



# A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams



## Trade college a coup for Redlands and students

Redland City students and businesses are the big winners with the decision by Australian Industry Trade College (AITC) to choose the Redlands as the location for its new facility.

The decision by the AITC Board followed almost two years of negotiations to lure the independent co-educational senior college here.

Discussions started with the concept being raised with Council by Smith Family Partnership Broker Stephanie Morris and followed up with a fact-finding visit to the AITC Robina facility by Cr Paul Gleeson and local state MPs.

Quality education provides the foundations for a strong economy and an innovative business sector and I have always been a strong

supporter of facilities such as AITC being situated in the Redlands.

The college will provide local students in years 11 and 12 with access to quality trade training and senior education that is proven to increase future employment opportunities. Local businesses will also benefit from access to “work-ready” apprentices and trainees.

Many young people have had to leave the Redlands to access training and jobs, so securing quality education and training facilities for the Redlands will deliver real benefits.

This commitment from AITC shows that the Redlands is increasingly being seen as a location for the employees of the future to learn.

The AITC implements a unique curriculum which allows students to complete their Queensland Certificate of Education while training full time as an Australian school-based apprentice in the real world of industry, producing skilled employees who will ultimately benefit local businesses.

The results speak for themselves, with 98 per cent of AITC students completing their Queensland Certificate of Education and 93 per cent graduating with a full-time apprenticeship through their AITC education.

Local businesses are enthusiastic and many have backed the venture by offering training and employment opportunities.



## Our sense of community is heartwarming

I am reminded daily of the special quality of Redlanders - our strong sense of community sets us apart from so many others.

It is said that you see the best of people in tough times. That certainly was the case as the Redlands prepared recently for the onslaught of ex-tropical cyclone Marcia.

People prepared for the worst and hoped for the best; they helped and offered advice to their neighbours; they pitched in to help our seniors.

With the memories of ex-tropical cyclone Oswald fresh in our minds, I believe we were more prepared than many other communities in similar positions.

I was fortunate enough to have spent some time at the Redland Showgrounds helping others fill sandbags. People just turned up to help. They might not have lived where

sandbags were likely to be needed, but that didn't stop them pitching in to help. That's what Redlanders do.

Redland City Council officers, our wonderful SES volunteers and a whole lot of others swung into action.

Our social media ran hot with hundreds of thousands of views as residents sought last-minute advice. People checked out the Disaster Management Plans that have been prepared for every suburb and every island in the City. We deployed volunteers to our islands to put them even closer to the action.

While the Redlands missed the worst of the storms that wreaked so much damage in Central Queensland, we were well prepared.

I would like, on behalf of the Redland City community, to publicly thank every person who gave up their time to help ensure the safety of the City.

# A message from the Mayor

## Aussie Day honours to Redlanders

Redland City has once again punched above its weight with five locals recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours.

I was pleased to be able to host a recent reception, which was a wonderful chance to thank the five local residents who received Australia Day Honours – Myann Burrows OAM (services to the Redlands), Peter Drysdale AM (services to international community), Meg O'Driscoll OAM (services to community and to nursing), Beverley Giles OAM (services to community health) and Jeffrey Underhill OAM (service to community and charities).

We also took the opportunity to recognise the honours given to Ross Wiseman AM for his outstanding work in the local volunteering community and Alexa Curtis, recent winner of the Redland City Australia Day Cultural Award.



ACHIEVERS: Our outstanding Redlanders after being presented with their Australia Day awards.

## City awards well deserved

I was very proud to present Redland City Australia Day Awards to outstanding contributors to our community.

The Citizen of the Year award went to Bentham Foundation founder Mick Bentham, who has selflessly dedicated himself to helping underprivileged Nepalese children and community work across the city.

Other award recipients were: Peter Neale (Senior Citizen), Luke Spalding (Young Citizen), Alexa Curtis (Cultural Award), Ken Dickson (Local Hero), Redland Community Centre Inc (Community Organisation), Allan Prestwood (Environment and Sustainability), and Ian Smits (Sport).

## Back to basics strategy delivering results

Redland City Council's back to basics strategy is set to deliver operating surpluses in each of the next 10 years.

I was happy to be able to report Council delivered its first surplus for 15 years in 2014-15 and that our 10-year financial strategy predicts surpluses each year to 2025 as we continue to strengthen this City's financial position.

This result and projections for the future shows Council's back-to-basics approach is paying dividends for Redlanders.

Our Financial Strategy 2015-25 demonstrates Council's sustainability.

Significantly, it forecasts operating surpluses for the life of the strategy, which is good news for our community. It also forecasts that Council's debt will decrease over the same period.

The strategy shows Council is meeting or exceeding nearly all of its key financial performance indicators and will set a clear plan to ensure Council's continued success.

As with prudent financial management, our strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the economic environment and gives an accurate assessment of Council's long-term financial forecast.

## Stay in touch

I always love to hear your views and ideas for our great City, so please don't hesitate to contact me by emailing [mayor@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:mayor@redland.qld.gov.au).

For updates on what's happening in the City you can also connect with me via social media.

**Cr Karen Williams**  
Mayor of Redland City

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