

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 17, February 2019

*A project of the Brown Hill Progress Association, supported by the Brown Hill Community Partnership.
We are proud to walk this land with the Wadawurrung people and all other First Nations people.*



Ian Westerland at his 55th wedding anniversary celebration in July 2017 at 'Gordon Bleu'. Photographer: Catherine Westerland

Diary Dates

See brownhill.vic.au for details.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 19: 7.30 pm, Brown Hill Hall Committee meeting (p.12)

Wednesday 20: 6.00 pm, Aquatic Zumba at the Brown Hill Pool (p.4)

Wednesday 27: 6.00 pm, Aquatic Zumba at the Brown Hill Pool (p.4)

Saturday 23: Brown Hill Market, Brown Hill Hall (p.7)

Sunday 24: 9.40 am, Ballarat Highland Gathering, Victoria Park (p.20)

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Vale Ian Westerland, our newsletter's founder

The Brown Hill Community Newsletter was Ian Westerland's idea. He advocated for the project for years and was delighted when it finally got going in 2016. Sadly, Ian passed away in December 2018.

On an extremely hot Friday, 4 January 2019, the Brown Hill Uniting Church was at capacity as around 200 people from Brown Hill and far beyond gathered to celebrate the life of Ian Westerland.

What a gentleman he was.

Ian was born on 11 December 1932 at Minyip and grew up on a farm, 'Croft', approximately two kilometres west of Minyip. At 13 he left school to help run the family farm due to his father's ill-health. He continued to run the

family farm, as well as share-farming a neighbouring property, into his adulthood. He also developed a significant livestock (sheep) operation.

In 1960, Ian purchased a property to the south of the family farm, operating, in total, about 2,000 acres of land, through until he sold the farm in 2006.

Ian always loved living on the land and being outdoors, loved exploring the region and beyond and spending time with his family.

In July 1962, Ian married Jean Orr. Their two children are Elizabeth and Derek and six grandchildren are Claire, Rebecca, Caitlin, Luke, James and Jack.

Ian spent his entire working life on the farm then retired with Jean

to Hemsley Park in Ballarat. He was very community-minded and over the years was involved in many community and rural organisations.

Ian was also a prolific reader from a very young age (made up for a curtailed education) and read numerous newspapers, journals, history and factual publications. He believed that education wasn't just obtained at school but also through life.

Ian lived a full life. In his latter years, he joined the Brown Hill Progress Association, being instrumental in their fight to save the Brown Hill Pool.

Ian would be described as a dedicated, loving, caring family

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... continued from p.1

MARCH

Sunday 3: 11.00 pm - 3.00 pm, Annual Festival, Ballarat Community Garden (p.9)

Tuesday 5: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, Brown Hill Hall (back room) (p.4)

Tuesday 5: 7.00 pm, Shrove Tuesday pancakes, Brown Hill Uniting Church (p.14)

Friday 8: Surveys for the Brown Hill Local Area Plan and Infrastructure Assessment Draft Scenarios Paper due (p.3)

Saturday 9 - Monday 11: Ballarat Begonia Festival. ballaratbegoniafestival.com

Sunday 10: Brown Hill Pool closes for the season.

Wednesday 13: 9.00 am - 11.00 am, Caledonian Primary School 'Come and Try' morning for

prospective prep families (p.7)

Thursday 14: 10.00 am - 11.30 am, Personal Home Safety session, Ballarat North Neighbourhood House (p.15)

Sunday 17: 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm, DancePlus2 dance, Brown Hill Hall (p.23)

Tuesday 19: 7.30 pm, Brown Hill Hall Committee meeting (p.12)

Tuesday 19: 6.30 pm, Caledonian Primary School 2020/2021 Prep Information Evening (p.7)

Thursday 21: 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm, Neighbour Day lunch, Ballarat North Community House (p.15)

Saturday 23: Brown Hill Market, Brown Hill Hall (p.7)

Sunday 31: National Neighbour Day (p.15)

APRIL

Monday 1: 7.00 pm, the Resilience

Project presentation at Caledonian Primary School (p.7)

Monday 1: Edition 18 articles due (p.2)

Tuesday 2: 7.00 pm, Brown Hill Progress Association meeting, Brown Hill Hall (back room) (p.4)

Friday 5: School Term One ends

Friday 12: Edition 18 distribution begins across Brown Hill.

Saturday 13: 9.00 am - 12.00 noon, Annual Mini-Fair and Car-Boot Sale (p.14)

Tuesday 16: 7.30 pm, Brown Hill Hall Committee meeting (p.12)

Friday 19: Good Friday

Saturday 20: Easter Saturday

Sunday 21: Easter Sunday

Sunday 21: 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm, DancePlus2 dance, Brown Hill Hall (p.23)

For updates, visit: brownhill.vic.au

About our Newsletter

This publication is a community project of the Brown Hill Progress Association.

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

Editorial Advisory Committee:

Tania Busse, Geoff Dickson, Brian Green and Sarah Greenwood-Smith. **Proof reader:** Peter Morton **Social Media:** Rachael Houtsma. **Brown Hill Directory:** Hazen Cleary and Ange Davies.

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

the Brown Hill Online Community Hub: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter/ or you subscribe by emailing us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au.

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

Edition 18 articles are due by **Monday 1 April 2019**. Please read the editorial policy regarding contributions before submitting an article: brownhill.vic.au/newsletter.

The views expressed or information provided in this

publication are not necessarily those of the Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee or the Brown Hill Progress Association, including any officers, members, agents or contractors.

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In this edition

Welcome to 2019 and a gigantic edition of our community newsletter. We pay tribute to a true gentleman of our community, Ian Westerland. He was the driving force behind the project to get this newsletter started. He was so proud of it and called me after reading each edition to say he thought it was "marvellous". I will miss those phone calls. He was an inspiring and dedicated man.

Save the date for an energetic presentation from the Resilience Project team presenting at Caledonian Primary School on Monday 1 April. After a sneak peek, I can highly recommend it.

We've spent much of the summer at the Brown Hill Pool. In the words of the Brown Hill Progress Association Secretary, Brendan Stevens, "What a summer! Who would live anywhere else?"

Thanks to our **2018/19 sponsors:**

***Silver:** Brown Hill Market

***Bronze:** Ballarat Treeworks, Bakers Delight Bakery Hill, The AFL Store - Ballarat, Dazzlin' Doggie Country Village and Ballarat Health Foods.

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

Bronze sponsor:



0417 370 312
WWW.BALLARATTREWORKS.COM.AU

YOUR TREE CARE & MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONALS

Our Local Area Plan

On Friday 1 February, the Brown Hill Local Area Plan and Infrastructure Assessment Draft Scenarios Paper was released by the City of Ballarat.

The draft paper includes three potential scenarios for the future of Brown Hill based on community consultation. It sets out options to manage and guide future land use, development and improvements.

The Brown Hill community's key identified priorities are to:

- * Keep the country atmosphere and bushland backdrop.
- * Highlight the natural assets of Brown Hill for recreation and tourism.
- * Improve natural assets from an environmental perspective.
- * Ensure development is appropriate to Brown Hill.
- * Make the streetscapes of Brown Hill unforgettable and highly functional.
- * Deliver more open and public spaces to more residents.

The draft paper outlines three scenarios:

1. A **status quo** where current development patterns are maintained but no land is rezoned.
2. A **growth scenario** where

current development patterns are maintained, in addition to some land in emerging areas of Brown Hill being rezoned for more intensive residential use.

3. A **balanced approach** where some controls may be strengthened or added to, to create a better development outcome.

To find out more, visit the Brown Hill Community Online Hub: (brownhill.vic.au/partnerships/local-area-plan/). To download the documents and respond to the survey, visit the City of Ballarat's 'My Say' website: (mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/brown-hill-lap).

You can respond to the survey in person at The Phoenix, 25 Armstrong Street South or by mail addressed to City of Ballarat Strategic Planning – Brown Hill Local Area Plan, PO Box 655 Ballarat, Victoria, Australia 3350. Hard copies of the draft scenarios paper and survey are available to borrow from the Brown Hill Kindergarten and Caledonian Primary School.

Feedback is due by **Friday 8 March**. Please help to make sure everyone in Brown Hill has an opportunity to offer feedback by telling your neighbours and Brown Hill family and friends.

Bronze sponsor:



BALLARAT HEALTH FOODS

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Monday-Friday - 9:00am – 5:30pm
Saturday - 9:00am – 3:00pm

5332 1739
ballarathealthfoods.com.au

Brown Hill Community Pool

Thank goodness we still have it!

Twelve years ago, the City of Ballarat considered closing our local pool after it hadn't operated for a couple of summers. What a loss that would have been!

This exceptionally hot January, with a record for hot dry days, reinforces why the Brown Hill Progress Association has stuck at the job of keeping the pool open.

So far this season, we have had over 7000 people through the gate. Our lifeguard team has been very busy keeping an eye on activities in the very hot conditions.

More than 80 children took part in the 'Learn to Swim' program, which was free-of-charge for those with a family membership and only \$15 per child per week for those without a membership. The Brown Hill Progress Association was able to offer this important program at such great prices due to the generous sponsorship of \$2000 from the Brown Hill Uniting Church.

We would like to acknowledge the amazing volunteer contribution of our committee member Rachel Zuidland, who organised and coordinated the two-week program. Thanks also to volunteers John, Vince and Trent who assisted Rachel by providing free hot chocolates, biscuits and



'Jump' by local Ballarat artist and Brown Hill Pool fan, Lily Mae Martin. Lily posted this beautiful drawing on the 'Brown Hill Community Pool' Facebook page and wrote: "Hello! Just wanted to say we love the Brown Hill Pool. This is a little drawing I did of my daughter and her friend having a splash there a couple of weeks ago." Thanks for letting us share Lily Mae! See: <https://lilymaemartin.com>.

sausages in bread on cold days and icy-poles on hot days, to keep the children full of energy and enthusiasm!

We also enjoyed our annual pool party on the Australia Day public holiday and the pool is pumping on Wednesday evenings at 6.00 pm with Flo leading Aquatic Zumba (only \$3).

This season, we have supported schools, youth groups and girl guides with opportunities to swim.

We would like to thank the City of Ballarat for their investment in the pool before this summer started, with a new main pump and sand filter to keep the water

clean. The Council team also repaired the torn shade sail, painted the seating and recently replaced the old, rusty main gate.

Thanks also to another Brown Hill Progress Association member, Peter Fisher, for his dedication to maintaining the pool pump and working with the lifeguard team to regularly check the water quality. Another great volunteer!

There is still plenty of summer to go, so use those Pool Season Passes well. Thanks for supporting our swimming hole!

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

Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School (CPS)

Brown Hill Playgroup at CPS is more than just a playgroup, it's a community. On any given Wednesday morning during the school term, you'll hear laughter and the fast-paced patter of small feet emanating from the school multi-purpose hall. Inside, a friendly bunch of children and their parents/carers chat and play over cups of tea and shared fruit. A large selection of toys owned by the playgroup, as well as a rotation of new toys hired from the Ballarat Toy Library, means that there is always something new and interesting with which to play!

Regular activities are organised by the Playgroup Committee, which in the past have included visits from Kelly Sports, the School Bus

Dentist, trips to the local kindergarten and in-house activities such as dance parties, craft and story-times.

We finished off last year with an end-of-year 'Playgroup Party', which included food and nibbles for the adults, dancing party entertainment for the kids and a giant bouncy castle!

Above all else, at Brown Hill Playgroup at CPS, all are welcomed into a community filled with good conversation, safe and exciting play experiences and great cups of tea.

WHEN: Wednesday mornings, 9.00 am until 11.00 am (during school term only)

WHERE: Caledonian Primary School multi-purpose hall - 2 Thompson St, Brown Hill

BRING: A gold coin donation and one piece of fruit to share

WHO: Appropriate for babies and children up to six years old and their parents/carers

Sarah Spaven
Playgroup Committee

Brown Hill Kindergarten

Help us discover our local Kindergarten's history

We are working on a project to write a short history about the Brown Hill Kindergarten.

The Brown Hill Kindergarten was originally conducted in the rear of the Brown Hill Hall. Then the local community raised funds for several years to establish the kindergarten at its current site. They ran lamington drives and organised catering at various places, including weddings at Sovereign Hill.

Last year, we received some photos taken when it was being planned in the late sixties.

Do you know any more about the history of the Brown Hill Kindergarten, or have any old photographs or stories to share?

Please contact Christine Sullivan, Education Leader, Brown Hill Kindergarten. Details on page 6.

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Bronze sponsor:



Boarding Kennels & Cattery
Marie
(03) 5334 7455
mobile: 0438 689 297
email: marie@dazzlindoggie.com.au
231 Melbourne Rd,
Ballarat, Victoria 3350

"Where your pets are loved"
www.dazzlindoggie.com.au

Bronze sponsor:



**The AFL Store
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...continued from p.5



Jake from Ballarat Treeworks shows children from Brown Hill Kindergarten how high he can go! December 2018. Photographer: Christine Sullivan.

2019 Enrolments

Brown Hill Kindergarten has got off to a busy start for 2019. With near-capacity enrolments, we look forward to another busy and exciting year.

2019 Staff

This year we welcome some new staff. In the blue room, Jacinta and Shelley will be working with the pre-kinder (3 year-old) groups and be joined by Donna to teach one of the three pre-school groups.

In the red room, Michelle and Val join Christine and Debbie with the other two pre-school groups.

Fundraising

Each year, the kindergarten sets a fundraising target to purchase equipment and carry out special projects. The fundraising money supplements fees and government

subsidies which are used to cover operating costs. The fees for all children in the pre-school groups are subsidised by the government with extra subsidies paid for Health Care Card holders.

In 2018, after a very successful year of fundraising, particularly a great effort with our Bunnings BBQ, we reached our target before the end of the year. Instead of having our usual Christmas raffle, we decided to have a 'reverse' raffle, where all goods collected would be donated to support families in need. Kindergarten families were very generous and we were proud to deliver eight boxes of food and toys to Uniting Ballarat to distribute to those in need. The donations were very gratefully received.

It was interesting to listen to insightful and empathetic

comments from the children as they talked with their families about what the boxes of food were for. Many thanks to everyone who supported the collection and made donations.

Ballarat Treeworks visit

On the last kindergarten day of 2018, children in red room were very excited to have a visit from Jake, who owns Ballarat Treeworks (Antanas' dad) and his tower truck. Jake is an arborist and demonstrated the safety equipment he wears and how he goes up very high to cut down and trim trees. At the end of the visit there were quite a few of the children keen to be arborists when they grow up!

*Christine Sullivan, Educational Leader
Brown Hill Kindergarten (a Eureka
Community Kindergarten Association
[ECKA] Kindergarten), 5332 7973
brown.hill.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au*

Enrol your child in kindergarten

Children can be enrolled for kindergarten from 1 January in the year that they turn two. Kindergarten places are offered on the basis of the date they are enrolled, so the earlier your child is enrolled the more likely you are to get a place at the kindergarten of your choice. Visit the City of Ballarat's Central Kindergarten Enrolment Scheme page for more information:

ballarat.vic.gov.au/pc/family-and-children/kindergartens

Families are most welcome to visit the kindergarten prior to enrolling. Please contact us to arrange a visit.

Caledonian Primary School

From the Principal's desk

What a fantastic start it has been to the 2019 school year at Caledonian Primary School (CPS). We have welcomed back all of our families, with many new families joining the CPS community. It has been wonderful to be in the classrooms and see the students focussed on their learning with a positive attitude to the start of the school year! Our newest students have settled in and are taking on the routines and demands of school life very well so far. The staff have been working extremely hard in the lead up to students returning to school to ensure we have a safe, orderly and welcoming environment for everyone.

This year we continue to have a focus on Reading, Maths and Wellbeing. We are soon to launch our 'School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework'. Promoting wellbeing at school can substantially improve social and emotional outcomes of students.

This year we are very privileged to have formed a relationship as a partner school with 'The Resilience Project'. Staff, students, parents and local community members will have

Silver sponsor:



TEACHING YOUNG AUSTRALIANS TO BE
mentally healthy

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Come along to the parent information night at Caledonian Primary School to learn more about methods to support mental health and wellbeing.

When: Monday 1st April, 2019

Time: 7.00pm (90 minute presentation)

Where: Caledonian PS Multipurpose Room

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT.COM.AU

*Please note a TryBooking link will be available closer to the date to reserve your spot at this evening.

the opportunity to hear from Martin or Hugh on **Monday 1 April** at CPS. Please save the date. If you need more information please contact the school office.

2020/2021 Prep students

If you are looking to enrol at Caledonian Primary School please make a time for a tour of the school, meet the teachers and see students in their classrooms.

Key dates:

Wednesday 13 March: 9.00 am - 11.00 am, 'Come and Try' morning for prospective prep families

Tuesday 19 March: 6.30 pm, 2020/2021 Prep Information Evening.

Brea Terris

Principal - Caledonian Primary School
5332 6955, caledonianps.vic.edu.au
caledonian.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

BROWN HILL MARKET	Fourth Saturday of every month 9am – 1pm YOUR local market!	Feb 23 March 23 April 27
Brown Hill Hall 375 Humffray St Brown Hill		www.ballaratmarkets.com.au



Antanas' First Day of Prep

On Monday 4 February 2019, the preps started at Caledonian Primary School. We had a chat with Brown Hill local, Antanas.

Antanas said he enjoyed his first day and had fun with his friends from Brown Hill Kinder!

What was your favourite thing so far?

I liked playing on the playground with my friends from Kinder!

What do think school will be like?

I think it will be fun! I really like Mr Prockter, my teacher. He told us about the 'Dojo Point System'. We get points for following the 'Tribes Agreements' (which are: showing Active Participation, Mutual Respect, Appreciations, No Put-Downs and doing our Personal Best). I like helping Mr Prockter clean up.

What subjects do you think you'll do?

I think that I'll be writing at school and doing maths. I'm really good at writing things down!

What did you do at playtime?

I played on the playground and ran around with my friends. It was really fun!

Did you enjoy school?

Yes, it was really fun! But I'm very tired because I had a very, very big day. I was up really early this morning. I was up before the sun!

By Jamison, Grade Six, Caledonian Primary School

Woodmans Hill Secondary College

We are pleased to introduce Woodmans Hill Secondary College's new Principal, Stephan Fields.

It is an honour and a privilege to be joining the Woodmans Hill Secondary College as principal at an exciting time in its development.

What has struck me most since joining the team is the strong sense of community that exists here: our teachers know and value every student and share in my high expectations and aspirations for what they can achieve with the right support.

Our aim is to ensure every child flourishes and grows-not just academically but socially and emotionally. We want our students to be able to go out into the wider community and make a difference: driven by the values of respect, determination and excellence instilled at home and in school.

The warm welcome that I have received from students, parents and teachers has been overwhelming and galvanises my



Woodmans Hill Secondary College's new principal, Stephan Fields (centre) with two students. Image supplied.

belief in what we can achieve together.

With our new science, technology and performing arts facilities our vision is not only to provide the best learning environment for our students, but for our school to act as a hub, central to the needs of our community.

As a parent who spends his Saturdays in the Rec. Centre, I know the connection the school has to so many families long after the school bell has rung. I want to explore how existing partnerships can be strengthened and new ones forged, so that we can provide the best facilities for our students and their families to learn beyond the classroom.

As the year progresses, I look forward to meeting with and talking to as many local families as possible so we can ensure that Woodmans Hill Secondary College is at the heart of a vibrant learning community.

Stephan Fields

Principal

Woodmans Hill Secondary College
woodmanshill.net.au (coming soon)

5336 7264

woodmans.hill.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

1 Fussell Street, Ballarat East

Community Garden Annual Festival

Sunday 3 March 2019 will be the 10th Annual Festival for the Ballarat Community Garden, corner of Queen Street and Dyte Parade, Ballarat East.

Despite the name change, the Festival will still have all your favourite stalls and activities, with a few extras thrown in!

Thinking of starting your own veggie patch? Want to see what to do with your home-grown produce? Need some easy and cheap ideas to help with the growing process? Or do you just want to come and be entertained?

Come to the Ballarat Community Garden Annual Autumn Festival, meet our gardeners and be inspired by their abundant garden beds!

There will be plenty of choice with pizzas, sausages and drinks, tea,

coffee and cake. All this will be available while you sit and listen to a variety of live music played and sung by local artists. The Thursday Night Choir will start the day and the Ballarat City Brass Band will perform in the afternoon. There will be other music and surprise events throughout the garden.

A produce stall will be groaning with preserves and the odd vegetable. Choose from the many plants and flowers available. Enjoy craft products and plenty more. There will be a cake stall and activities for the children. There will be raffle prizes to be won and a chance to learn a craft or two!

We shall have our own John Ditchburn, the 'Urban Food Gardener', to educate us on growing food in our Ballarat climate. Angela Enbom will show you how she keeps bees and some local spinners will show you their craft.

Or you can just wander through the garden. Take a 'discovery tour' and see what you find.

What more could you want? Well, come on down and just enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

Look forward to seeing you there between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm!

Sheilagh Kentish

Ballarat Community Garden Committee



Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Clubs

December and January were two very busy months for our Lions and Lioness clubs.

Carols in the ... Bowling Club

We received huge support from many local organisations for our first attempt at 'Carols in the Park'. A last-minute change of venue, due to concerns about bad weather, saw us move to the Victoria Bowling Club, which proved to be a winner.

A big thank you to all concerned, including guest artists, Caledonian Primary School, Brown Hill Kindergarten, the Ballarat City Band and Brown Hill Uniting Church, all of whom entertained the large crowd in attendance.

The children looked great with their reindeer ears and Santa hats kindly donated by the Brown Hill Lioness Club. The arrival of Santa proved a big hit with the smaller children.

A great effort by everyone and we



Face painting fun for Bella (emu) and Charlotte (echidna) with Brown Hill's Ian Fullerton at the Australia Day Breakfast. Photographer: Sarah Greenwood-Smith

look forward to next year's event.

Annual Australia Day Breakfast

Our annual Australia Day Breakfast was held on Saturday 26 January at Progress Park/Brown Hill Reserve. It was again a very successful event with free egg and bacon sandwiches, tea, coffee and drinks. Pancakes were available from the Brown Hill Uniting Church and there was free face-painting and a jumping castle to keep young and old entertained.

This event has been running for many years and thanks to the

support of the local community, it continues to grow. It is good to see local community groups working with both the Lions and Lioness Clubs to bring together and support the local Brown Hill community.

Defibrillators around town

Over the month of December, the Brown Hill Lions Club has donated and installed three defibrillators, one each at the Brown Hill Uniting Church, the Brown Hill Hall and Pinarc Support Services (where the Brown Hill Lions club meets).

About our groups

Both Brown Hill Lions and Lioness Clubs are small groups helping to support the local community. If you require any more information about these clubs, please contact the relevant secretary:

Secretary Brown Hill Lions Club:
Lion Barry Davis 5331 4849

Secretary Brown Hill Lioness Club:
Lioness Kath Button 5331 4718

Ian Drew, President
Brown Hill Lions Club
brownhill.vic.au/directory/brown-hill-and-district-lions-club/



Members of the Brown Hill Lioness Club provided cups of tea for a gold coin donation at the 2019 Brown Hill Australia Day breakfast. Photographer: Barry Davis

FireAware

Are you watching the weather?

Having an eye on weather forecasts and what is happening outside your door are important ways to keep your fire awareness uppermost in your mind so that you won't be surprised if a bushfire event occurs.

If there are hot to extreme days being forecast, especially if the days will be windy, then you have a few days advance notice to do a quick check of your home and property to ensure it will be as fire ready as possible.

If you have already completed your pre-season garden and house maintenance (refer to the FireAware article in Edition 16, November 2018) then a quick check might be to:

- * check if gutters are still clear;
- * note what flammable garden furniture and other items would need to be stored away, including doormats;
- * mow the grass and rake up any twigs/branches that may have accumulated;
- * work out how you can plug your downpipes if a need to part-fill them arises (it might be harder than you think – so best to think of it **before** the need).

Take a moment to review your written bushfire plan and talk about it with family members. Know where each member will be on any days of extreme weather. If you live alone talk with your immediate neighbours and find out what each may be planning to do if a fire is in the vicinity.

Remember what you might decide



FireAware mascot, Penny Platypus

to do may not be possible so always consider alternative actions.

For more details on the bushfire risk to Brown Hill and how best to prepare, go the Brown Hill Community FireAware Network's web pages:

pleanetwork.com.au/fireaware-network-understanding-risk/

Hazen Cleary

*Brown Hill FireAware Network
Coordinator*

0408 690 493

hmc433@hotmail.com

Wholesome Wholefoods

Ballarat Wholefoods Collective has a new home!

Since its inception in September

2013, the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective (BWC) has been based in Brown Hill, most recently at the Cricket Club. Thanks so much to Phil Knowles and his team for being so welcoming and accommodating.

Over the summer break, BWC has moved to its new home in the BGT building, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East (opposite the Ballarat Fire Station). Parking is available around the back and can be accessed via Princess Street South (adjacent to Specimen Vale Creek).

Ballarat Wholefoods Collective is a volunteer based not-for-profit group offering a range of seasonal, organic, local staple foods. The initial cost of membership to the BWC is \$50, with a \$20 renewal every June. Members are required to volunteer 2 hours of their time each year assisting with the running of the BWC.

Opening hours are:

9.00 am - 11.00 am and

5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Wednesdays
(school term time only, closed during school holidays).

*Wendy Aston, President, Ballarat
Wholefoods Collective*

0419 898 286

ballaratwholefoodscollective.org





Stage One of the Brown Hill Hall renovations has been completed and includes a new entrance and toilets on the east side. Image supplied by the City of Ballarat.

Brown Hill Community Hall

The Hall committee is made up of a small group of volunteers who manage the day-to-day operations of the Hall, which include bookings.

Hall Committee meetings

In 2019, the meetings will be held on a monthly basis. The meetings are open to all members of the public and we are always welcoming to anyone who would like to become a committee member. Members of the committee have voting rights and

2019 Hall booking fees

Monday to Friday				
	Main Hall		Meeting Room 1	Meeting Room 2
	Day groups (before 5pm)	Night groups (after 5pm)	Day/Night Flat rate	Day/Night Flat rate
Regular users	\$12 / hour	\$20 / hour	\$12 / hour	\$12 / hour
All other users	\$25 / hour	\$25 / hour	\$12 / hour	\$12 / hour
Weekend (After 5pm Friday and before 10pm Sunday) Includes full use of all facilities, e.g. Main hall, kitchen & meeting rooms. \$500 Bond				
Regular users	\$25 per hour plus 50% of bond			
All other users	\$35 per hour plus full bond			

help to support the Brown Hill community by managing this important asset.

Please join us in the Brown Hill Hall meeting room (access via the back stairway or the new ramp on the eastern side of the Hall) on the **third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.**

Upcoming meetings:

- * 19 February
- * 19 March
- * 16 April

Hall Renovations

Recently, the first stage of renovations to the hall were completed. The build has included:

- * New compliant accessible toilet

- * Upgraded and improved male and female toilets
- * Large storage areas
- * Upgraded foyer area and new entrance on the east side.

The next stage of the renovation will include:

- * Upgraded kitchen
- * Improved meeting spaces
- * Improving the visual amenity to the entrance.

2019 Hall Bookings

The Hall committee has implemented an online live-calendar that should always be up-to-date. The calendar can be found online: brownhill.vic.au/hall/ (navigate to the 'Book the Hall' tab).

All bookings communications and non-urgent requests are to be made through the email address hall@brownhill.vic.au.

In 2019, the Brown Hill Community Hall Committee will be working towards an online bookings system where bookings can be made via the Brown Hill Community Online Hub: brownhill.vic.au/hall

2019 Hall Fees

The Hall committee has reviewed the Hall fee structure and developed a new one. The new structure has been approved by the committee and now applies to all user groups. The committee has endeavoured to keep the fees within reason, whilst at the same time meeting operational costs. The new fees are listed above.

All users must sign and accept the 'Conditions of Hire' agreement.

Evidence of Public Liability Insurance needs to be shown if the group making the booking is a commercial entity, stall-holder or busker. This can be purchased through the City of Ballarat's website:
ballarat.vic.gov.au/lae/event-support/public-liability-insurance.aspx.

For all other users, the public

liability insurance is automatic once the hire agreement is signed.

The Brown Hill Community Hall committee can grant a reduction or a waiver in Hall hire fees. User groups are welcome/encouraged to apply to the committee for special consideration of Hall hire fees and/or bond. Each application will be taken on its merits. The application needs to be made in writing addressed to the Brown Hill Community Hall committee.

The Brown Hill Community Hall Committee look forward to continuing to make this fantastic space available to everyone in Brown Hill.

Scott Antonio
President
Brown Hill Community Hall
Committee
hall@brownhill.vic.au
brownhill.vic.au/hall/

Advertise with us!

We are pleased to offer limited advertising and sponsorship. Visit brownhill.vic.au/newsletter to find out more. Contact: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

Brown Hill Seniors' Club

We started 2019 with a meeting on Monday 4 February. The club is looking forward to a great year.

Our first bus trip will be on Wednesday 6 March to Portarlington.

We invite anyone in the community to join us. The only requirement is to be at least 55 years old!

Doreen Braebrook
Brown Hill Senior Citizen's Club
Coordinator, 5331 2157



The reasons are black and white

There's no questioning the facts. Bushfires can start quickly and threaten lives within minutes. When it comes to fire, what you need to do is black and white. Check Fire Danger Ratings in your district daily, and monitor conditions.

Most bushfire deaths happen close to home, so on high-risk fire days, leaving early, before a fire starts, is always the safest option.

emergency.vic.gov.au
Download the VicEmergency app



Authorised by the Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Brown Hill Uniting Church



Thought for the month:

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for other than for self." 1 Cor. 13:3

Apologies to those who turned up for the 10.00 am worship on Sunday 6 January to find no-one there and no notice on the door. Having no minister in placement we combine with other Uniting Churches for two Sundays over the New Year period. There was a notice in the November newsletter.

Easter Sunday is on 21 April. The Ballarat Uniting Churches Holy Week services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday will be advertised in The Courier.

Midweek Communion in the church hall each Wednesday at 1.30 pm has started for 2019. It is followed by afternoon tea.

The **Craft Group** meets from 1.30 pm until 3.30 pm in the church hall on the first and third Thursday of each month. Bring along anything you are working on or just come for a chat.

The **Op Shop** has reopened for 2019. Opening hours 9.30 am - 12.30 pm Thursdays and Fridays.

Annual Mini-Fair and Car-Boot Sale will be on Saturday 13 April, 9.00 am - 12.00 noon. To book a site, contact Barb on 0409 812 470.

The weather can only be better than last year! Proceeds go towards our 'Learn to Swim' sponsorship of \$2,000 which covered the cost of swim teachers this year.

Liz Mason, Brown Hill Uniting Church

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Come and enjoy some of Brown Hill's well known delicious pancakes and indulge in this Shrove Tuesday treat with us!

On Tuesday 5 March from 7.00 pm until 8.00 pm in the Brown Hill Uniting Church grounds on the west side of the church (Thompson Street).

The cost will be a gold coin donation to go towards the work of 'Uniting' (previously known as UnitingCare).

Origins

Shrove Tuesday precedes Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. The day originated during the Middle Ages. As in contemporary times, food items such as meats, fats, eggs, milk and fish were regarded as restricted during Lent. To keep such food from being wasted, many families would have big feasts on Shrove Tuesday in order to consume those items that would inevitably become spoiled during the next forty days. The English tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use as much milk, fats, and eggs as possible before Ash Wednesday began. In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras. See: sharefaith.com.

Everyone welcome.....just rock up!

Louise Wright, Brown Hill Uniting Church

Our local Neighbourhood House

Victoria has around 400 Neighbourhood Houses, three of which are located in Ballarat. We have the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre in Sebastopol, the Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre and the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House based in Soldier's Hill.

What is a Neighbourhood House?

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

Community development is about enabling communities to identify and address their own needs. It starts from the assumption that communities have existing strengths and assets that make them part of the solution. Community development practice is about doing *with* rather than doing *for*.

Neighbourhood Houses welcome people from all walks of life. This inclusive approach creates opportunities for individuals and groups to enrich their lives through connections they might not otherwise make.

Be Connected - free courses

The Ballarat North Neighbourhood House is running the 'Be Connected' program which includes free courses on everything from how to access the internet to using your device and

keeping in touch with others online. The full program is available online:

salvationarmy.org.au/en/Find-Us/Victoria/SalvoConnect-Western/Programs/ballarat-north-community-house/

RACV and Victoria Police will be presenting the following program at the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House:

Personal and Home Safety

This presentation discusses some simple tips to help keep yourself, your vehicle and home safe. It also covers how to prepare for an emergency and how to prevent falls in the home.

The presentation will cover:

- * Personal safety
- * Vehicle security
- * Home security
- * Home emergencies
- * Falls in the home

Thursday 14 March, 10.00 am - 11.30 am

Morning Tea will be provided.
Bookings are essential.

Neighbour Day

An easy way to say g'day

This year's Neighbour Day will be celebrated on **Sunday 31 March**.

What is Neighbour Day?

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community that encourages people to connect with those who live nearby.

The theme for Neighbour Day 2019 is 'Loneliness- what neighbours can do to create connections'.

This year, all Australians are encouraged to reach out to the



vulnerable and lonely members of their community to create a connection – whether it's a few friendly words across the back fence, inviting your elderly neighbour in for a cuppa, organising a community get-together or stopping for a chat when you're walking the dog.

We tend to think of lonely people as old or single people living alone. But loneliness is experienced by people across the age and social spectrum, including young people, people living with their families and even people surrounded by others in the workplace.

It is critical that we reinvigorate our communities, get people to connect with their neighbours and in doing so, put a dent in loneliness. That's what Neighbour Day is all about.

What can you do?

Your Neighbour Day action can be as big or small as you'd like. You can organise an event on your own or work with a group of neighbours. You could also keep it very small and make a pledge to yourself to introduce yourself to a new neighbour or have a yarn to someone you haven't spoken to

before in your street. You may just drop off a kind note to neighbours with a young family or invite them over for a cuppa. You can never have too many friends around you and your note or invitation may make a significant difference to the life of your neighbour.

You're invited!

To celebrate Neighbour Day, the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House is hosting a free lunch for community members from 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm on **Thursday 21 March**. There will be a performance by Sing Australia Ballarat and Ballarat North. RSVP is essential by Thursday 14 March.

To find out more about Neighbour Day, visit: neighbourday.org

Neighbour Day is brought to you by Relationships Australia, a national not for profit organisation that works to improve relationships in all their forms. Visit: relationships.org.au

Alison Demuth, House Co-ordinator
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 3.00pm
Ballarat North Neighbourhood House
6 Crompton Street, Soldiers Hill
5329 1101
alison.demuth@aus.salvationarmy.org

My lived experience with Multiple Sclerosis

Brown Hill's Rod Soar wrote to us about having Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and his experience with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

I have lived happily in Brown Hill since 1984. I had my first attack of MS in 1989, when we had just introduced my eldest daughter into the world. That is when I first noticed some strange things happening. I would be speaking on the telephone and holding it in one hand and my daughter in the other (on my left side) and my left hand would commence shaking violently. As I was worried about dropping her, I made an appointment to see my General Practitioner, who, in-turn, referred me to a specialist and commenced me on anti-epileptic medication. I was given a possible diagnosis of Encephalitis with a secondary diagnosis of MS.

I was always quite fit and healthy. I used to run around the Lake several times per week. I successfully paddled ten Murray River canoe marathons. I had just completed the Melbourne running marathon. My family and work life were excellent and everything was great. I felt 'on top of the world'!

Following my second 'similar attack', I was informed that I had MS. I was visited by a neurologist from Melbourne who informed me that I had to accept the fact that my athletic days were finished and the only exercise I would be doing is mowing the lawn. I still mow the lawn, but have a ride-on mower now, so they might finally be right.

I distinctly remember this and was determined to prove the

neurologist wrong. At the same time, I had to accept the diagnosis.

Looking back now, we are almost thirty years down the track. I have had an interesting and dream lifetime. I have been very lucky as my right-hand side is still strong. I walk with the aid of a stick and use a wheelchair for distances. I possess great life-time friends and family.

Simple things such as using a walking stick and wheelchair were initially hard to accept. I still get embarrassed if someone I know sees me in the chair, as they tend to look worried because they think I've deteriorated. I see myself as very lucky as I am able to get around and still have my IQ.

Since my diagnosis, I have completed a Graduate Diploma and Masters Degree, Diploma of Education and Training and Diploma of Training Development and Design. I was able to keep some interests.

I was lucky enough to receive a Public Service Medal for services to mental health rehabilitation in the Grampians Region in the 1995 Queens Birthday Honours. It was nice to get some recognition at a relatively young age.

I kept working, but reduced my time to three days per week, as I was becoming very fatigued. I finally succumbed to MS, leaving work in 2008. At that stage, I was 49 years-old but still believed I had something to offer. But what?

With my employment, I was linked to the 'Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative', with which I have continued to be in contact. I remember, at the time I left, the

manager of the education arm of the service said to me, what I still regard as the greatest compliment anyone has ever given me, and I remember it to this day, ***"I know your body is stuffed but your mind is still one of the best in the land in this area so we don't want to lose you. We want you to look after our online training"***. I did that role for many years.

A few years passed by and I was re-diagnosed with 'Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis' which meant I was not going to get the regular attacks of MS which usually resulted in a stay in hospital, but just a slow deterioration of symptoms.

Positive change

A few years ago, on a train going to Melbourne, my life took another turn. A lady with whom I previously had worked was now working with the Department of Health and Human Services. She convinced me to register for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

I finally did this and following much research and discussions with the program staff, I found the NDIS provided support to people with a disability (which I finally accepted I had), their families and carers. I found I was more easily able to access all services, such as health, education and things I didn't even know existed, i.e. enabling a greater access to community services. This enabled me to maintain supports, such as family and friends.

What was more interesting to me was some of the objectives of the NDIS. They include supporting the



Rod (centre) with friends on holiday in Spain. Image supplied by Rod.

independence and social and economic participation of people with disability.

I found out that this was exactly what I wanted. I only wanted to feel that I was of use to the community and I always believed I could still work. I have always been and hope to continue with this independence. But I questioned how could they do this so I didn't feel like a welfare

recipient and say good bye to my independence.

I was informed the the NDIS staff would help by providing reasonable and necessary supports, including early intervention supports. They enabled me to exercise choice and control in pursuit of my goals and in the planning and delivery of my program. I self-manage the funds.

How has the NDIS helped me?

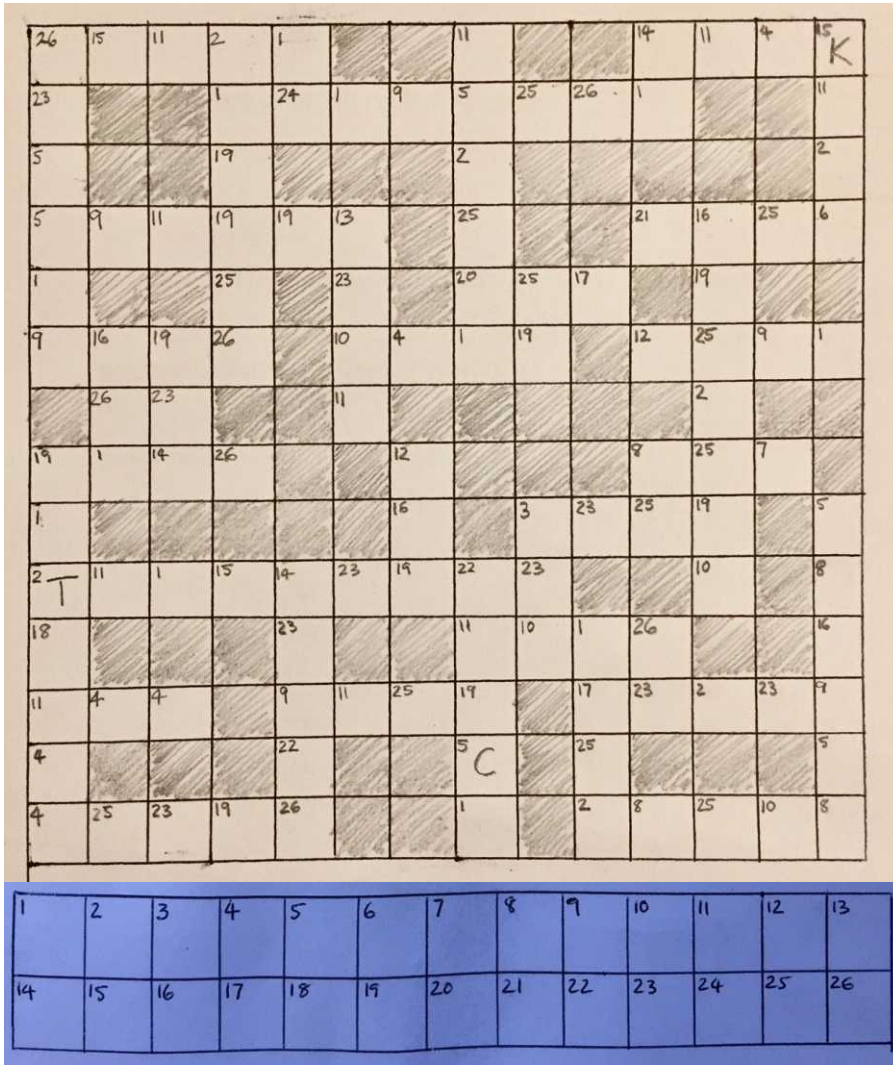
I have been assisted to return to some voluntary and casual work by being provided with some 'Assistive Technology' supports which help with my mobility. For example, a motorized wheelchair with right-handed functions. I have also been provided therapy supports such as physiotherapy, which is helping to kept my body moving, and occupational therapy (OT). The NDIS also provides support that helps to maintain our home, instead of my wife and family doing it. Finally, assistance is provided to maintain our social and community participation. So, I don't feel totally useless.

How would I rate the NDIS?

I am unable to complain in any way about my eighteen months with the NDIS. I have received help and support I didn't know I needed. I never wanted hand-outs, but through the NDIS I am now receiving the required supports to continue. I can honestly say, from my experience, it is A+. I can now see a future.

I must acknowledge the support of my wife, who, for most of our married life has put up with the many symptoms of my having MS, including changes in my well-being and mood. These unfortunately go with the seasons and fatigue. I also thank my three girls who have only known me with MS, my siblings, along with my brothers in-law and extended family, for my magnificent ramp, previous gardening and house maintenance, and all my friends. Last but not least the NDIS for providing me with a future.

For NDIS contact details see:
brownhill.vic.au/new-to-brown-hill/national-disability-insurance-scheme/



Brown Hill Codeword

Our first Brown Hill-focused Codeword puzzle was a hit in the November 2018 edition. Here is the second one, again specially developed for our newsletter by Caledonian Primary School parent, Zara. **References to Brown Hill community and sporting groups** are included, with a few random words (to fill the gaps). For ideas, visit: brownhill.vic.au/directory/community/ and brownhill.vic.au/directory/sport/

Each number represents a letter in the alphabet. Three have been provided to get you started.

The first five people to correctly

complete this puzzle and email a photo of their solution to us at newsletter@brownhill.vic.au, will receive a Bakers Delight voucher.

Congratulations to the winners of the November Codeword, Michael, Sam, Mathew, Scott, Darren and Jonathan. Each received a voucher to spend on tasty treats from Glen and Kerryn at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill.

White dove

Long-time Brown Hill residents, Reg and Dianne Eden have found a pet white dove! It flew into their backyard on Humffray Street (not far from Russell Square) and they are caring for it. If it is your pet, please call them on 5331 1769 to arrange collection.

Yes to Yoga

Brown Hill local, Sue Walker, writes about her experience with yoga.

The popularity of yoga in Ballarat right now is huge, with many studios opening over the past few years. Really, it's no surprise as to why, with some of the health benefits ranging from;

- * Increased muscle tone
- * Improved flexibility
- * Stronger bones
- * Increased blood flow
- * Improved focus
- * A calmer mind
- * Relaxed muscle tension
- * Healthier sleep.

Personally, I have found yoga to be an amazing addition to my own daily exercise and mental-health routine and find it to be such an important addition to my busy lifestyle. It is not age-dependent and can be practised anywhere a mat can be laid down: at home, in the garden or down by the creek!

I first started practising yoga around nine years ago, when Absolute Yoga was first located at Grenville Street. Sadly, in 2014, a few years after opening, the studio suffered a dreadful fire. However, one of the most inspiring yoga teachers I know, local Tracey Hargreaves, with a very new and young family in tow, was determined not to let this end her business. So she restarted in the Peel Street location and, since then, has added pilates and barre classes to the timetable.

I had a chat to Tracey from Ballarat Central's Absolute Yoga and Pilates, to get some tips on why we should try a class and what yoga can offer us.

Tracey said, "Yoga is a system of



Tracey Hargreaves at Absolute Yoga and Pilates. Image supplied.

poses, movement, breathing exercises and philosophy, with a history reaching back over 4000 years. Although it originates from India, yoga has been embraced the world-over for its ability to help people feel calmer and more connected in their everyday lives. I've been getting on the mat for over 20 years now and it's the thing that keeps me grounded and curious about life."

I asked Tracey to explain what yoga involves. She said, "Most people are familiar with poses such as 'downward dog', but this is really just one form of yoga. The philosophy of yoga holds the guiding principles of kindness, compassion, contentment and inner-reflection at its core and the poses are often just the hook that gets people interested. In the age of abundant stress, it's never been more important to learn how to slow down and just be in the moment. It doesn't matter if you can touch your toes or stand on your head as this isn't a prerequisite for the more important journey inward."

I asked Tracey what is on offer at Absolute Yoga and Pilates. She said, "We try to remove the obstacles people face in coming to

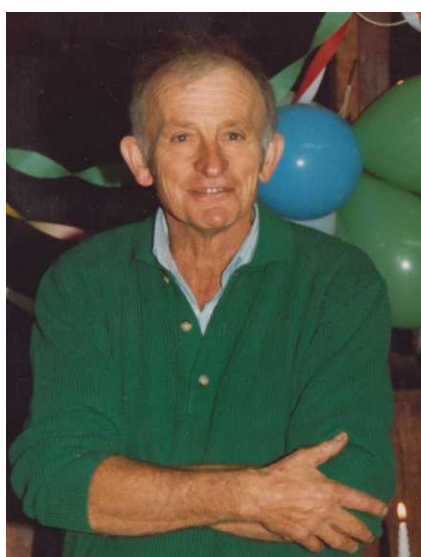
a studio environment by offering specialised sessions such as 'Yoga for Bigger Bodies' and 'Men's Yoga'. We have a wide range of classes which range from the totally relaxing to the hot and sweaty. It's all about finding the right fit and if it's something you enjoy, then it won't be a big effort to get there."

There is also a bunch of other mindful-movement classes on offer, including pilates and barre, which really complement each other too.

If you'd like to enjoy the benefits of yoga, check out the website: absoluteyoga.com.au.

Sue Walker

...continued from p.1



Ian Westerland at his son Derek's 21st birthday, aged 55. Image supplied.

man who spent his life focussed on making things better for his family and his community. He stayed interested and involved to the end and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

When Ian was admitted to hospital no one expected that this was his last journey. He passed away with his family around him.

Derek Westerland, Ian's son

Jack's tribute to Pop

Written for Ian Westerland's funeral by his youngest grandchild, nine-year-old Jack and read by Jack's older brother, Luke.

When I visited Pop, he would always get out a special plastic cup for me and give me milk and mini-Oreos. Pop would also get out toys from the garage for me to play with. They were like mega-duplo.

Many times Pop would go for walks with Dad and me around Hemsley Park to visit Pop's veggie garden, the lake and a muddy track around the back of the houses, which was fun.

I remember when we had visited Pop and Tupp at their house and were leaving, I would always say, "See you later, alligator" and he would say, "In a while, crocodile". Or the other way around.

When Dad told me that Pop was very sick and we were not sure how much longer he would live, I was very sad. Luckily, I got to see him again on Christmas Day and say goodbye.

When dad went to visit Pop again on Boxing Day, I gave dad the cross I had made at school to give to him. Pop and Tupp loved it.

Dad said that when the chaplain (Lance) came to visit Pop and read him his Liturgy, Pop held onto my cross and was comforted by it.

Today I want the cross to be placed on the coffin and be buried with Pop at the cemetery.

To read more about Ian's life, visit: brownhill.vic.au/history/IanWesterland/



A mass Pipe Band gathering. Photograph supplied.

Ballarat Highland Gathering

Sunday 24 February 2019

The Federation University Australia Pipe Band is again holding their annual highland gathering at Oak Avenue, Victoria Park (adjacent to inclusive play ground). Entry to the event is free of charge.

There will be 43 separate band performances, with the bands competing in Juvenile A and B, Grade Three and Grade Four categories. The first band will start to play at 9.40 am. The day will culminate in the March Past of individual bands and the Massed Band display at around 4.30 pm.

The Federation University Australia Pipe Band will be competing in the Grade Four aggregate competition, with the 'March Strathspey Reel' element at around 10.14 am and 'Medley' at 10.35 am. The band will play their 'Selection of Marches' at 3.20 pm.

Ballarat Grammar Pipes and Drums will be competing in the

'Juvenile Selection of Marches Element' at 9.40, Grade Four 'March Strathspey Reel' at 12.06 pm, Medley at 12.27 pm and Grade Four 'Selection of Marches' at 3.00 pm.

These competition times may change slightly before the day.

A variety of food and drinks will be available for purchase at the event including a 'Dinkumfoods' food truck, 'Bean Me Up' coffee van, barbeque to be run by the Lions Club and 'Red Duck Brewery' with their boutique beer and cider available.

The Federation University Australia Pipe Band will have an information booth where anyone who is interested in learning bagpipes or drums will be able to find out what is involved, have a close-up look at instruments and talk to band members. Learning pipes or drums with the band is a low cost way to experience the benefits of learning music.

For further information, please contact me.

Sue Brant
fedunipipeband@gmail.com
brownhill.vic.au/directory/federation-university-pipe-band/

Road crossing campaign

A group of Brown Hill residents has started an online petition to encourage the City of Ballarat to look at road safety features and improved signage for the Yarrowee River Trail pedestrian crossing at Ainley Street.

Many locals and users of the trail would be familiar with the crossing, which is located adjacent to the Nerrina Wetlands. Local residents believe this crossing poses a danger to pedestrians, cyclists, children and people using mobility aids.

The residents posting the petition state the pedestrian crossing is not marked as such and is on a blind bend coming from the residential section of Ainley Street and Reid Street and is a popular section of road for 'hoons' and speeding drivers coming from the Hillcrest Road direction (Nerrina).

In the petition, the residents have requested that the City of Ballarat look at the following options to help make the crossing safer.

- * Installation of pedestrian warning signs in Ainley Street, Reid Street and Hillcrest Road.
- * Installation of speed limit signs in Ainley Street, Reid Street and Hillcrest Road (to remind drivers that residential areas are 50km).
- * Installation of speed humps and/or pedestrian zebra stripes on the road where the Yarrowee River Trail crosses Ainley Street.
- * Installation of a footpath in Ainley Street (there is currently no footpath on either side) to create a safer access for pedestrians, children on bikes and people using mobility aids to



*The Yarrowee River Trail crossing Ainley Street, adjacent to the Nerrina Wetlands.
Photographer: Louise Jones*

access the Yarrowee River Trail (there is currently a dirt track section over the bridge to the wetlands but this is not suitable for mobility scooters, prams or children on bikes – particularly when it is wet).

The petition was launched online a few weeks before Christmas and has been presented to Council in a mediation meeting for local developments. It will be officially presented to Council in the coming weeks.

To date, the petition has 185 virtual signatures and the residents presenting would like to have 200 signatures.

For further information about the petition or to add your signature, please visit: change.org/p/city-of-ballarat-safety-for-brown-hill-track-crossing

*Louise Jones
Brown Hill resident*

The Garden Bed

Have you ever seen the Brown Hill garden bed? Well it's literally a bed that's a garden! Rob and Faye Wallis moved into their house on Scotts Parade in 1985. If you were to drive past this house it makes an immediate impression on you. You can't help but look at it.



The 'Garden Bed' on Scotts Parade. Photographers: Jonah and Jovie S-C.

When Faye and Rob bought a new bed, they wondered what to do with the old one. They decided to recycle it into a 'Garden Bed'. Set in a white metal frame with golden decals, the 'Garden Bed' is currently a display of colour including red roses and purple blooms. We asked Faye what her favourite plant was and she said, "We don't really have one. However, we do like succulents".

As well as having an interest in gardening, Rob was a professional marathon runner and has earned 13 medals. He won the Ballarat Marathon once and was invited to run the Gold Coast Marathon.

Be sure to keep an eye out for this unique Brown Hill feature, but let's hope you don't see Rob napping. Faye says when Rob is snoring, she sends him to sleep there!

Jonah and Jovie S-C, Brown Hill residents and Brown Hill Community Newsletter Junior Reporters

Out of the blue

A message from the Ballarat Police Pro-Active Unit

Crime offending trends

Burglaries and even aggravated burglaries and other crimes (thefts, theft of and from motor cars) are still occurring due to complacency or carelessness of home owners. Here are some crime preventions tips:

- * Ensure you put valuables out of sight in or around your homes.
- * Ensure you lock your cars and

keep the windows up overnight (even in hot weather).

* Double check that your garage roller doors are fully down (not partially). Don't just assume when you press the remote control and hear the noise of the door that the garage door will fully close.

Opportunistic offenders who may be in your area a lot are just waiting for that one opportunity for you to slip up.

If you see someone that looks suspicious (i.e. casing an area to commit a crime) then take note of what the individual looks like and is wearing. The type and

registration number of their vehicle is an excellent starting point for police. You can report the suspicious behaviour to police or crime stoppers.

School is Back

Ensure your children are given safety reminders travelling to and from school, crossing roads at the appropriate places.

Discuss with your children the routes they take if they travel on bikes or by foot. Remind your children to drink plenty of water so they don't get fatigued when travelling home from school. Ensure they wear appropriate clothing.

If your children are riding bikes, ensure they can be seen easily and their bike is of a safe standard i.e. brakes, grips, helmet etc.

Be aware of the 40 kph speed zones and the times in and around school areas. Watch out for the school crossing supervisors.

*Brendan Everard, Leading Senior Constable Ballarat West Police Station
brendan.everard@police.vic.gov.au*



DancePlus2

A new opportunity to get your dancing shoes on in Brown Hill has arrived!

Margaret and Peter from DancePlus2 held their first dance at the Brown Hill Hall on Sunday 20 January. They will hold a dance on the third Sunday of each month during 2019.

Dance instructor Peter has been dancing for 28 years and teaching for 18 years. He has completed gold medals in all styles.

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On the DancePlus2 website, there is a long list of the styles of dance, including: Blues, Cha Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Modern and New Vogue Waltz, Quickstep, Rumba, Saunter, Swing and Tango.

The next dance will be held on **Sunday 17 February**, with teaching of Midsummer Saunter and Rumba Gold at 1.00 pm.

Private lessons available

Perhaps you have a specific dance from the list of dances in mind? Or you want to go over and consolidate some of your techniques? Or maybe you might not feel comfortable joining a group class?

Private Lessons are a one-on-one tutoring with Peter, DancePlus2's experienced teacher.

Dance details

Third Sunday of each month at the Brown Hill Community Hall, 375 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill. Upcoming dates are: 17 February, 17 March and 21 April.

1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Dances taught: 1.00 pm - 1.30 pm

Admittance: \$10

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share. Free coffee, tea and cold water available.

Contact

Margaret: 0419 252 261

Peter: 0448 442 208

danceplus2@iinet.net.au

danceplus2.com

Dixie Doozle Cloggers

Clogging has arrived in Brown Hill!

What is Clogging?

Well if you started dusting off the clogs sitting on the back shelf in



Clogging Instructor, Val Kerr, leading the Dixie Doozle Cloggers at the Russell Square Hall. Photographer: Megan Hekkema.

your garage, you can return them. Clogging is a misnomer as it is not performed in clogs. Don't think that means it isn't going to be a whole lot of fun!

Clogging or Appalachian Mountain Folk Dance is an American folk dance performed to a wide range of music. Initially music is fairly slow, but as the dancer's progress it can become quite fast.

Can never remember dance moves? Or don't have a dance partner? Well never fear... Clogging is 'cued' similar to square dancing or aerobics and you don't need a partner, just comfortable clothes and a pair of enclosed shoes (no runners). As you improve, 'buck taps' are attached to your shoes.

So if you are ready to find a new and exciting world of fun, fitness and friends head down to the Russell Square Hall on Friday

mornings. The Dixie Doozle Cloggers have been dancing in Ballarat since 1999 with the instructor, Val, holding a Gold Level Instructors Accreditation from the Australian Clogging Association Inc.

Get clogging!

Russell Square Hall, car park entry via Stawell Street North.

Friday mornings, 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Beginners: 9.00 am to 10.00 am.

Cost \$7.00

Contact Val at:
clogit101@gmail.com
0409 138 610
cloggingaustralia.com

So what are you waiting for... it's great exercise for the body and brain.

Megan Hekkema, Brown Hill Resident and founding member of the Brown Hill Community Newsletter committee.

Vale Bernice Evelyn McPhan, 1928 - 2018



Bernice Evelyn McPhan. Image supplied by Bernice's family.

Bernice Penna was the fifth of six daughters to Fred and Winifred Penna of Springs Road, Brown Hill. There were no boys. She attended Brown Hill Primary School which she sometimes found difficult because she was left handed. Her mother had also attended the school.

As a teenager, Bernice enjoyed swimming at the new Brown Hill Pool where her mother had helped to raise funds to build the pool.

Bernice married Ron McPhan in 1949 at St Mark's Church of England in Humffray Street,

opposite the swimming pool and they lived in a caravan at Bernice's parents' residence on Springs Road. They then built their first home themselves in Morres Street. The timbers were cut from trees on Bernice's father's bush paddock, near the White Swan Reservoir and transported by horse and cart to be milled by Ron at the saw mill.

In 1954 the family moved into a mixed business at 212 Humffray Street North. At this time there were few refrigerators, so groceries were purchased daily or home deliveries were by a horse-drawn cart. However, the small

shops were unable to compete with the new supermarkets so, now with four children, Ron began driving taxis and was later able to purchase two of his own.

In 1968 the family moved back to Ditchfield Road, Brown Hill. Bernice had always been interested in animals and birds and so they established a hobby farm of kangaroos, emus, deer, donkeys, goats and other creatures, particularly native birds.

In 1983, Ron passed away. Bernice and youngest son Mark were left to set up the current hobby farm next door in Benson Street. You would never know what would be in a box near the heater in the lounge room. It could be a wallaby, possum, or even a baby koala. Many playgroups, kindergarten and school groups have enjoyed tours of the farm.

Bernice's family have never moved far from her side. All four children continue to live and be involved in the Brown Hill community and most of her grandchildren attended Brown Hill Kindergarten and Brown Hill/Caledonian Primary School.

In 2017, Bernice was placed in care at the nearby Geoffrey Cutter Centre where she passed away in November 2018, aged 90.

Bernice leaves behind four children, Terri (Miles), Deven, Dianne (Miller) and Mark, grandchildren, Rochelle and Samantha, Jackie and Katrina, Kate, Penny and Tom, and Piper and Jed, as well as nine and ½ great grandchildren.

Dianne Miller, Brown Hill resident