



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Tracey Huges

Dear residents of Division 8

The many conversations I have had with residents overwhelmingly involve noise - speeding cars in residential areas, hooning cars day and night and, as some of you have experienced, noisy dogs. I have chosen to

highlight dog ownership in this newsletter and thank residents who have contributed to it ... and my understanding of the value of a clean dog off-leash area, which is noted!

As always, I am happy to chat and available to you

anytime. I encourage you to note the below shopping centre dates and pop in and say g'day.

T. Huges.

Cr Tracey Huges
Division 8

How council can help

There is much that Council can do to help those affected by barking dogs as well as dog owners.

In many cases issues can be solved simply by an animal management officer explaining the problem to the owner. Our animal management team's experience is that owners are often unaware their pet has been misbehaving.

Council can take action when dogs bark excessively. Under the Environmental Protection Regulations, which Council is obliged to follow, this is defined as barking or howling which exceeds six minutes in any hour from 7am-10pm on any day, or for three minutes on any day after 10pm or before 7am.

To make a complaint, you have to provide your name, address and telephone number as well as details about the barking, such as times and duration, which property it emanates from and, if possible, a description of the dog.

Council also understands that people love their pets and would be lost without their companionship. Council's Animal Management Advisory Service and our animal officers are available to help owners solve problems. Check out the Bark Busters educational video at Redland Library, Cleveland. Help is also available from Council's Dispute Resolution Centre on 3239 6007.

Catch up at your local shopping centre

I will be available from 9am-11am on:

September	Saturday	10th	Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre
	Saturday	24th	Wellington Point Horizon Shopping Centre
October	Saturday	8th	Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre
	Monday	24th	Coconut Coffee House, Ormiston
November	Saturday	5th	Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre
	Saturday	19th	Wellington Point Horizon Shopping Centre

A resident's view on barking dogs

Many Redlands residents are fortunate to live near open space where they can watch and listen to birdlife, with the nights bringing nocturnal creatures into our lives, making for relaxed living.

This is a reality in Alexandra Hills but such moments of peace and enjoyment are increasingly being broken by unwelcome noise that can be very annoying, especially when continuing with no let-up, sending one's tolerance into a dive. What could be so distressing? Barking dogs.

Some dog owners understand their responsibility with regard to caring for their dogs and extend this to making sure their dogs undergo behaviour training. However others either do not realise their dog is



barking a lot and the effect it is having on neighbours or perhaps tune-out to what others find annoying - and that is unfortunate. Constant barking can be such a nuisance as quite often it starts a cacophony that continues for a long time.

Having a backyard with an open view to where people walk, talk and exercise their dogs is not an excuse for a contained backyard dog to bark relentlessly - it disturbs others and can be very distracting.

The onus shouldn't be on a neighbour coming to the

door of the residence with the barking dog as is often suggested, tried and tested but not always leading to a satisfactory outcome. Dog owners need to be more mindful in making sure they shape good behaviour in their dog and consider implementing measures that can help curtail their dog's ability to respond to visual or other triggers that start them barking.

Please think about how you can help your dog develop good social behaviour and the positives it will give to the amenity of all living in your local area.

Dog obedience is fun!

Rudi, president of Redlands Dog Obedience Club, offers this insight into dog training

The first thing I was told when I got my first dog many years ago was that dog ownership was fun - and I can now agree wholeheartedly after having learned how to get my dog to sit, drop, heel, retrieve and more.

There is a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure in teaching your dog a new exercise or trick and seeing that light-bulb moment when your dog looks at you as if to say "Oh, that's what you want me to do" and does it flawlessly as if he's been doing it all his life.

Everyone has their own goals for their dog and

here at RDOC we show you how to achieve that. We don't teach your dogs for you; rather we show you how to do it for yourself by building a foundation of exercises and techniques that allow you to progress as far as you want to go.

There are many benefits and they include:

- **Building a closer bond with your dog** - Spending time with your dog allows you to learn what makes them tick and what motivates them. At the same time they are learning what makes you happy, forging a strong relationship.
- **Makes dogs easier to manage** - Learning basic commands such as "sit" and "drop" can allow us to manage those day-to-



days tasks more easily, such as going for walks, grooming and greeting other animals and people in a controlled way.

- **Socialisation and community growth** - Obedience training gets you out and about, meeting people from your neighbourhood and community.

Patience, practice and perseverance are the keys to success. A bit of time and effort can go a long way to having a companion

that is a welcome addition to the family.

Redlands Dog Obedience Club holds obedience classes on every Wednesday from 6.30pm, with new-member intakes on the first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.redlandsdoc.com or find us on Facebook. We offer a great opportunity for your dog to experience different environments and have some fun one-on-one time with you. We look forward to seeing you.



Where your dog can run free

The Redlands has some great off-leash areas where dogs can run and socialise. There are eight in the Alexandra Hills-Birkdale-Ormiston area alone, and most are fully fenced, some with separate areas for small breeds. Check Council's website at www.redland.qld.gov.au for more information about off-leash area etiquette, locations and other useful hints.



GROWING: Ninety people, mostly families, attended the recent tree planting at Judy Holt Park. It was a great effort with the 1000 trees provided by IndigiScapes all planted in the first hour.

Finalising City Plan a long process

Councillors are deep into an intensive series of workshops which have been responding to issues resulting from more than 6000 public submission received during the Draft City Plan public display last year.



The importance of this was epitomised by the infill development proposed for Gardenia Street, Birkdale, where resident David Brewer (pictured) feared the four-lot proposal would adversely affect neighbours.

Residents have had a small win in this case, which highlights the need to

ensure the new City Plan is well considered.

The draft City Plan must address the designated state interest areas of housing, economy, safety, environment and infrastructure.

The planning document will be simplified without diluting the strength of our local planning provisions.