



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Recognising islanders' contributions

This year began with the inaugural Australia Day Bay Islander of the Year, inspired by Russell Island resident Steve Morgan.

When Steve approached me about the concept I was an instant supporter for an award which recognises the valuable contributions that our island volunteers and lobbyists bring to our community. I am privileged to be allowed to personally sponsor the medals and the perpetual trophy for an award that I would like to see continue for many, many years.

The inaugural awards were received by Meryl Dobe (overall recipient), Al Prestwood (senior recipient) and Lockie Hill (junior recipient). The perpetual award, pictured with myself and Mayor Karen Williams, will be displayed at Council in recognition of the contributions made by our residents to build a stronger community.

I would also like to acknowledge all those who had been nominated and I encourage their nomination again for next year's awards. All of you contribute greatly to our community.



Pet micro-chipping

Council offers a mobile micro-chipping service for pets. Officers will visit pet owners at home for \$25. People can pay on the spot via EFTPOS. For more information, call Council's Animal Shelter on 3829 8663.



Inquiries

All general Council inquiries can be made on 3829 8999.

Redland City Plan project update

Redland City Council reached a significant milestone in the State Government-prescribed planning process when it submitted the draft of its new City Plan for State Interest Review in November last year.



Subsequently, Council has made a number of minor amendments and resubmitted them for the Minister's approval. Once ministerial approval is received, Council will take the proposed City Plan to public consultation, giving the community a chance to both review the scheme and provide formal feedback on it through a submission process. This process will be widely advertised and include community forums, mailouts, interactive online engagement tools, displays, website and social media information and meet-the-planner sessions.

The Redland City Plan will be Council's blueprint for the future development of the City, so everyone is encouraged to have a look at it and have their say when it opens for public consultation.

Keeping pesky mozzies at bay

The wet start to the year has created ideal conditions for mosquitoes, which can present a significant public health issue.

They are more than just a nuisance as they can pass diseases to people, as well as transmit heartworm to dogs.

Council's mosquito management crew has been ever vigilant, conducting surveys and ground and aerial treatments, but it is important that as a community we stay on top of the issue.

Residents can help by regularly checking there's no unnecessary water where mozzies can breed around homes. You can find out more about Council's treatment program and what you can do at www.redland.qld.gov.au



Increased surveillance to catch passenger jetty fishers

On Macleay and Russell Islands there are passenger jetties for the commuters and a separate jetty from which people can fish.

There are signs stating that fishing is not allowed from the passenger jetties. The reason for this is simple: People travelling on the ferries are in clean clothes and expect to be able sit in a clean waiting area.

Unfortunately a small number of inconsiderate people have taken to fishing on the passenger jetties and fouling the area with decaying bait and fish scales.

I ask those responsible to have the maturity and respect for others to stop fishing on the passenger jetties.

There are significant fines for people doing so and I have asked for increased visits by Council officers.

If anyone sees people fishing from these passenger jetties please report the matter to the local police.



A photograph would also help identify those responsible so that action against them can be taken.

Don't accept having to wait for a ferry in the midst of rotting fish bait. Report the offenders so they can be prosecuted.

Islands' ANZAC Centenary tributes

The centenary of the landings at Gallipoli by the ANZACS will be commemorated on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands with services on both Macleay and Russell islands.

We should never forget the sacrifice of those young men, many in their teens, who gave their lives in a barrage of machine gun fire to keep Australia free.

On Macleay Island, marchers will muster on Kate Street in the dark at 5am before heading down to the cenotaph in Pat's Park at 5.15am. The dawn service will be held by the bay at 5.45am, with the *Ode to the Fallen*, *The Last Post* and one minute's silence followed by *The Rouse*.

Wreaths will be laid to represent the Navy, Army, RAAF, New Zealand Services, the Nursing Services, the National Servicemen, Past Conflicts, the Police, Ambulance and Medical Services, the SES and the Fire Service, followed by any Island resident who wishes to lay a personal wreath.



On completion of the Dawn Service, the Macleay sub-branch will host a "gunfire breakfast" for island residents where they can talk, reminisce and mingle over sausages, bread, coffee and pea and ham soup.

Sub-branch members will then muster at Club Macleay (bowls club).

On Russell Island, the club will open at 4.30am before observers assemble at cenotaph for the 5.40am dawn service.

All are welcome at the "gunfire breakfast" from 7am.

For the mid-morning service and march, you should assemble at the corner of Cestrum Street and Canaipa Road from 10am for the march at 10.40am. The service will be at 11am.

Island arts

Macleay Island's incredible artistic talent will be on show again at the fourth annual Artists at Work event in the Progress Hall on the Easter long weekend.

This is developing into a home-grown arts and tourism event for the island, with around 2000 people - mostly mainlanders - attending last year.

Entry is free from 10am-4pm on 4-6 April.

Macleay is fast developing a reputation as the most progressive arts community in the state's south-east.

Keep in touch

Why not join the hundreds of residents who have already contacted me for help with an issue?

You can email me anytime at mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au or call me on 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 - Islands