



A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams

April 2018



Mobile phone boost a priority

Council has continued lobbying the Federal Government for a slice of its \$220 million black-spot funding program to improve local mobile phone services.

There are a number of locations in the city where mobile coverage is less than ideal and we have been asking the Federal Government to prioritise these areas.

I am particularly concerned about coverage on North Stradbroke and Russell islands, with the current lack of reliable mobile coverage creating community and safety concerns.

At a meeting with the office of Regional Communications Minister Bridgette McKenzie in Canberra recently I requested both islands be included in the next round of black-spot funding.

I pointed out that the Russell Island fire review clearly identified improved mobile services as critical to the island and stressed that Council is committed to working with the Federal Government and telecommunication companies to deliver these upgrades.

The isolation of our island communities is always a concern, but the potential risks become all too apparent during disasters such as the fires that have decimated both Straddie and Russell Island in recent years.

Last year I wrote to state and federal departments, along with telecommunication companies, requesting a coordinated approach to overcome the lack of communication services on these islands, as well as other community issues.



Cienna plants an important message

Councillors were fortunate to receive a very powerful and poignant message from 10-year-old Cienna Plant, pictured, who addressed a recent general meeting about autism in our community.

Cienna is a finalist in the Miss Diamond Australia Pageant and, being on the autism spectrum herself, her address to Council showed the passion and commitment she has for raising money and awareness about the hurdles faced by those in our community with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other sensory conditions.

She asked everyone in attendance to consider how our actions can impact those who have ASD and encouraged us all to be open minded, patient and adaptable.

Cienna also encouraged us to donate to Autism Spectrum Australia and support her in the Miss Diamond Australia Pageant finals.

I would like to thank Cienna for her poise and maturity in delivering such an important message to Councillors.

You can support Cienna through the Miss Diamond Australia website www.missdiamondaustralia.com

Health precinct plan on track

The master plan process for the Redlands Health and Wellness Precinct is almost complete.

Council has been working in close partnership with Metro South Hospital and Health Services and Mater Private on what will be a major economic driver for this city.

The precinct will incorporate the planned expansion of the private and public hospital and identify potential industry clustering opportunities around the hospitals. It also will have significant spin-offs for areas such as education.

A delegation from Gifu Medical Science University in Japan will soon visit the Redlands to do a site inspection of our medical and nursing care facilities with a view to sending study tours here.

They will also be checking out what daily life is like here ... and I am sure they will not be disappointed.

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RESPECT: Thanks to all the locals who have backed Council's campaign to bring respect to social media use.

Have you taken the #pledgenot2sledge?

Redland City Council's **#pledgenot2sledge** campaign is gathering momentum, with you – our community champions – getting behind the push to raise the level of respect on social media.

Council believes that through community action we can start a movement to rid social media of harassment, bullying, abuse and other inappropriate behaviour.

We can start with ourselves – parents, community workers, politicians, adults in general. Let's get back to leading and teaching our kids by example. How can we encourage children to stop online abuse if they continually see adults disrespecting each other?

Our **#pledgenot2sledge** campaign is asking people to stop and think about how they use social media and to ensure they engage with others the way they would like to be treated themselves. It starts with you – everyone reading this can be a community champion for the cause, joining the likes of Totally Wild presenter Ranger Stacey.

Please spread the message and be part of positive social change. Info: www.redland.qld.gov.au or search Pledgenot2sledge on Facebook.



Get ready for Dîner en Rouge

Tickets for Dîner en Rouge, the Redlands' most mysterious and magnanimous fundraiser, are now available.

The annual formal event on Saturday 12 May 2018, to be held at a secret location, is at the heart of a growing movement of support for those affected by domestic and family violence.

Proceeds from previous gala banquets – which I am thrilled to report now total more than \$220,000, boosted by substantial donations from local community organisations and benefactors – are in a fund which will go towards providing extra crisis accommodation in the area.

While Dîner en Rouge is a lot of fun, it also underscores the need for a community effort to tackle the insidiousness of domestic and family violence.

I am hopeful the funds raised by this great annual event will lead to a significant boost in crisis accommodation in the Redlands' region, which is currently serviced by just seven crisis accommodation units. They cater for a population of more than 150,000 and are in high demand, with at least another four needed as soon as possible.

I believe these can be delivered swiftly should the State Government come on board and Council will continue to work with local domestic violence services to make that happen.

The location of Dîner en Rouge, which has a red and white theme, is kept secret until the night to recognise that domestic and family violence often occurs in secret. Tickets are always in demand, so it pays to get in early.

You will find more information at redland.qld.gov.au/dinerenrouge.

R Dîner en Rouge

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY

12 MAY 2018

K Williams

Cr Karen Williams Mayor of Redland City

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