



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Lance Hewlett

**COOCHIE
EDITION**

Budget provides for island upgrades

Upgrades to marine transport infrastructure were a priority for Coochiemudlo Island in the 2017-18 Council budget.

Funds have been provided to renew the public amenities at the Foreshore East jetty, along with other work in the area.

All up, more than \$1 million has been assigned to upgrading work on the island's barge ramp and berthing piles, with another \$70,000 put aside for the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan which will be undertaken on Coochie.

Provision also has been made for work at Laurie Burns Recreational Reserve and for dinghy racks for Coochie residents.



The work to upgrade the Coochiemudlo barge ramp and piles has been budgeted for completion this financial year.

Tender documents are currently being drafted and Council expects that the tender process will take up to three months to

complete through to the awarding of the contract.

The project includes the specification for a temporary barge landing area to operate during construction to ensure continuity of barge services to the island.

Easier access to council services

Residents now have improved access to Council services thanks to the opening of a customer service centre at Victoria Point.

The new centre at Victoria Point library, next to the shopping precinct, recognises the challenges residents face in travelling to Cleveland to visit Council's main customer service centre branch.

The new branch offers all services, with the exception of building and development, which are only available at the main Cleveland branch because of the need to access specialist planning officers located at the Cleveland Administration building. It is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Taking care of our coast

Council's rapid response to an SOS following shoreline damage and debris from ex-TC Debbie saw the island's beaches cleared for visitor and resident enjoyment just before the peak Easter tourist time.

Thanks to Council officers and contractors, truckloads of debris was scraped from Outriggers and Main Beach from just past the barge ramp almost to the mouth of Curlew Creek. Accumulated sand from the barge ramp was also dumped across exposed tree roots on the upper beach east of the jetty.

Most debris was deposited north of the wetlands at an erosion hotspot, identified in the 2015 Shoreline Erosion Report, and then covered with sand from the barge ramp.

The Melaleuca Wetlands beach was also scraped, while volunteers from Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare attended to Norfolk Beach south.

Unfortunately, time and tides prevented remediation at Morwong East, which lost a couple of metres of sand, further exposing a giant eucalypt



CLEAN-UP: Clearing Coochie's beaches of debris after ex-TC Debbie.

and undermining a mangrove and cottonwood, which have since died. This zone is high on the priority list for attention.

With Council support, Coastcarers have maintained almost 1km of

rehabilitated shoreline from Main Beach east to north of the melaleuca wetlands.

The budget has earmarked \$70,000 for a shoreline erosion management plan to be conducted this financial year.



Victoria Point Meals On Wheels ... we do more than just deliver

As patron of Meals On Wheels at Victoria Point, it is wonderful to work with and support the volunteers who prepare and deliver meals, as well as provide administrative support and keep the building and other assets maintained.

The recent working bee at the base was also a tremendous success. While I have been delivering meals with them for just over five years, there are members who have supported this vital community organisation for more than 40 years.

If you would like to benefit from this great, value-for-money service, please call the office on **3207 7126**, Monday to Friday between 7am and 12pm.

You also can call the same number if you would like to volunteer. We're always looking for deliverers and kitchen helper for a few hours a month.

Do the right thing

Litter and irresponsible dumping of rubbish continues to be an issue in our city, much of which radiates from our shopping centres and fast-food outlets.

While Council responds to the problem, it is an operational cost that is borne by ratepayers.

The Redland Bay Victoria Point Lions Club, of which my wife and I are members, have stepped up under the Keep Queensland Beautiful "Adopt a Spot" program and regularly organise rubbish collection on the eastern side of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road between Benfer Road and Colburn Avenue.

Apart from being unsightly, the environmental damage caused by littering is far reaching, with much of it ending up in our beautiful bay.

If you're interested in taking part in a Keep Queensland Beautiful initiative, go to its website. The organisation can provide the resources to get you started. Every little bit helps.



CLEAN UP: Collecting rubbish with fellow Lion Allison Ferguson.

Junior rangers head to Coochie

Coastcare will again welcome the Tangalooma EcoMarines to Coochiemudlo to celebrate the Quandamooka Festival event "Care4Country" on Sunday, 10 September.

This year's event promises to be even bigger and better, with ambassadors from 28 schools from throughout South-East Queensland, including Victoria Point State School and St Rita's Primary School, to be involved.

Our junior rangers will join their EcoMarine cousins in cultural heritage

and environmental activities, mainly at Carolyn Brammer's beautiful property "Mudlo", with educational mangrove tours along Curlew Creek as well as beach plantings of casuarinas with the support of Council's IndigiScapes environmental team.

The organisers are expecting more than 250 junior participants, as well as the many locals who'll join the afternoon's welcome.

The event is a great opportunity to experience Quandamooka Country and Coochie in particular.



Keep in touch

As part of my commitment to personally communicate and get feedback from local residents, I conduct regular Council information booths at Victoria Point Shopping Centre and Pelican's Nest. I always post times and dates on my Facebook Page. Just send me a friend request to remain updated on many local issues and events. I am also more than happy to meet with you in person at your home or in my Council office - all you need to do is phone **3829 8603** or **0421 880 371** to organise an appointment.

Cr Lance Hewlett
Division 4

Please connect with me on Facebook to stay posted on all local issues.