



News from your local councillor

Cr Paul Bishop

Division 10: Birkdale/Thorneside



Redland
CITY COUNCIL

November 2020

Dear neighbour of Birkdale & Thorneside,

What a year 2020 has turned out to be!

Through heat, bushfires and flooding rains to COVID shutdowns and Anzac Day in the Driveway, this has been a year like no other.

However our community spirit shines brighter than ever with neighbours looking out for each other, residents supporting local businesses and volunteers still giving their best to keep our village safe, secure and the best place to call home.

Along with best wishes and thanks to you all in this newsletter, I want to give a few updates about important projects in our area, with some great plans coming into fruition and others in the pipeline.

Please stay kind and connected with one another as we face a changing time. Please reach out if I can help with any Council or community issues and thanks for your support and engagement. We have a great community and our positive attitude makes each moment better.

Best wishes for the festive season.

Cr Paul Bishop – Division 10

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[f @CrPaulBishop](https://www.facebook.com/CPaulBishop)



Living history lessons

Along Old Cleveland Road East, a massive parcel of land echoes with stories from our distant past.

Ancient trees still coexist with shrubs, grasslands and habitat for koalas, kangaroos, echidnas, sugar gliders and other indigenous creatures.

There are reminders from First Nations people who interacted with Capalaba pioneers James and Margaret Willard's family and South Sea Islander labourers - singing in the night around 150 years ago. During World War II, the global radio receiving telecommunications HQ for the US Army and Allied Forces was constructed in a paddock, known as Mr and Mrs Cotton's farm, by General Douglas MacArthur's troops. News of the Japanese surrender first arrived at this recently State Heritage-listed site 75 years ago.

Yet, the area has remained off limits and under Federal Government control for top-secret surveillance radio until 2017.

Few people realise that for more than 60 years (1953-2014) the "Goat Ladies" of Birkdale squatted on the site, agisting their cattle and using the land under a lease agreement. It is partly due to their "use rights" that the land was transferred into public ownership in the 1960s after a court battle.

As the new owner, Council is seeking to determine the best use of the place for our city's future. Few places have so many stories and features which remain relatively unknown to today's residents.

Are you interested to know more? What matters to you about this site? Let us know on the Your Say page on Council's website.

Works in progress

A new footpath will connect residents from Birkdale Road to Makaha Drive and the waterfront park at Bath Street in coming months. Pavement connections in Haig and Hardy roads will also be completed.

Crews have recently worked to deliver division-wide replacement of pathway sections that were damaged or uneven.

If you have issues to report, please contact Council or reach out to me.

Beautiful Birkdale corridors

Recent plantings, landscaping and mulching has tidied up our Rickertt and Quarry Road entry to Redland City. My thanks to Council officers for their care and attention to this project, which has improved both amenity and species diversity along the road and cycleway.

Residents have been asking about provision of shade along the Queens Esplanade foreshore, so I have asked Council to work with community members to help find a balance between amenity and impact as we approach warmer summers in this exposed and popular area.

Thorneside sports facility upgrades

Four renewed tennis courts will assist Thorneside Community Tennis Association members and residents who use this local facility. Two state-of-the-art public cricket nets will also be delivered in the William Taylor Memorial Sportsground this year, all funded by Council. Future planning will see more civil works to follow to allow better parking, access and related infrastructure upgrades.

Vote of thanks

A shout out to Aquatic Paradise Residents Association secretary Janine Vine who has volunteered hundreds of hours to coordinate movement of Aquatic Paradise residents' boats while Council has conducted works within the canal and creek corridor area. Kudos to her for her patience and organisational capacity.

William Eickenloff Forest

As 60-year-old pine trees in William Eickenloff Park, off Dorsal Drive, reach the end of their lifespans, I have asked officers to consider a long-term vision for this unique local park.

Trees at risk of failure will be removed in stages and some trunks and logs may be retained for creative uses in the mid-term.

New plantings will reflect the structured grass and pine theme, while subtropical fodder trees may reflect the agricultural history of the area. Other appropriate species will continue to augment nature play elements, ensuring this local park remains a lasting legacy for future generations.



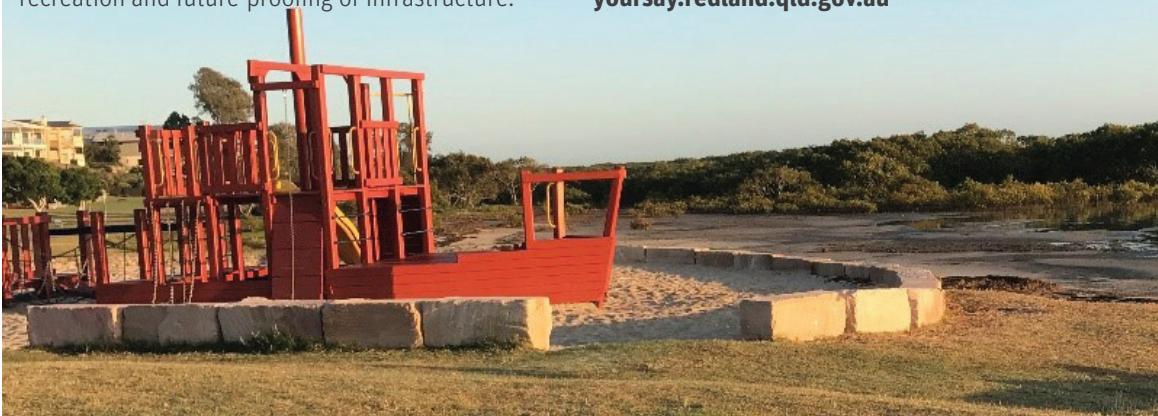
Beth Boyd Park and Thorneside foreshore

Huge thanks to all residents who participated in the recent survey about Beth Boyd Park's renewal and expressed views about the importance of this area and foreshore.

I will make sure local values are reflected, managed and protected so we balance natural amenity, recreation and future-proofing of infrastructure.

Along with your requests, I have been asking Council to ensure designs reflect the naturally wonderful values of our Redlands Coast brand.

You will find more information on the Beth Boyd Park renewal project YourSay page at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au



Do you have stories to preserve?

Any images or tales capturing what you value about the Thorneside foreshore would be great to record. Your suggestions and recollections of the area over the years, such as your love of the 'old boat' and your favourite activities, may help to further shape the area's future. Please email me with any photos, stories and permission to share.



Proud patron of Birkdale Scouts

In August, I was honoured to be named patron of Birkdale Scouts and gifted a scarf and woggle by Joeys and leaders from this amazing group of people who do so much for our community. For more on the group, search for 'Birkdale Scouts' on Facebook.

Local street captains

Thanks to those residents who have kept neighbours and locals connected with acts of kindness and offers of support during the COVID restrictions.

This kind of local two-way communication among people also helps identify issues that I can help with when challenges or opportunities arise. As always, let me know how I can help you with Council or community matters that you care about.

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