



News from your local councillor

Cr Tracey Huges

Division 8: Birkdale/Alexandra Hills/Capalaba/Wellington Point



November 2020

Dear resident,

With Christmas almost here, I would like to offer sincere thanks to my Division 8 community for your exceptional response to what has been an extraordinary and challenging year. Together we have achieved so much and can be proud of how we responded in a time of potential crisis to keep each other safe.

I am so pleased to report we have received something of an early Christmas gift with news that work will soon go ahead to rehabilitate the undeveloped land on Randall Road, Birkdale, into a very special wildlife habitat.

The rehabilitation program for this 16,650 sq m expanse will be managed by Redland Investment Corporation and will include plantings at Wehr Urban Habitat, McDonald Road, Alexandra Hills, and at Collingwood Road, Birkdale.

The conservation area on Randall Road, which backs onto a boutique townhouse development currently under construction, has been identified as an area with great conservation potential once it gets

some much-needed care. Environmental consultants have been engaged to work alongside Council's conservation team to undertake a vegetation rehabilitation program in the area over the coming months. This will involve planting trees and removing pests and weeds to provide an improved koala and wildlife habitat and a special space for residents. This site has also been included into Council's Birkdale Koala Safe Mapping Area (see below).

I am working to have the area renamed Jack Rosa Urban Habitat in honour of an



HABITAT: Environmental consultant Adrian Caneris at the new Birkdale environmental area.

exceptional local who passed away in 2018 and has left a considerable legacy, particularly through his work with the Lions Club of Capalaba. Mr Rosa was involved with the Meals on Wheels kitchen at Capalaba and was instrumental in the area also getting an ambulance, police and fire service, along with a Girl Guide hut and the Capalaba Bowls Club. He was involved in many local organisations and was also the driving force behind the establishment of the RDCOTA unit at Redland Hospital. I will keep you posted on developments.

I really enjoy the opportunity to meet with residents and hope to resume my catch-ups at local shopping centres once we get the COVID all-clear, as well as offering my services as a JP. Please know that you can contact me at any time. In the meantime, I sincerely wish you all a blessed, safe and very happy Christmas and holiday season.

T. Huges.

Cr Tracey Huges – Division 8

Keeping our local koalas safe

I am excited about Council's expansion of our koala conservation neighbourhoods to selected areas of Birkdale.

It is the result of a lot of work with koala experts and scientists over the past two years to identify and reduce the main threats to koalas across Redlands Coast.

This work has included a number of initiatives to help our koalas live and move safely, with the establishment of Koala Conservation Safe Neighbourhoods across the city a key development. It follows the successful introduction of Council's first Koala Conservation Safe Neighbourhood at Ormiston in 2018.

The expansion into parts of Birkdale is based on the need to keep our local koala population safe, particularly from cars, by providing connected koala habitat such as the conservation land at 521 Old Cleveland Road, East Birkdale, and other local parks and wildlife corridors.

Through the Koala Conservation Safe Neighbourhood Program, Council will work with residents to reduce the key threats to koala survival, which are vehicle strike, dog attack, habitat loss and disease. It helps you to become custodians of our local koalas and work with us to make sure our iconic koalas are protected for future generations.

You can also help by participating in the koala conservation programs we will be introducing in our area, such as environmental partnerships and citizen science programs.

Other practical ways to help include slowing down when driving and being koala alert, particularly at dawn and dusk when koalas often travel and can be difficult to see. When you see the flashing koala signs, please slow down, as these areas have a much higher concentration of koala activity.

Also, make sure that your back garden is koala safe, with an escape ramp in the pool

or a post against the fence so koalas have a safe route from the pool or garden. If you have a dog in the backyard, ensure that it is secured at night, particularly from June to December when koalas disperse and breed.

Researchers from the University of the Sunshine Coast will be monitoring to further our understanding of the local koala population. These surveys are critical to our understanding of koala health, population size and survival rates, population genetics and movement patterns.

You also can report all koala sightings on the Atlas of Living Australia's Biocollect portal via the link at redland.qld.gov.au/koala, as well as see more about how we are protecting and conserving our koalas. Should you wish to partner with Council to make environmental improvements for koalas or other wildlife on your property, call to 3829 8999 to arrange a **free** property visit with an Environmental Partnerships Extension Officer.



TAKING THE LEAD: With my neighbour's puppy Ruby.

Council supports better pet management

With responsible pet ownership a recurring local issue, Council has supported continued local government efforts to lobby the State Government to review the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

The current Act has limitations and inefficient processes for reviewing regulated dog declarations and destruction orders, particularly in instances following a serious dog attack.

In recognition of the significant community safety risks, Council wants the conditions around keeping a regulated dog strengthened and is urging the State Government to establish offence categories for dog attacks, ensure victims are supported and provide clarity on enclosure guidelines.

Keeping cats contained

I urge residents who have cats to ensure their pets are contained on their property at all times and are not allowed to roam.

While some cat owners assume that keeping their pets inside at night is sufficient, it is their responsibility to ensure they do not stray from their property at any time. Council's animal management team advises that cats are best trained to stay either indoors or in an enclosure from an early age.

Owners need to check that doors and windows are closed and to ensure that their

cat doesn't escape. I have found that a cat enclosure in the back yard and a lead when out the front provides my cat George with the best of both worlds.

There are designs available that will allow your cat to come and go from the house as it pleases while still being adequately contained on your property. Another suggestion is cat-proof fencing to ensure that your cat can't jump the fence into neighbouring properties and public spaces. The penalty for allowing a cat to stray is \$266.



CONTAINED: Our beautiful George sitting on the front fence in the sun, happily secured by his lead and, left, our secure cat fencing.

Back in the swim

By the time you read this, the awesome upgrade of the Cleveland Aquatic Centre should be fully completed and all pools open for swimmers.

The teams involved have done a great job, with the rejuvenated centre sure to be a hit now the weather has warmed.

The renovation was among a range of infrastructure projects brought forward to help local businesses weather the COVID-19 pandemic, with one upside being that it also helped to minimise the impact of the centre's inevitable closure on residents.

A number of contracts for work at the centre were awarded to local businesses, with the filter installation, painting, deck

construction and shade sail renewal all being sourced from Redlands Coast.

Redlands Coast businesses which worked on the project deserve a pat on the back, including Marina Pools, Atlantis Plumbing and Drainage, Signature Painters, Danreg Engineering, Bennetts Carpets, Di Lizio Painting, Darben Training, Bayside Project Solutions and Advanced Shade Structures.

We now have new pumps and electrics, decking, landscaping and new shade sails over two children's play pools, with the 50m pool now leak free and, along with the 25m pool, looking very inviting.

Funding support was provided through an \$830,000 Works for Queensland State Government grant and Redland City Council.

Supported by Council, a Disaster Chaplaincy Hotline has been established to help those affected by COVID-19. It operates daily from 8am-8pm on: 1800 841 106

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