



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Mark Edwards



**ISLANDS  
EDITION**

### Dear resident of the Islands

Weinam Creek is a hive of building activity as Translink delivers the new ferry terminal office.

This disruption will most likely be a prelude to the future redevelopment work in and around this Priority Development Area.

We are at the final stage of the extension granted to the Walker Group to present their proposed designs for the area.

The Walker Group deals primarily with the State Government before presenting to Councillors.

We expected that the plans would be before Council in August, however the timeframe has been extended, although it appears that the final proposal will be presented before the end of the year.

While it has been a long process, it is important that the key design elements for the community are delivered.



*ACTIVITY: Work is progressing to transform Weinam Creek into a highly efficient transport hub and public space.*

The aim is to create a highly efficient transport hub which also caters for private parking demand and utilisation of public transport.

It also needs to appeal to the community, both mainland and

island, as well as provide public foreshore space for the use and enjoyment of everyone.

We all look forward to moving ahead with the plans for Weinam Creek next year.

### Karragarra park upgrades

Karragarra Island is loved by everyone, particularly the beachfront park facilities between the ferry and the barge. To ensure we continually improve this area, various upgrades will be made this financial year.

With the barbecues usually in high demand, especially when community functions are held, we are replacing the single-burner barbecue under the shed with a double. These are not your ordinary domestic barbecues and cost about \$10,000 installed but they are designed to last a long time.

Along with other park improvements, there will be a major upgrade to the playground, which will have shadecloth sails installed. This is very important to provide protection for our kids.



*TOP SPOT: Karragarra's foreshore park is getting significant improvements.*

### Flags fly high on Macleay

Following a meeting on site with the committee of the Macleay Island RSL, it has been agreed to make some improvements to popular Pat's Park on the northern end of the island.

Among them will be the addition of a further two flag poles so that flagraising during ANZAC Day services will be compliant with protocols. There will be three flag poles of equal height in a row.

We are also investigating the installation of appropriate lighting and power around the cenotaph.



## How we manage biting midges

Biting midges are quite a nuisance but unfortunately there is little that can be done about them.

This is due to a number of reasons, not the least being that they predominately breed in natural coastal habitats which we are not allowed by law to spray with insecticides. The fact is that there are no approved chemicals to treat biting midge larvae in their prime breeding grounds.

As biting midge larvae live in mud and wet soils in tidal zones, unlike mozzies which breed in water, they are also difficult to access for control treatments. Chemical sprays for adult biting midges, if used, would harm insects and creatures that are important to our ecosystem.

You can find more detailed information about midges at [www.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au).

## New footpath for Minjerriba Road

The 500m stretch of road on Minjerriba Street between High Street and Centre Road will get a new concrete footpath soon.

This is a well-used road that links the main north-south roads.

Because the road is subject to flooding and traverses a watercourse, the construction of a footpath and pedestrian bridge is estimated to cost about \$250,000. The good news is that I have secured funding for this footpath in this current financial year.

This continues the ongoing process of extending our footpath network for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists.

## It's time to 'Get Ready'

While we were relatively unscathed by last year's storm season, we should not become complacent.

As the few summers before that showed, the islands are not immune to significant and damaging weather events and bushfires.

This year, the Bureau of Meteorology is expecting an active storm season, so it is important that residents take the time now to ensure their homes, family and neighbours are prepared.

The weather experts say the storm threat is higher than average and we can expect the formation of around 11 cyclones in and around the Coral Sea this season, with maybe four crossing the Queensland coast.

### Preparing an emergency kit

Your emergency kit should contain:

- a portable radio with spare batteries
- a torch with spare batteries
- a first-aid kit
- candles and waterproof matches
- a waterproof bag for valuables
- important documents, including emergency contact numbers

If evacuation is likely or required:

- a good supply of any prescribed medications
- any special requirements for babies, the disabled, infirm or elderly
- strong shoes and protective clothing
- food and drinking water



Heat waves – classified as three or more days of high temperatures – are also likely this summer, so remember to keep an eye on more vulnerable family and friends.

If you have an elderly family member or neighbour make sure they are also prepared. For more information go to [www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au](http://www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au).

## Girt By Sea a boost for local art

To encourage local emerging and established artists to celebrate the beauty of our islands, Girt By Sea will now include painting acquisitive prizes.

All paintings submitted must be based on the theme of "My Islands". This is a great opportunity for island artists to showcase their works and be in the running for an acquisitive prize and have their work become part of City's collection.

Up to \$20,000 in prize money will be made available, with 10 art works to receive \$500 each, five to get \$1000 each, two to get \$2500 each and one to be awarded \$5000. A submitting artist can select which category or categories they wish to be considered for. An artist can submit for the \$5000 award only or all of them, so there is flexibility in participating. This event is only open to artists who reside on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands of Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra.

Terms and conditions are on the application form which can be downloaded from [www.thebayislandsgetaway.com](http://www.thebayislandsgetaway.com). The entry fee is just \$5. Completed forms can be emailed to [mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au) or posted to Redland City Council, PO Box 21, Cleveland, Queensland 4163 and marked "attention Cr Mark Edwards".

## Merry Christmas

I would like to wish all residents of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and their families a great Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for help if you need it.

You can email me anytime at [mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au) or call me on 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

**Cr Mark Edwards**  
Division 5 – Islands