Woodmans Hill Secondary College to our team of volunteer journalists and to also welcome some new students from Caledonian Primary School. You can read about local Kath Morton, who is Ballarat's 2017 Citizen of the Year, see photos showing some of the excitement at the Brown Hill Pool over summer including VicSWIM and Aquatic Zumba, inform yourself about the new Brown Hill bus routes and find out about the development of the Brown Hill Community Online Hub.

We are very excited that, for the first time, a team of 21 local volunteers delivered the newsletter to over 1700 letterboxes in Brown Hill. Thanks to Alice, Bernie, Brendan, Brian, Hazen, Jodi, John, Laura, Liz, Louise, Merrilyn, Rachel, Sandra, Sarah, Sharon, Stephen, Sue K, Sue W, Tania, Trish and Victoria.



Please be patient as it may take us an edition or two to get into the swing of self-delivery. If you missed out, please contact us via email. To receive an electronic copy, to submit a story or to contact us, please email: brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com.

Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee

Join our crew!

In less than one year, we have grown from a small volunteer committee of five to now having over 30 people giving their time and skills to produce and deliver this newsletter to Brown Hill. That's a fantastic success! Our volunteers help to collect and research stories, interview people, take photos, write, edit and proof-read articles and deliver the printed copies across Brown Hill.

If you think you might like to join our crew, please get in touch via email: brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com.

...continued from p.1

Hill Reserve. (p.10)

Thursday 16: 6:30pm-7:30pm, Family Frog Walk and Talk. Brown Hill Wetland. (p.10)

Sunday 26: National Neighbour Day: www.neighbourday.org

APRIL

Tuesday 4: 7pm, Brown Hill Progress Association Meeting. Brown Hill Hall. (p.3)

Sunday 9: 1-5pm, Line Dancing Social Dance, Brown Hill Hall. (p.14)

Wednesday 12: 5-6pm, Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group Working Bee. (p.10)

Saturday 29: 8am, Men's Breakfast at the Brown Hill Uniting Church Hall. (p.13)

Sunday 30 April: 7:45-9:30am Brunch with Brown Hill Birds, Hearn Road Reserve. (p.10)

WEEKLY

Ballarat Wholefoods: Wednesdays 9-11am and 5-7pm, during school term. (p.13)

Caledonian Playgroup: Wednesdays 9-11am, during school term, Caledonian Primary School. (p.11)

Brown Hill Partnership

On Tuesday 21 February, the Brown Hill Partnership met in the Brown Hill Cricket Club Rooms. A grant of \$1995.40 was allocated to the 2017 Brown Hill Community Festival.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 2 May**, 5:30-7pm at the Brown Hill Hall.

RSVP: Sandra Kennedy on 5320 5746. All welcome!

...continued from p.1

Councillor Samantha McIntosh, Festival Committee member, Sarah Greenwood-Smith said: "The Festival was a celebration of Brown Hill, its people and the beautiful space at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve. What a great community we have, with so many active local groups willing to get involved. Highlights included local children singing, the pipe band marching across the oval as the sun started to set, and seeing people connecting with each other. There was a true sense of belonging and community throughout the event."

The Festival came about as a celebration of the achievements during the first year of the Brown Hill Partnership and the improvement works carried out by the City of Ballarat at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve. As commented by local, Jodi: "You have started something wonderful that can grow and flourish as the years pass."

Let's do it again!

The 2017 Brown Hill Community Festival will be held from **5-7:30pm on Friday 27 October, 2017** at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Humffray Street North. For updates you can follow the 'Brown Hill Community Festival' and 'Making Brown Hill' pages on Facebook. More information will also be available in future copies of this newsletter and on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.org.au/festival. Contact: brownhillfestival@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook.

Brown Hill Community Online Hub

The Brown Hill Progress Association Inc. (BHPA), with the assistance of the City of Ballarat, is in the process of setting up a community information website, affectionately known as the Brown Hill Online Community Hub.

The website is www.brownhill.org.au, with pages for the local community pool, business and service directory, newsletter and festival.

From this hub we hope to develop links and information to assist people looking for information about Brown Hill from the internet at one site, with one Google search. We hope to include: Brown Hill Community Pool, Public Hall, Russell Square, Kindergarten and Schools, Community Groups, Sporting and Activity Groups, Newsletter, Business and Service Directory, Fire Aware Program and local history.

If you can think of any other links that would benefit the community, please contact the BHPA secretary Brendan via email on: bhpasec@gmail.com or come along to our monthly meetings held at the rear of the Brown Hill Public Hall on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

Brendan Stevens, Secretary, BHPA

Summertime at the Brown Hill Pool

It's been another great season at the Brown Hill Pool. By the end of January 2017, 5053 visits had been made to the Brown Hill Pool and the fabulous volunteers had invested approximately 428 hours in preparing and maintaining the pool, equipment and grounds and managing the kiosk.

The 2016-17 Brown Hill Pool season will finish on **Sunday 12 March**. To thank the wonderful volunteers, a free of charge BBQ will be held on a weekend soon. It will be promoted through the 'Brown Hill Community Pool' Facebook page.

Toddler pool or water play

The Brown Hill Progress Association is seeking feedback from the community about an idea to replace the Toddler Pool with a water play space. Only in its infancy, the idea has already proven popular. If you have any comments, please email the secretary of the Brown Hill Progress Association, Brendan Stevens: bhpasec@gmail.com.



Australia Day Pool Party Facepainting

Jacqui & team kept a watchful eye

Being a lifeguard sounds like an exciting job, doesn't it?

We interviewed Jacqui who has been a lifeguard here at our Brown Hill pool for two years. Jacqui has been a lifeguard for eight years, starting at the age of 15. Jacqui decided to be a lifeguard because of her love of water, swimming and she thinks that water safety is very important.

Jacqui had heard lots about being a lifeguard by the time she went through training. Training to be a lifeguard includes a two day course which can be done all over Victoria. Jacqui trained in Geelong and loved it. Then she saw the advertisement for the lifeguard job at the Brown Hill Pool and took up the opportunity. After talking to Brendan Stevens, "who was unbelievably nice", she had the job.

Jacqui is a member of our Brown Hill community, living just 5 minutes away. Jacqui gives up 10 to 20 hours a week for her



Lifeguard Jacqui



lifeguard duties! Some may think they see Jacqui around lots but the truth is she is one of two very busy twin sisters.

There are lots of responsibilities that come with being a lifeguard, not only must she be alert at all times but lifeguards also make sure all the facilities are safe, clean and ready to go. They do pool checks and set up the kiosk. Imagine doing all of this for long hours on a 30+ degree day. However, they don't do all of these jobs alone, there are always at least two lifeguards on call. On a really busy day they have three or more.

At our Brown Hill pool, Jacqui is on a team of nine, with two of those lifeguards only joining recently. Most of these lifeguards have become really close friends. The lifeguards also have some good friends in regularly visiting families. These families often help pack up and help around the pool.

Now for the question we are all wondering about... has Jacqui ever had to jump in and save someone? Well the answer is "yes, but only once". Jacqui jumped in and saved the day! This doesn't happen very often because most people tend to know where they can and can't swim and it doesn't normally happen so suddenly. Usually, the lifeguard can check on them or give them a kick-board before anything bad happens.

The Brown Hill Pool will be finishing off its busy season in March.

Annie S., Grade 6, Caledonian Primary School

VicSWIM goes above and beyond

Cath McMurray has been travelling from Lucas for the last four years so her two daughters can participate in the VicSWIM program at Brown Hill Pool each January. Cath feels that the benefits of the program extend far beyond the swimming lessons.

62 children participated in the VicSWIM program, which was held for two weeks from 9 January at the Brown Hill Pool. The Brown Hill Uniting Church generously sponsored the program (a total donation of \$2000), allowing each child to receive five swimming lessons free of charge. Some families chose to pay \$30 per child for the second week of lessons.

Cath says her girls look forward to the VicSWIM program every summer and their skills increase dramatically. She finds the instructors and lifeguards fantastic, particularly their skills in getting to know each child individually and homing in on what they each need to practise. Cath says Brown Hill Pool lifeguard Ryan remembers each child from one year to the next and has built a great rapport with the children and parents. She says he is a "rare gem."

Apart from the swimming skills, Cath values the long lasting friendships that she and her girls develop with other families over the two weeks of the program. She says: "You can sense the community atmosphere amongst the parents and staff, something that is not felt at other pools. The staff and volunteers at the Brown

Hill Pool go above and beyond to make each family feel welcome and special.”

The VicSWIM program at the Brown Hill Pool is a highlight of Cath and her family's summer holidays and Cath is sure that other families feel the same way.

The VicSWIM Program is open to children aged 4 years and over. For more information, follow the 'VicSWIM' page on Facebook, call 9271 3800 or visit: www.vicswim.com.au

Mermaids make waves

Aquatic Zumba was back this year at the Brown Hill Pool. Twice a week from late January, Loreenne (Flo) Ramanauskas volunteered her time to lead 40-50 locals through a 50 minute session of groovy moves in the pool. Flo says she “loved every second of the

classes at Brown Hill”. From shaking their hips “like Shakira”, double leg kicks “like mermaids” and some regular “Nutbush” action, Flo had everyone getting active underwater. The pool had never been so choppy! Not to mention the laughter and hilarity that went on as everyone enjoyed trying to master some of the more tricky moves.

Participant Callan Slater said: “Loreenne, I would like to thank you for the awesome Aquatic Zumba classes. You radiate joy and get everybody moving. What a wonderful gift to share with our community. Thanks for sharing your sparkle.” (Source: Brown Hill Community Pool Facebook page.)

What a wonderful way to get some low impact exercise and have fun with other locals. Thanks Flo and Brown Hill Pool for providing such a great activity!

Australia Day Breakfast

Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Clubs organised another successful free community breakfast at the Brown Hill Hall on Australia Day. Many hundreds of local folk, family and friends came together, chatted, laughed, ate 30 dozen eggs, 13 kg of bacon and many pancakes (provided by the Brown Hill Uniting Church), while sipping tea and coffee. Children had fun on a treasure hunt and having their faces painted. A spinning wheel saw many walking away with prizes. It was a great way to start the day.

Brian Green, Brown Hill Lions Club



Lions Club members cooking sausages

Australia Day Pool Party

The weather was a bit cool at the Australia Day Breakfast hosted by the Brown Hill Lions and Lionesses clubs and Uniting Church, but the sun gods came good and the clouds parted just as the pool opened up at 12 midday for our annual Pool Party. The lifeguards

...continued p.6



Locals enjoying Aquatic Zumba in the Brown Hill Pool

...continued from p.5

set up the inflatable runway slide, kindly loaned to us from Fed. Unisports, at the deep end of the pool. At 12:01 the first squeals started as kids raced down the mat and threw themselves off the slide at the end. The lifeguards added to the fun by throwing buckets of water over the passing sprinters. Big and little kids had a great time for the next two hours.

Leanne, our facepainter, also proved very popular, and no wonder. She is a true artist and put in a very solid three hours or so to make sure no one missed out. All that work unfortunately ended up adding to the water colour in the pool as the day warmed up!

The Progress Association sausage sizzle was a hit, with around 150 snags on bread being eaten up to keep the energy levels high. The BHPA also had a free raffle ticket with each entry and the prize winners were drawn out at about 3pm, with some excited locals winning a free family season's pass for next year and an Australia Day Hamper to match the theme of the day. Brock Tinnetti won a special prize for his bravery with



the best fairy outfit for the day. The 'guess the number of snakes in the jar' prize had to be shared between two lucky winners,. Nobody got the exact number, but two did get a number on either side. Our kiosk volunteers had to count out 103 snakes into separate bags to share the prize evenly.

A big thanks to the lifeguards and volunteers who worked hard all day and to the families who support the pool every season. This is the Progress Association's 11th season running the pool with the assistance of the City Council, and may we have many more.

Brendan Stevens, Secretary, Brown Hill Progress Association



I'll be fine...

BUSHFIRE MYTH: "I'll be fine; the bush is a few streets away."

FACT: Most houses are burnt in bushfires because of ember attack. Embers can cause fires many kilometres in front of the main fire and can start falling hours before the fire arrives at your home.

Did you know that the highest-risk areas of Ballarat to a bushfire threat are Nerrina, Invermay and Brown Hill?

Assoc. Professor Kevin Tolhurst has provided the FireAware Network with details concerning the potential risk to our suburb. Some of the main points are:

- * The main threat is from the forested areas to the north-west, and, depending on the ignition point, a fairly large fire could develop. Wind direction on high fire danger days usually comes from the north-west.

- * Houses adjacent to the Yarrowee River and forested areas are at a higher risk of direct fire contact.

- * The greatest threat to the majority of the suburb is from ember attack. Houses can burn down hours after a fire has passed, due to a slow build up of embers.

- * Spot fires can start in multiple backyards, as embers can travel long distances before a fire arrives - during, and long after, the initial threat has passed.

- * Once houses have ignited, house-to-house fires then become a high risk.

BUSHFIRE MYTH: "There will always be a fire truck available to fight a bushfire threatening my home."



FireAware mascot, Penny Platypus

FACT: There may not be as many fire trucks as there are houses. Do not depend on a fire truck being available for your home.

For more information, contact Hazen on 0408 690 493, or go to the Brown Hill Community FireAware Network's webpages: www.pleanetwork.com.au/brown-hill-community-fireaware-network/

Hazen Cleary, Brown Hill FireAware Coordinator

Prepare for power outages

As the summer heat continues, the Victorian Government's summer campaign, 'Your Guide to Power Outages', is seeking to help Victorians keep safe during a power outage in bushfires and extreme weather conditions.

While Victoria has very reliable electricity supply, power outages can happen, particularly during heatwaves, bushfires and grassfires.

A guide has been produced: 'Your Guide to Power Outages' with a call to action. It only takes a few simple things to prepare. Some simple tips include having access to:

- * A torch or battery-operated light

- * A phone that doesn't rely on electricity (such as a fully-charged mobile phone)

- * A battery powered radio for news and updates

- * Fresh water (if you rely on an electric pump for water)

- * The faults and emergencies contact number from your latest bill.

There's a lot of useful advice online on how to be energy safe with resources to download. Visit delwp.vic.gov.au/poweroutages for more information on how to get prepared, or call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Reid Street roadworks

Road reconstruction in Reid Street (at the Ainley Street end) is progressing. The cost will be in excess of \$300,000, with asphaltting from kerb to kerb, new kerbing and new stormwater pits to improve drainage in the street.



Roadworks on Reid Street, near Ainley Street, Brown Hill.

Brown Hill bus route changes

On 1 February, the public bus routes through Brown Hill changed. Several stops along Humffray Street North between Stawell Street North (Russell Square) and Thompson Street were closed. There is now a Black Hill bus route (#14) and a Brown Hill bus route (#15).

The Black Hill bus route travels east along Humffray Street North from Ballarat city. Its closest stop to Brown Hill is just after the Humffray Street General Store. The bus then turns left at the roundabout with Stawell Street North to travel up into Black Hill.

The Brown Hill bus route now includes stops north of the Western Freeway. Here is the route description from the Public Transport Victoria website:

To Ballarat Station

Departs from Water St near Ryan St, Brown Hill and runs via Humffray St Nth, Thompson St, Water St, Victoria St, Stawell St and Eureka St to the Museum of Australian Democracy (M.A.D.E); then via Eureka St, Queen St, Victoria St, Little Bridge St, Grenville St, Curtis St, Peel St, Scott Pde, Nolan St and Lydiard St to Ballarat Station.

To Brown Hill

Departs from Ballarat Station and runs via Lydiard St, Dana St, Eastwood St, Peel St, Little Bridge St, Grenville St, Curtis St, Victoria St, Queen St and Eureka St to the Museum of Australian Democracy (M.A.D.E); then via Eureka St,

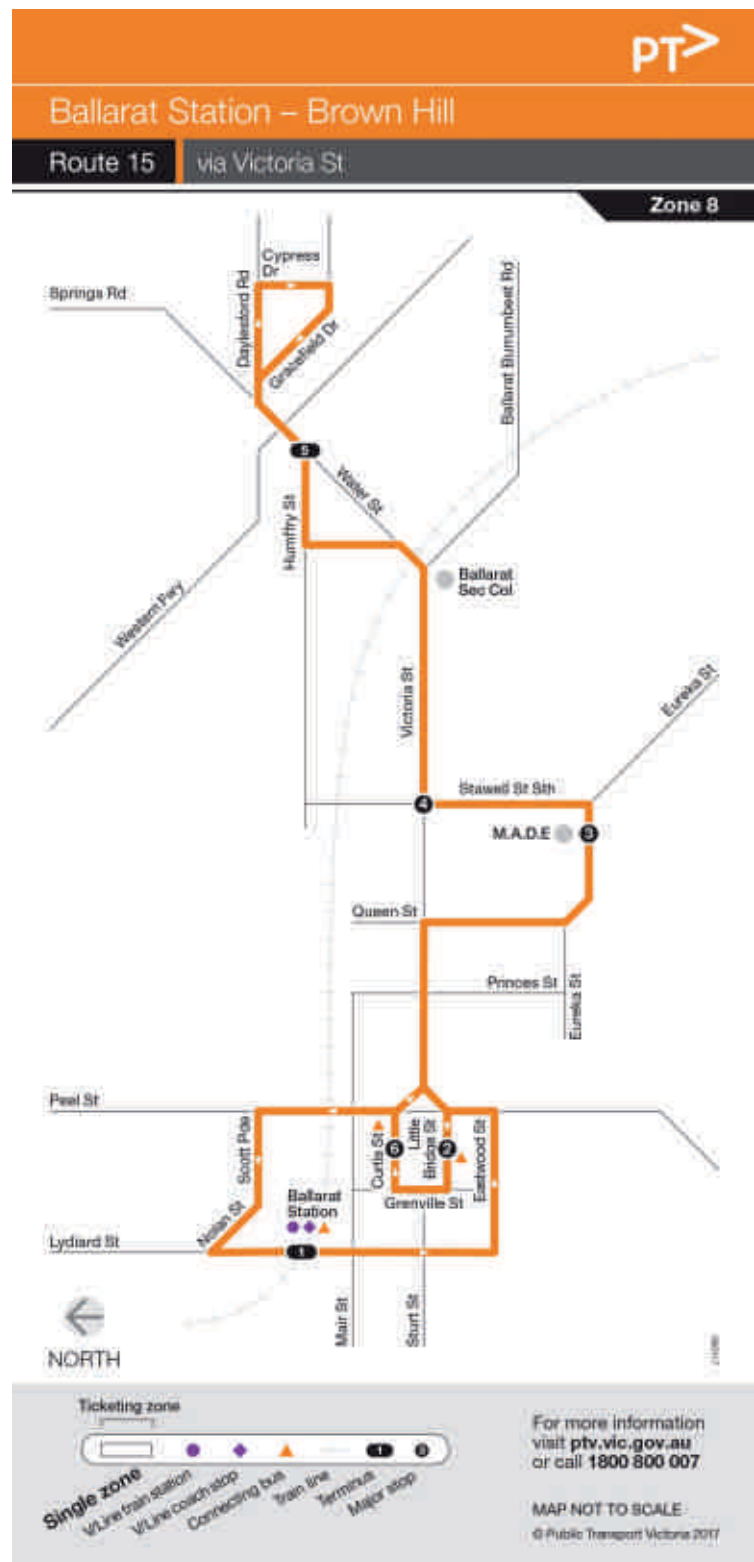
Stawell St, Victoria St, Water St, Thompson St, Humffray St Nth, Water St, Daylesford Rd, Cypress Rd and Gracefield Rd to Water St, Brown Hill.

Operator Details

CDC Ballarat: 5331 7777,
ballaratdepot@cdcvictoria.com.au

www.cdcvictoria.com.au/cdc-ballarat

The changes to the bus routes are managed by Public Transport Victoria. If you have any feedback, suggestions or questions, don't hesitate to contact them via:
www.ptv.vic.gov.au/customer-service/feedback-and-complaints/



Map of the new Brown Hill bus route. Map courtesy of Public Transport Victoria



Ballarat 2017 Citizen of the Year and Brown Hill local, Kath. Photo by The Courier.

(continued from Page 1)

Kath was named the Ballarat citizen of the year for 2017 on Australia Day and says that she felt honoured to be chosen out of so many other deserving nominees. Her commitment to improving the lives of refugees and asylum seekers is truly inspiring, not only to the rest of the Ballarat community, but to the many Australians who believe that refugees deserve better. Kath is a foundation member of 'Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees' and organises countless visits to people detained at Melbourne Immigration and Transit Accommodation (M.I.T.A.).

Kath has been involved with the social arts project 'Rebel Elders', images from which can be seen projected along Camp Street at Ballarat's White Night on Saturday 4 March 2017. Kath has also contributed to the bereavement team of St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Ballarat Interfaith group. She is a true, outstanding voice for those who need a helping hand.

While accepting her award, she spoke about how she was not expecting to win. "I am very happy to meet our refugee friends and asylum seekers," Kath says. "We all need support in the community." She also spoke about how she wants to make Ballarat a warm and welcoming community, and encouraged others to welcome people into Ballarat with open arms.

The City of Ballarat received many nominees for the Citizen of the Year award, but Kath Morton has shown all of Ballarat just how valuable she is to our community and the new people who enter it. She has taken a big step in making Ballarat a vibrant, welcoming city, and it is undeniable that many will follow in Kath's footsteps to make our city and our country an even better place in which to live.

Interviewed by Newsletter Committee and Brown Hill Lions Club Member, Brian Green. Story by Natalie Treloar, Woodmans Hill Secondary College student.

Bronislaw's Ballarat Music News

Ballarat has a great history of music traditions and experiences.

The recent 22nd 'Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Festival' was a huge success, with internationally renowned musicians performing exciting programs over 10 days.

The variety of music included choral, chamber, classical guitar, gypsy folk and organ genres. Italian organist Giampaolo Di Rosa, Genevieve Lacey on recorder, the Grigorian brothers and theatre organist Tony Fenelon were some of the outstanding performers who delighted the capacity audiences.

Upcoming concerts include 'Piano for Pleasure' on 19 March and the 'Last Sunday of the Month' concerts. These are free of charge, one hour concerts commencing at 2.30pm at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. They are great concerts to introduce children to concert-going.

At the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts on Sunday 26 March, the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra will start its 2017 program at 2.30pm.

At the same venue on Saturday 13 May, internationally renowned Australian pianist, Caroline Almonte, will present the 2017 Don Huntley Memorial Piano Recital at 7.30pm. This is the most prestigious piano recital in the district, with a program of Chopin, Liszt and Schubert.

*Bronislaw Sozanski B.A. Dip.Ed.
A.T.C.L. MVMTA*

Connecting to Brown Hill's Nearby Nature

Autumn is going to be a busy season in Brown Hill for our Connecting to Nearby Nature project. This project, run by the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group, will provide a host of engaging and diverse environmental opportunities to connect many different demographics within Brown Hill to the local plants and animals of the Yarrowee River.

We held our first event in September, when we bussed 24 locals to several sites along the Yarrowee River to highlight some of the improvements and existing treasures.

In Autumn, we are working with several local groups to deliver some interesting and varied ways to view and connect with the river. All of these events are free of charge to participants. However, bookings are essential. Please contact Jane on 0426 873 202 or janelcg@iinet.net.au.



Riverside Botanical Drawing Class

Thursday 16 March, 4:30–6pm

Meeting: Behind the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, across the foot bridge behind the playground.

Description: A relaxing class for adults run by Valerie Richards,

Botanical Illustrator, who says: “For the last 10 years, botanical illustration has been my passion and I have been studying with the Royal Botanic Gardens art classes...it is a most satisfying study and the range of subjects is endless. The gaining of knowledge while painting is an added extra dimension.” This class is for beginners and up and will include: choosing a specimen, composition, measured drawing and various means and mediums to finish the illustration.



Family Frog Walk and Talk

Thursday 16 March, 6:30–7:30pm

Meeting: Brown Hill Wetlands, behind the Brown Hill Hotel, Humffray Street North.

Description: Learn about which local frogs live in and around the Yarrowee River, and how the new Brown Hill Wetland supports frog life. Then join an ecologist for a frog survey of the wetlands area to hear some froggy friends.



Brunch with Brown Hill Birds

Sunday 30 April, 7:45–9:30am

Meeting: Hearn Rd Reserve, Brown

Hill, corner Hearn Road & Ditchfield Lane

Description: Join a Birdlife Australia expert for a discovery walk around the beautiful Ditchfield Bushland Reserve, spotting Blue Fairy Wrens, Yellow Breasted Robins, Grey Fantails, Brush Bronzewing and more. We will provide a brunch at the end of the walk, giving you a chance to discuss all the marvels you have seen.

Jane Bevelander, Yarrowee-Leigh Catchment Group

Flooding at Ditchfield Bushland Reserve

Major flooding of the Ditchfield Reserve at the end of last year was not the disaster members of the Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group (WFPLG) expected it to be. In fact, plants seem to have thrived over the mild summer we've enjoyed.

At a working-bee immediately after the flood, members caused some curious enquiries as they were seen pressure-washing fine silt from the leaves of young plants. It seems to have done them good as very few plants have been lost.

In mid-February, Copperfield College students on an environmental camp to Ballarat and Narmbool spent a productive evening straightening bags and stakes and removing them from the well-established plants. They made excellent progress, but there is still plenty of maintenance to be done over the coming months as

young plants mature.

WFPLG welcomes anyone with an interest in Ditchfield Reserve to join us at one or more of the following events:

Sunday 5 March, 10am-12 noon:
Clean Up Australia Day.
www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au

Wednesday 8 March, 5-6pm:
Working Bee.

Wednesday 12 April, 5-6pm:
Working Bee.

*Stephanie Davison, Wattle Flat
Pootilla Landcare Group*



An impressive sight as the Yarrowee River bursts its banks and inundates the picnic ground at Ditchfield Reserve during the floods of September - October 2016.

Caledonian Playgroup

Are you looking for an activity to do with your babies, toddlers and pre-school children on Wednesday mornings? Caledonian Playgroup meets from 9-11am every Wednesday during school term in the multi-purpose room at Caledonian Primary School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill. It is a friendly and welcoming group, with lots of space for children to run around. Parents and carers are asked to bring a gold coin donation, drink bottles and a piece of fruit to share (there are no other costs).

Caledonian Playgroup is a member of Playgroup Victoria, which informs us of concerts and special performances of interest to young children. The Playgroup is also a member of the Ballarat Toy Library, so new toys are regularly introduced to the children. The Playgroup in Brown Hill has been in existence for 25 years and originally operated out of the Brown Hill Uniting Church Hall.

Come and have a cuppa and chat with other parents and watch your babies and children enjoy discovering new toys and interacting with others. To find out more, contact Caledonian Primary School on 5332 6955.

Woodmans Hill re-launched

We are excited to re-launch our school as a Year 7-12 Campus for our local community of Brown Hill and Ballarat East.

The majority of our students live in the Brown Hill area and we are determined to provide them with a high quality secondary college.

Contact: Simon Haber, 5336 7264

ballarat.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

1 Fussell Street, Ballarat East

www.woodmanshill.net.au



Information Evening

Tuesday 7 March 2017

Information sessions followed by a school tour will be held in the library at 6pm and 7pm.

Day Tours

Friday 10 March — 9:15am and 11:00am
Please register on the day at the General Office.

Woodmans Hill - Fussell Street Ballarat, Ph: 5336 7264

See learning as it occurs!





Brown Hill & District Lioness Club

Brown Hill & District Lioness Club has been working for the local community for 32 years. As well as working on their own projects, they also work in conjunction with their sponsor club, the Brown Hill Lions Club, on local, national and international Lions projects.

Currently, our funds are raised through barbeques, catering and market stalls. Funds raised from these projects are distributed to local needy community organisations. We have donated to the Cancer Support Centre, Anglicare and the 3BA Winter Blanket Appeal. Our Club members are currently working on a project which sees them supplying emergency hospital packs to the Ballarat Base Hospital.

Volunteering in our community is very rewarding and our members enjoy visiting local nursing homes and schools. This keeps them very busy.

We are a small club with 11 members and meet on the first Monday of each month.

If you would like more information about our club, or are interested in joining with us to help in your local community, please contact us on 5331 4849 or brown.hill@lioness.lions201v1-4.org.au or PO BOX 212, Brown Hill.

Glenis Davis, Secretary, Brown Hill Lioness Club

Book the Brown Hill Hall

January and February proves a busy time for bookings, so we have been busy finalising details for this year. We still have a few vacancies during 2017, with a few Saturdays and most Sundays available.

The Hall hire fees start from only \$20.00 per hour for the whole hall. This includes exclusive use of the main hall, kitchen, supper room and meeting room. Alternatively, the meeting room, supper room and kitchen can be individually hired at a reduced cost.

Did you know that our kitchen is food safety accredited? This means you can hire our kitchen to bake cookies for your local market or make meals to sell to the general public. The options are endless!

Our hall is lucky enough to be fully accessible for the disabled, including a disabled access toilet. Yes, we also have air-conditioning!

The Brown Hill Hall is open for enquiries and bookings every Thursday from 4-5:30pm. Why not drop in and discuss your next event? We are located at 375 Humffray Street North – Brown

Hill (next to the Brown Hill Swimming Pool).

You can also contact us via email: brownhillhall@outlook.com, call 0402 660 836 or find us on Facebook: brownhillhall

Reece Carter, Secretary / Hall Manager, Brown Hill Hall

Brown Hill Seniors

Our birthday in December was well attended with visitors from the district. We were entertained by the U3A choir.

A Christmas lunch at the Court House Hotel in Smythesdale was enjoyed by all our members.

2017 is in full swing, with some new members. Our usual activities are being enjoyed by all.

Our first bus trip is on Wednesday 1 March to Queenscliff.

In April, we are going to see the sand sculptures in Frankston.

Enquiries: Doreen on 5331 2157



Glad and Jack Allen cutting the Brown Hill Seniors' Birthday Cake, December 2016

Uniting Church events

Anniversary Picnic

The Brown Hill Uniting Church celebrated their 161st anniversary on 20 November 2016 with a picnic at Kirks Reservoir. Many members of the congregation met and shared a lovely picnic lunch. We enjoyed a few games, many that haven't been played in a long time, bringing back many pleasant childhood memories. We played quoits, hooky, had an egg and spoon race and discovered Kirks' gardens by doing a scavenger hunt, as well as other activities. The weather was ideal and fun was had by all. We decided to make the picnic an annual event.

Mari Orton, Brown Hill Uniting Church



Members of the Brown Hill Uniting Church Congregation enjoy games at the 161st anniversary picnic.

Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes 4 Dessert at Brown Hill Uniting Church will be on Shrove Tuesday, 28 February.

7pm in the Church Hall.

Ice cream, fruit, syrup, etc.

Donations received will support Uniting Care.

April Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday 29 April starting at 8am.

The guest speaker is Father Constantine from *One Humanity Shower Bus*.

\$5 for a full cooked breakfast.

Please reply to 0407 893 468 (for catering purposes).

Louise Wright, Brown Hill Uniting Church

A grant for Wholefoods

In October 2016, a fire at the Brown Hill Cricket Club unfortunately damaged most of the stock belonging to the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective. Members pitched in by helping to dispose of the damaged products and cleaning the storage containers. Our committee were successful in their application for a \$2803 Community Impact Grant from the City of Ballarat, to assist with purchasing new shelving and containers.

For the past few months, we have been operating out of a smaller room at the Brown Hill Cricket Club. Now that most of the cleaning and repainting has been done, we are back in the main room. We have loads of grains, flours, nuts, lentils, dried fruit, chocolate-coated pumpkin seeds, oil, olives, fresh eggs and much more - where possible from local farmers and producers. We also have boxes of 48 toilet rolls from Who Gives a Crap for \$41.40 and fruit and veggie boxes available from Magic Meadow, delivered weekly.

From mid-February, we have changed our opening hours to Wednesdays 9-11am and 5-7pm during school term. You can find us at the Brown Hill Cricket Club, Reid Court, Brown Hill. Contact: Wendy 0419 898 286, ballaratwholefoodscollective@gmail.com, find us on Facebook, or drop in and say hello!

Wendy Aston, Ballarat Wholefoods Collective



Liz and Ann show Jacqui and Veronica some active moves!

Brown Hill's active adults

Stephen Holmes is a Brown Hill local who is dedicated to helping people, particularly those over 60, to get and stay active. Stephen runs light, low impact sessions, called 'Heart Moves', at the Brown Hill Public Hall from 10-11am on Tuesdays for \$10 per session. He also operates 'Anywhere Personal Training' for all ages, specialising in working with older adults.

Students from Woodmans Hill Secondary College interviewed two of Stephen's Brown Hill clients, Liz Mason and Ann Brown, to see why they enjoy his classes.

Liz and Ann both told us that they decided to join Stephen's classes on someone else's suggestion and Ann felt it was a "good idea because I wasn't doing much exercise". They participate in many activities such as planks, bean bag games to improve hand-eye coordination and many different stretches and resistance activities.

Some of the benefits Liz and Ann experience due to these classes

are that they feel stronger in their upper body and it also improves their hand-eye coordination, mobility and flexibility. Ann stated, "It certainly has strengthened my legs and core."

Besides the physical benefits, Liz and Ann also find that there are social advantages. "We get to see other people around Brown Hill that we wouldn't otherwise see. Quite a few other people that live alone attend as well and I think it's good for them to get out," Liz said.

Some advice Liz and Ann have for the older population is: "Join the class!" The classes have between six to sixteen participants aged from 60 to their mid-80s. "We believe that these classes are extremely beneficial, physically and socially, for the older generation in Brown Hill."

If you would like to join these classes, Stephen can be contacted on 0447 780 152 and steve@anywherepersonaltraining.com To find out more, see: anywherepersonaltraining.com.

*Interview and article by Woodmans Hill Secondary College students:
Jacqui Burch and Veronica McCarthy*

Line dancing fun

Join Ella on Thursdays at the Brown Hill Hall for some line dancing fun:

9-10am: Basic Beginners (for people who haven't danced before).

10-11am: Beginners.

11:30am-12:30pm: Easy Intermediate & Intermediate classes.

Everyone is welcome for fun and friendship, and exercise to boot.

There are also social dances on Thursday 23 February, 10am-2:30pm and Sunday 9 April, 1-5pm.

To find out more, call Ella on 0401 017 758.

Masters Football joins Russell Square

A big Brown Hill welcome to the Ballarat Masters Football Club (BMFC). The team is now training and playing at the Russell Square Recreation Reserve. The Club competes in the AFL Masters, Victorian Country competition and has done so for over 25 years! BMFC is a footy-for-fun focused club and welcomes players over 35 years of age to join them in their



BMFC's new playing jumpers

competition, in which they play 11 games once a fortnight, on Sundays.

With key values being: *Leadership, Team work, Loyalty, Commitment and Encouragement*, BMFC is a family-friendly club. If you are keen to join as a player, contact: Coach Dale Mercer on 0457 547 846 or Trevor Booth on 0437 452 137. Training is on Wednesdays from 1 February to 27 September 2017.

The club is also celebrating the allocation of a grant from Council's Community Impact Grant Program. Funding of \$3,400 will contribute to a new set of playing jumpers and 25-year-anniversary club polo tops. Councillors Hudson and Coates were on hand to congratulate the group and wish them all the very best for the 2017 season.

Contact: Rod Lewis, Club President, 0422 670 779 or find the club on Facebook.



Brown Hill Cricket Club's 70th reunion

On the weekend of 18 and 19 February, the Brown Hill Cricket Club celebrated its 70th anniversary with a reunion at the Cricket Club Rooms.

Celebrations started with a dinner for 116 people on Saturday evening at the Sporting Globe.

On Sunday, around 80 people



enjoyed an afternoon BBQ lunch at the clubrooms. Participants enjoyed watching past players (Legends) vs current players (Heroes) play a T20 game of cricket.

Unfortunately, the game was washed out and we had to convert to a 'bowl-off' to determine the winner. Two players from each team bowled two balls each at the stumps. The Heroes won the 'bowl-off' by hitting the stumps more often than the Legends.

A great weekend was had by all and now we are all looking forward to our 75th Anniversary in 2022.

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

Dye Hard Fun Run

On the morning of Sunday 5 March, the Dye Hard Fun Run will be held in Brown Hill. Part of the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve will be closed off, there will be food trucks, music and a jumping castle. The track is across the bridge and down to Ainley Street in a loop, with the start and finish in the Reserve. For more, see: www.dyehardfunrun.com.au/ballarat1



President Rod Lewis and members of the Ballarat Masters Football Club receive a cheque for \$3400 from Cr. Belinda Coates and Cr. Des Hudson.

Vale Eric Carthy, 1917-2016

On 13 November 2016, Brown Hill lost one of its most well-known and loved community members, Eric Carthy.

To quote his son Phil: "Eric probably worked every day of his life and, of course, is best known to the locals as the mechanic, fuel pump attendant, book keeper and yarn teller of the Caledonian Garage for the last 70 years."

Born in England, he migrated to Australia with his parents and grew up in Melbourne. He left school during the Depression for a job operating machinery, which means his working life spanned nine decades. He met Laura while working for a family dairy delivery business in Ballarat. They were married 61 years, before she died in 2007. Mrs Carthy was well-known in the area as the operator of a take-away food shop next to the garage, which supplied local schools. Eric said former students occasionally brought their children back to the shop to show



Eric Carthy. Image thanks to The Courier, photographer, Daniel Hartley-Allen

them where "real potato cakes" were made.

Eric loved to talk; weather, politics, problems of the world or local community, his day, your day, anything at all. Everyone knew that paying for fuel often meant a ten minute chat as he got your change or worked through the EFTPOS machine. As he said in an interview several years ago, it was the company he had over the day that kept him going. Still sharp as a tack and occupying the chair in the garage office until late last year, the changes he had seen in a lifetime were just described as

being interesting.

Eric's grandson Ryan now holds the reins at the garage and we wish him well. That is a big chair to fill with a long legacy. Eric would have turned 100 on 17 February.

Brendan Stevens, Brown Hill Progress Association

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. Editing support: Julie Hayes. Proof reader: Jock Freeman.

Local volunteers distribute the newsletter to all businesses and residences in Brown Hill. Additional copies are available for collection at businesses and community hubs around Brown Hill. Electronic copies are available in .pdf format on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.org.au and promoted through the 'Brown Hill Community Newsletter', 'Making Brown Hill' and 'Brown Hill Community Pool' Facebook pages. You can subscribe by emailing: brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com.

Contributions for **Edition 6** must



Eric Carthy (image thanks to Eric's family).

be submitted by **Friday 31 March** to 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.



Business Directory Updates

We hope you have found the first Brown Hill Business and Service Directory, included with Edition 4, useful! You can now find all of the community groups, sporting and activity groups, local schools,

services and businesses listed on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.org.au. Here are a few more:

Businesses

Adrian Gardening and Mowing

Contact: Adrian Ryan
0418 133 709
adriangardening@outlook.com
www.adrian-gardening.com.au
Find us on Facebook

Healthy Homes Australia, Chez Danielle

Wednesdays and Sundays:
delicious vegetarian meals,
11.30am - 2pm.
Contact: Pierre & Danielle
0408 958 508 from Sunday to
Thursday at their Brown Hill
home. Bookings required three
days in advance.

Julie's Quality Haberdashery and Giftware

Contact: Julie Hayes 0419 109 440
j_shafton@hotmail.com
331 Humffray Street North, Brown
Hill

Penny Lane Recycled Furniture

Contact: Gwen Tyndall
0418 124 041
pennylanerecycled@yahoo.com.au
203 Humffray Street North,
Ballarat East
Find us on Facebook

Wilson's Fruit and Vegetables

5329 1900
info@wilsonsfruit.com.au
85-91 Mair Street, Ballarat
www.wilsonsfruit.com.au
Find us on Facebook

Community and Sporting Groups

Ballarat Masters Football Club

Rod Lewis, Club President: 0422
670 779, Dale Mercer, Coach: 0457
547 846, Trevor Booth: 0437 452
137

Training Wednesdays: 1 February -
27 September 2017. 11 games once
a fortnight, on Sundays.
Find us on Facebook

Brown Hill Lioness Club

Contact: Glenis Davis, Secretary
5331 4849
brown.hill@lioness.lions201v1-4.org.au
PO BOX 212 Brown Hill

Farewell and thanks, Vegas and Rose

We are sad to report that the lovely Vegas and Rose café on Humffray Street North, Ballarat East, is closing.

The message on their Facebook page stated: *"To all our gorgeous customers, after 5 great years Vegas & Rose has decided to change direction and close our little café to spend more time with family. Thank you so much for all your support. We've met so many wonderful people however it's time to move on. But don't worry! An exciting new café will be opening soon! Lots of love and huge thanks to all. xx."*

Thanks for all that you and your team have done over the past five years Penthea. Many of us have very special memories of delicious food and drinks, friendly staff and such a cosy, welcoming space. We miss you already!

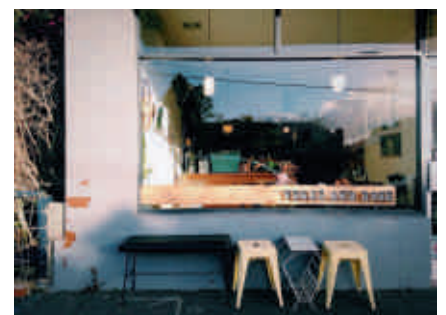


Image: Vegas and Rose, from Facebook

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 2016 Council elections, 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 ten questions for our Councillors, to help us learn more about them. We included answers from Cr. Moloney and Cr. Tillett in Edition 4. Read on to hear what Cr. Coates had to say...

Councillor Belinda Coates

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

"Keeping Ballarat clean is a big passion of mine, and everyone has a part to play in reducing litter across the city. I'd like to see Council supporting more clean-up days with community groups and schools, more focus on education to prevent littering, more incentives for people in the community to keep their local area clean and litter-free, as well as to make sure that people who litter are fined to prevent them doing the wrong thing in the future. I am on a "Clean Ballarat" committee with Council and I'm always keen to hear about ideas to reduce litter."

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

"Yes, there are plans to improve playgrounds across Ballarat, and as the city gets bigger there will be new playgrounds built. My favourite new playground is the "Livvies Place" inclusive play space at Victoria Park. The flying fox and water play areas there are really popular. Council has been working on improving the playgrounds over the past few years and we are planning to continue the improvements! We love getting ideas from people of all ages but especially from children and young people about playgrounds."

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

"Ballarat is already becoming

bigger with more people and more houses. We have a growing population, and it is expected to grow from what it is now - just over 100,000 - to around 150,000 over the next 25 years. Ballarat has also become a bit more spread-out, but the plan is to not spread out much more, keeping the city compact so that it's still easy to get around."

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

"I've got a soft spot for Redan in the Ballarat Football Netball League. I'm also getting more interested in the local football as the women's and youth girls' teams have been going well over the past few years."

...continued p.19



Councillor Belinda Coates

...continued from p.18

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

Xander

"I reckon the kids of this generation are pretty smart and switched on. I love the fact that Ballarat Council wants to make Ballarat a "child-friendly city", and we want to regularly get ideas from our young people about what they like or don't like, and how they think we can improve the city. I love hearing stories about how kids are caring about their community, their schools, their environment and our city."

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

"Wow, that's a big question! There's so much to love about Ballarat. I love the people, our beautiful parks, gardens and trees, sports grounds, Yarrowee River, Lake Wendouree, the history, our festivals and events, the art gallery, theatre and cinemas and so much more..."

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

"Ballarat has many regular big events and there is always something new coming up. We have big events like the Begonia Festival, Cycling Nationals, Ballarat Beat (Rockabilly Festival), Winterlude, Season of the Arts and many more already. However, other big events in Ballarat in 2017 include White Night and the Foto Biennale."

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

"Some of the big ideas I have for Ballarat are for us to use more renewable energy - like solar

energy, or energy from waste - to save us money and also to reduce pollution and care for the environment. I'd also like to make it easier for people to travel around by walking and cycling or by bus. I want more trees planted across Ballarat and more programs to help reduce waste and litter."

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

"Yes, we are always working to improve our pathways and to make new ones to make Ballarat better connected and easier for people to get around. Getting people more active and improving our walking and cycling paths is something I'm very passionate about, and I'm working on our cycling and walking action plans which helps us work out where we need new paths and which ones need fixing or improving."

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

"It would definitely be a good idea if it wasn't so expensive. I would love to see better public transport, like trams, for Ballarat. We used to have trams in Ballarat many years ago but now we have buses and a small tourist tram line around the lake. In the short term I think it's more likely that the State Government (public transport isn't paid for by Local Government/Council), will spend money on making the buses more frequent and better connected to help people get around. I'd like to see this happen soon!"

Subscribers win!

Thanks to those people who registered as subscribers to the electronic version of this newsletter at the inaugural Brown Hill Community Festival. The five winners were: Sharon, who received a \$50 voucher, generously donated by South East Australian Taekwondo (who practise at the Brown Hill Public Hall) and Lisa, Roseanne, Sandi and Jacinta, who each received a voucher to Regent Cinemas, thanks to the City of Ballarat.

To become a subscriber and be the first to receive each edition, please email us:

brownhillnewsletter@gmail.com.

'My Brown Hill' Winners

The inaugural 'My Brown Hill' photo competition was run in the lead-up to the Brown Hill Community Festival in October 2016. Residents were asked to submit photos that represented Brown Hill to them. Entries were judged on the way in which both the image and the description captured the essence of Brown Hill.

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

Brown Hill Festival Committee

Brown Hill Community Festival Photo Competition

Junior Primary Category (Prep to Grade Two)



1st Prize: Stephen

'The Sprinter'

Exploring Brown Hill while walking with my mum.

2nd Prize: Max

'The Bouncy Pillow'

We drive past 'The Bouncy Pillow' most days and we have a competition to be the first to shout out how many people are bouncing.



3rd Prize: Miles

'My little sister picking flowers'

Special place where we like to go for walks.



4th Prize: Amelia

'Letterbox 'Whoof Whoof''

I pass it every day going to school and it makes me smile and reminds me where I am.

