



# News from your local councillor Cr Lance Hewlett

Division 4: Victoria Point edition



November 2020

## Dear resident,

With 2020 drawing to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Redlanders for their commitment to keeping our community COVID safe.

In perhaps one of the most challenging and difficult years many of us have ever experienced, I was buoyed by the many charitable actions of local organisations, community groups, churches and individuals who rose to the challenge and greatly assisted those who were enduring financial stress, medical issues, unemployment, closure and or decline of their businesses, as well as those facing long-term isolation from friends and family.

Mental health issues were at unprecedented levels this year and were compounded by all of the aforementioned issues. We still have a long way to go and I personally thank you all for your compassion and concern for our fellow citizens.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very

merry and blessed Christmas, as well as a safe and prosperous New Year. The Christmas season is marked by a variety of joyous celebrations with friends and family but it is also a time to think about those less fortunate than ourselves and to extend a hand of friendship and help to those who need it most.

As in previous years, my wife Sheena is organising a toy drive to support the local Redlands Coast community through donations to the Champions Church Support Services. Anyone who wishes to contribute, please feel free to contact me for details. Collection can be organised.

These are also exciting times for our local school communities, where senior students are leaving school to transition to their careers or to undertake further studies.

As a member of RedVic Lions, I look forward to wrapping Christmas presents at Victoria Point Shopping Centre. A gold coin donation per gift supports a very worthy cause and I will



also be happy to chat about any Council issues.

I am also happy to meet with you to discuss any issue, by appointment, in your home or at my office. Call 3829 8603 to organise a meeting. I also post regular updates on my Facebook page.

Enjoy the Christmas season, please stay safe and God Bless.

**Cr Lance Hewlett** – Division 4

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

@lance.hewlett

## Wilson Esplanade upgrade

Council is working to improve and protect a section of the foreshore at the southern end of Wilson Esplanade, Victoria Point.

The Wilson Esplanade Foreshore Protection Project involves extending and upgrading stormwater pipes, constructing new rock groynes, upgrading an existing rock seawall and building a foreshore access ramp for small, non-motorised watercraft.

In February 2020, Council presented components of the project for community consultation and sought feedback on the foreshore access ramp and its preferred

location. More than half of the survey respondents informed Council they preferred the upgraded rock seawall to include a new foreshore access ramp and 70 percent of these respondents voted for option one as the ideal spot.

Council officers have since incorporated the feedback into the project's detailed design.

The project's construction phase remains subject to Council budget prioritisation.

Stay tuned for updates by visiting [yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/wilsonesplanadeforeshore](https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/wilsonesplanadeforeshore)



## Enjoying our area

This is a great time to enjoy being outdoors in our naturally wonderful part of Redlands Coast, even more so when everyone observes our “summer etiquette”.

Whether walking pets, cycling, having fun on our foreshores and in our parks, the experience is most enjoyed when everyone complies with local regulations and shows respect for others.

Many people like to take their dogs with them when they visit our foreshores and parks but please remember that dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, except in designated off-leash areas. While you may know your pet is friendly, it may still cause anxiety in others, particularly children.

You can take your dog for an off-leash swim in the designated area at Coochiemudlo Island’s Main Beach off Victoria Parade, west of the boat ramp (dogs may be off-leash from 5pm until 9am the next day from November-February and must play between the signs). There are also designated fenced areas at Les Moore Park on Wilson Esplanade, Victoria Point Bushland Refuge on Link Road and in the Eprapah Creek Corridor, off Liriopie Place, Victoria Point West. For everyone’s enjoyment of our dog off-leash areas please abide by the rules and remember to carry a bag or container and pick up your dog’s droppings when in a public place, as on-the-spot fines apply.

Cycleway etiquette on our shared pathways is really about common sense, so keep to the left, have a bell on your bike to alert walkers and other riders and give walkers and slower riders plenty of space when overtaking. Remember that bike and scooter riders should give way to pedestrians, slow down if it is crowded and be considerate to others.

While it might be tempting, jumping off our jetties is prohibited in the interests of safety.

This time of year can also bring severe storms, so I urge you to ensure your homes are prepared. You will find practical information on Council’s website.

It also means that midge and mozzie season is upon us. Unlike mosquitoes, which Council does treat, there are no midge-specific insecticides available and no chemicals approved or safe for use in the Moreton Bay Marine Park, where midges breed. Using chemicals where the midge larvae live can also harm fish and other marine creatures.

Council has a marine parks permit from the State Government that allows us to use certain chemicals in the marine park environment, like the ones we use for mozzies, but the permit does not allow for the use of chemicals that are effective on midges. However, we can treat mosquito larvae and have a year-round spray program. More information: [redland.qld.gov.au/midges](http://redland.qld.gov.au/midges)

## Serving community

It has been a privilege to be reconfirmed as patron of Coochiemudlo Surf Lifesavers, Volunteer Marine Rescue, Victoria Point and Meals on Wheels, Victoria Point.

## Future leaders

In September, I spent a wonderful morning at Victoria Point State High School as part of the interview panel for the selection of senior and junior school captains for 2021. In all the years I have been part of this process, I’d have to say this year it was an extremely tough choice as the calibre of all student candidates was absolutely outstanding. It makes me feel so positive about our future when I meet with these exceptional young people. All the best for 2021 at Victoria Point High.

## Community park update

The next stage at Thornlands Community Park is expected to get underway in the new year, weather and site conditions permitting.

It will include a shaded outdoor fitness area, bike rack and more agricultural-themed play elements celebrating the area’s heritage, as well as picnic facilities, including a single barbeque, drinking fountain and seating. The additional play elements are being constructed within the existing play area, with the picnic facilities to be located within the park outside of the fenced all-abilities play area.

## Council closures

Council offices will close from Thursday 24 December 2020 and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2021. This includes our Customer Service Centres and libraries.

If you need urgent assistance for an issue that is an immediate risk to Council’s services and significantly impacts residents’ amenity or capacity to access services, then call our main number 3829 8999 as we will have crews on call.

## Now we’re cooking!

With COVID-19 restrictions preventing many fundraising events this year, the creative fundraising team at Redlands Branch of the Queensland Cancer Council had to think of other ways to raise funds. This year their “main event” was the creation of a locally flavoured Recipe Delights cookbook, which I was very happy to sponsor and to contribute a recipe for my dad’s corn beef fritters. By buying this book you will be making a difference to the lives of many Queenslanders affected by cancer. You will find details on the branch’s Facebook page.



*FINE FARE: Being presented with a copy of Recipe Delights by Tish Henderson, Redlands branch president of the Queensland Cancer Council, a group Council has been proud to support.*