



News from your local councillor

Cr Tracey Huges

Division 8: Wellington Point, Alexandra Hills, Birkdale and Capalaba

June 2020

Dear resident,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support in returning me as your Councillor for Division 8 and also to welcome my new Capalaba and Wellington Point residents who have joined our division following the electoral boundary redistribution which came into effect with the election.

As my eyes and ears in the community, I am always keen to hear your thoughts on issues which affect our area, so please stop for a chat when you see me out and about. Your views are important to me and to Council as we make the decisions needed to get our

city back on track following the impact of COVID-19.

It is great to see the transformation of Valentine Park, Alexandra Hills, is now completed, with the cricket pitch, dog off-leash area, shelter and auxiliary works very popular additions. The new amenities block, along with a beautiful new playground including primary and toddler play units, are being well used at the MacKay Street entrance to the park. This is an entertaining destination park for the

whole family, so please enjoy. An exciting surprise addition is coming soon!

Where you need my assistance, I can be reached via the contacts listed below. Also, please know that you can give me a call at any time if you or your family need my services as a JP. It is my privilege to support you and work with the diverse community that now makes up Division 8.

T. Huges.

Cr Tracey Huges – Division 8

Garden crew 'growing together'

The wonderful crew at Alexandra Hills' Oaklands Street Community Gardens is keen for locals to join them and get involved with this awesome community space.

Evidence of their motto - "Growing Together" - is everywhere in the gardens behind the Keith Surridge Park AFL grounds, with volunteers and visitors always welcome.

Fifteen years ago, Connect 2 came up with the idea for the garden with a vision for a place where everyone, not just gardeners, could thrive. Member Tony recalls that the mission was to "make it real" and over the years the gardens have evolved into a local "Eden" thanks to a band of dedicated volunteers, young and old.

The gardens, which now host a multitude of local groups, have been supported by Council since their inception with assistance, grants and promotion to help it become a place that all residents can enjoy. The Oaklands team welcomes newcomers from all backgrounds and no gardening experience is necessary. All are welcome to enjoy the spirit of the place, learn the skills of growing organically, enjoy the taste of the freshest fruit and veggies, meet new friends, and know the satisfaction that comes with a job well done.

The gardens are tended using simple organic methods and are also home to quite a variety of wildlife. Everything in the garden is shared ... especially knowledge and friendship. There's also a range of different activities to suit everyone (the nursery is great for those who have a little trouble bending!) as well as an adventure playground. If you want to find out more, call Terry Sullivan on 0408 259 445.

The gardens are open on Sundays from 2pm-5pm and Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am-12pm.



WELCOME: Oaklands Street Community Gardens is a thriving 'Eden' thanks to a band of dedicated volunteers.

Your Council is here to help

Council has measures in place to ensure eligible ratepayers, community groups and clubs directly affected by COVID-19 can access provisions to waive, suspend or defer Council fees. Payment arrangements for rates and utility charges are also available to support you at this time.

Through our business support program, dedicated officers are also assisting local businesses and groups with information about the various government support programs available.

You can keep up to date with the support available and the COVID-19 measures still in place by staying connected with Council via our COVID-19 Business and Community page. The very helpful team at Council's Customer Contact Centre on 3829 8999 can also direct you from 8am-5pm Monday to Friday.

Getting Redlands Coast moving

Council has provided a \$2 million stimulus package so far to help residents, businesses and community and sports groups recover from the effects of COVID-19.

Council also has already put forward for funding 64 projects worth \$82.9 million that we will be ready to deliver under the Local Government Association of Queensland's job-creating Battleplan for Queensland Local Communities.

The city's "buy local" preference has also been strengthened, with the benefits already starting to flow through.

Council has established a dedicated webpage with industry-specific information and regular updates about government support packages, COVID-19 fact sheets and resources to support businesses at this time.

Future tourism campaigns are also being developed to promote and encourage post-COVID visitation to Redlands Coast.

Helping our clubs

Council is developing support packages for local sporting and community clubs, as well as offering assistance in accessing potential funding streams.

Clubs directly affected by COVID-19 can access Council's provisions to waive, suspend or defer Council fees.

A one-off contribution equivalent to three months of network charges has also been made available to clubs and associations directly affected by COVID-19 and registered under Council's Community Electricity Scheme.

Grants assistance

Council has introduced targeted grants to support local businesses and community organisations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic totalling approximately \$290,000.

It has also focused its Advancing Regional Innovation Program budget to support businesses introducing innovation to their business operations of approximately \$80,000, bringing the total grants assistance pool to \$370,000. For details, go to Council's COVID-19 Business and Community page at redland.qld.gov.au

Public centres and spaces

Council is working to restore operations across the city, with popular services such as libraries already open under state rules with some restrictions.

For the latest on what's happening at the libraries, art galleries, Redland Performing Arts Centre, IndigiScapes and Animal Shelter, check Council's website.

Parks, playground equipment, dog off-leash areas, skate parks, outdoor exercise equipment, basketball hoops, picnic settings and barbecues have re-opened subject to state rules.

Watching your back

The Redland City Local Disaster Management Group continues to monitor COVID-19 developments around the clock and is working closely with state authorities and Councillors to ensure the safety and resilience of residents.

Stay informed

Council's recovery measures are guided by the State Government and its expert medical advice. You can monitor the latest state directives and advice by visiting the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus

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](tel:1800841106)

Security upgrade

I am pleased to advise that the Capalaba Community Centre and bus interchange precincts, which are now part of Division 8, have had a substantial security upgrade with Council installing cameras to monitor behaviour. All up, there are 31 cameras – 19 at the bus interchange and 12 around the community centre and library building. It is the culmination of a lot of work by Council, police and traders to address and maintain safety in the area between the shopping centres. Council received funding from the Federal Government's Safer Communities program towards the cost of the security cameras.



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