



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Mark Edwards



ISLANDS  
EDITION

### Time to 'Get Ready' for summer

Southern Moreton Bay islanders are no strangers to the wrath of nature.

In fact the last three summers have brought significant events to the Redlands to underline that we are not immune from potential natural disasters.

With the Bureau of Meteorology advising that we are entering an El Nino cycle, we can expect hot, dry weather with an increased possibility of severe storms over the next several months.

And while the prediction is for less cyclonic weather in the Coral Sea, it should be noted that each year since 1970 a cyclone has crossed the Queensland coast.

Bushfire risks during this time will also remain high on the islands,

making it vital that all residents "Get Ready" and ensure they, their families and homes are properly prepared to respond to any situation which may force a quick evacuation.

To ensure you can be best prepared, information specific to island residents and visitors can be found at [www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au](http://www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au).

The Redland Local Disaster Management Group will continue to be vigilant and provide information through its website, social media, 612 ABC radio and Bay FM radio and it would be well worth connecting with Council's social media feeds so you can keep up to date with the latest information. Should we face a potential emergency, I am sure you will appreciate the advice provided through the islands' disaster management plan.



**REDLANDS...  
BE BUSHFIRE & STORM SAFE**

We are approaching bushfire and storm season, so it is important to plan for both.

- Prepare a family emergency plan
- Prepare your home to minimise damage

Redland City Council's disaster management plan provides information on how to prepare for and recover from a disaster. The plan can be downloaded from [www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au](http://www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au)

**We're all in this together**  
[www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au](http://www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au)



### Help is now at hand

Those impacted by domestic and family violence have a new support base with the opening of the first-ever Redlands regional domestic and family violence service - WAVSS Across The Redlands.

The service offers a range of support, including free information, court support, counselling, crisis response and perpetrator intervention programs for domestic and family violence.

More information is available at [www.wavss.org](http://www.wavss.org).

### John's legacy for island ferry travellers

The tragic passing of John Waters, who collapsed from a heart attack while travelling home to Russell Island on the ferry earlier this year, has led his partner Kathy Smythe on a determined endeavour to have defibrillators installed on the passenger ferries servicing the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

I assisted Kathy in discussions with Bay Island Transit Systems, which were supportive once they had completed their due diligence around their responsibilities and processes.

The eventual outcome was the donation of four defibrillators from



*MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Our passenger ferries now have defibrillators thanks to Kathy Smythe and her supporters.*

Kathy herself, staff at Relationships Australia (John's employer), Russell Island RSL and State Member for Redlands Matt McEachan.

Defibrillators can be a lifesaver during a

cardiac emergency, when immediate treatment is vital.

Kathy is to be congratulated on her efforts and is an example of how one person can make a difference.



*STRIDING OUT: This year's Seniors' Walk on Russell Island proved very popular.*



*OPENING: MacLeay Island's Seniors' Week event was opened by Mayor Karen Williams.*

## Islands' seniors take the lead

A variety of events ranging from the informative to sporting marked this year's Seniors' Week from August 15-23.

Bay Islands Community Services Inc took the lead in delivering a number of functions for our seniors.

A popular event was the Seniors' Walk on Russell Island which drew many participants and culminated with sports awards and a community barbecue.

Sporting activities ranged from tennis, bowls, table tennis and golf. It was a fun week for all involved.

## Celebrating our unique community ties

The first 4 Islands Festival in August was an outstanding success.

Driven by Bob Turner and Steve Morgan of the Sandy Beach Sailing Club, this event drew together many island organisations and community groups to share in the celebration of who we are as an islands community.

This was just one of many events that have been held on the islands over the past three months. The artistic events, such as "Turning the Tide", were also well supported.



*WELL DONE: Bob Turner was one of the driving forces of the inaugural 4 Islands Festival.*

## Fun at the Bazaar

The inaugural Island Bazaar Busking Festival will boast a great line up of entertainment, market stalls and food on Sunday 13 December at Russell Island's Jock Kennedy Park, just a short walk from the jetty.

This is a free event that the whole family can enjoy, with spectators invited to vote for their favourite busker. I was happy to support the event with a small grant.

## Merry Christmas and keep in touch

I would like to wish all residents of Division 5 and their families a great Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for help if you need it. You can email me anytime at [mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au) or telephone 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

**Cr Mark Edwards**  
Division 5 – Islands



*TURNING THE TIDE: The Quandamooka Dancers not only entertained but gave an informative presentation on the indigenous culture around our islands.*