

Residents' Christmas Report

Message from the Mayor



As we enter the festive season, it is timely to reflect on the achievements of 2013 and the bright prospects for 2014.

This year, Redland City Council has set the scene for much-

needed job-creating opportunities which will take shape next year. These will shape the future of our City.

Key among our achievements is the progress with our Priority Development Area projects at Cleveland's Toondah Harbour and Redland Bay's Weinam Creek marine precincts, and the Cleveland CBD revitalisation.

These projects rank among the most exciting and important in the history of the Redlands. Not only will they enhance our reputation as a destination in our own right for domestic and overseas visitors but they will also be the catalysts for further investment in our City. Most importantly, they will prove vital transport hubs to the jewels of Moreton Bay, and also become opportunities for vibrant new dining, entertainment and commercial precincts.

The PDAs have drawn substantial interest from Australian and Asian investors, with my recent trade mission to China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan generating positive results, including visits to the Redlands by five Asian delegations.

Council is here to deliver value for money for residents and has taken great strides in improving service delivery. We have put you – our customers – first. This process will continue in 2014. We took on the difficult process of restructuring Council operations and returning our budget to surplus for the first time in over a decade, while still delivering the lowest headline rates increase in South-East Queensland – for the second year running. At the same time we absorbed millions of dollars in costs imposed by other levels of government to relieve cost-of-living pressures.

Whilst it is important to reflect on our achievements over the past 12 month, Christmas is the season to cherish special times with our family, friends, community and neighbours. At the very least, I wish you joyous memories of these special times.

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for a prosperous 2014.

Cr Karen Williams
Mayor of Redland City
Tel: 3829 8623 0416 123 588
mayor@redland.qld.gov.au

Get Ready for anything

Storms and bushfires are all part of summer in Australia but there are steps we can all take to make sure we are prepared:

- **Be informed** – stay tuned to local media for emergency updates
- **Make a plan** – talk with your family about how you would survive a disaster
- **Prepare an emergency kit** – include a torch, batteries, water, important phone numbers, medicine and documents
- **Know your neighbours** – exchange numbers and think about any neighbours who may need help such as the elderly.

Redland City Council has released the first two parts of its Disaster Management Plan and also recently distributed the Australian Red Cross emergency REDiPlan and the Department of Community Safety's Bushfire Survival Plan.

These plans and much more handy information are available at the Disaster Hub on Council's website at www.redland.qld.gov.au.



Come and enjoy Christmas by Starlight

Saturday 7 December 2013
Norm Price Park - Redland Showgrounds



FREE festivities for the family

Preparations are in full swing ahead of Christmas by Starlight – a huge FREE family event on Saturday 7 December to celebrate this special time of year in the Redlands.

There is a host of local talent lined up to perform, including headline act Connor Crawford of *Jersey Boys* fame who will incorporate a selection of Frankie Valli's greatest hits into the program.

Redland City Mayor Karen Williams said Christmas by Starlight, at Norm Price Park – Redland Showgrounds in Long Street, Cleveland – would be one to remember.

"Christmas is a very special time of year for families and we will have something for everyone," said Cr Williams. "There will be children's entertainment from 3pm, a special children's concert from 5.30pm, and traditional twilight carols from 6.15pm.

"Add to that food stalls, roving entertainers, children's rides and static displays as well as a spectacular fireworks finale (and even a special visit from Santa himself) and Christmas by Starlight will certainly be a highlight of the festive season."

Cr Williams said the stage and equipment would be weatherproof so nothing would dampen the spirits of performers, community groups and residents.

Christmas by Starlight is an alcohol-free event.

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Shop local and win

Buying locally has a lot more to offer than just a boost to our local economy in terms of jobs – those who shop at retailers participating in the 100% Redlands Christmas Challenge will also be in the running

to win loads of prizes, including a Holden Barina, a Straddie holiday or a 32" Samsung LED HD TV. The final prize draw is 17 December. Simply register at participating stores or online at www.100percentredlands.com.au.



Fantastic future for our ferry facilities

Toondah Harbour and Weinam Creek are on the brink of an exciting period of transformation. From mid January 2014 you will be invited

to have your say on the proposed development schemes for these Priority Development Areas. The plans will be based on ideas from the community, technical studies as well as feedback and interest from potential investors. The development schemes for both sites will be finalised by June next year (2014). Visit www.redland.qld.gov.au.



Rethink your rubbish this Christmas

Just as Christmas is a time of giving, Boxing Day is a time of disposing. Extend your goodwill to our environment this festive season by choosing gifts with less packaging or reusing shopping bags.

During the Christmas clean-up, keep plastic bags out of your yellow-lidded recycling bin – they belong in the general waste bin. Better still, take them to selected supermarkets for recycling.



Council Christmas closures

Redland City Council's Customer Service Centres (Cleveland and Capalaba) will be closed during Christmas-New Year from Wednesday 25 December 2013 up to and including Wednesday 1 January 2014.

This includes the Cleveland Administration Building and the Capalaba Place Building, as well as Redland Libraries. During this period, only essential Council services will be available in a limited capacity.

Fallen trees, urgent road repairs, water supply and other emergencies can be reported on Council's After Hours Emergency Service number 3829 8999.

The IndigiScapes Centre and Redland waste transfer stations will be closed Christmas Day only. Waste collection services will continue as normal.