

NEWS

from your
Local Councillor
Redland Shire Council



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Dear Residents

Hope you have had a good Christmas break and enjoyed the New Years celebrations. I spent most of the Christmas break on Straddie with my family and I am feeling refreshed and ready to take on the world in 2006. I look forward to another exciting year ahead full of achievements for this beautiful area we live in. It has been a little while since my last newsletter so let me cover some of the major issues that have happened.

Water

The Shire's current sustainable water yield is 51 ML a day and the current average daily use is 49 ML a day. The maths is simple and it tells us that we need to be careful about how we use our water. More worrying though is the sudden drop in levels at the Keyholes. It is about time that Department of Natural Resources did a thorough, transparent update and investigation into the sustainability of the water take from North Stradbroke Island.

Compliance and Dogs

Just before Christmas I met with a group of disgruntled dog owners who were upset with the way that the local law had been applied on the island and that they had been exposed to over zealous compliance action. However, we need to remember that these officers have the unhappy job of enforcing a law, that sets out in black and white what is and what isn't okay, and that when they exercise discretion, they open themselves up to criticism for discrimination.

Local laws need to cater for the lowest common denominator, so with dogs we have to assume that every dog is capable of becoming aggressive. This is done in order to ensure people's safety. The law cannot discriminate according to breeds or friendliness of the dog. The local law has recently been reviewed and we will soon be taking public submissions.

I am happy to argue for changes in the local law as long as we preserve everyone's right to an absolutely safe and peaceful time on the island. Also the law has to be enforceable and clear as to what is and what isn't okay. I look forward to seeing what we can do to make life better for dog owners.



News from your Local Councillor

Traffic and Car parking

The Christmas period at Point Lookout brought the usual car parking and traffic pressures. I have been told by our Council Officers that the People Movement Study will be available for public comment around March.

NSI/Minjerribah Study

The fourth stage of the NSI/Minjerribah Study is likely to be available for comment in July. In my view this is an incredibly important planning document for the island and it has a long history of public involvement. I look forward to seeing a set of action plans that Council can set about implementing.

Dunwich Bushcare

Congratulations go out to the convenors of the new Dunwich Bushcare Group. I am sure they will make a big difference. I am looking forward to working with this group, CRL, and anyone else who might be interested, in developing a street tree master plan for Dunwich for implementation sometime this year.

Straddie Sharks

As I write this, Council together with State Government, is looking at various issues that surround the attack which occurred at Amity over the Christmas holidays. It was a sad and tragic event and anything that can be done to increase safety should be done.

Amity Library

I was happy to attend with the support of the Mayor, the opening of the new Amity Point Library in January. This was a significant victory for the residents who fought hard for this facility. It was won despite a Redland Shire commissioned independent study into island libraries that recommended it be closed! A proud day!

Straddie Sharks (the football team)

I was also proud to be in attendance at the first night game at the Dunwich Sportsground under lights. Unfortunately, the Sharks lost narrowly, but it was good to see the lights in action.

I have updated my website recently. So if you are interested in back copies of this newsletter, Stradbroke Island News columns, speeches and other material, please log on to www.craigogilvie.com. Feel free though, at anytime, to contact me on the numbers listed on this newsletter if you have any concerns to do with Council. I also encourage you to call if you see something that requires attention. I spend a lot of time walking and riding around, but the more 'eyes' that Council has - the better.

Until next time



Craig Ogilvie
Councillor for Division 2
Redland Shire Council



With Pat Jarman and Claire Clarey at the opening of the new Amity Point Library