



News from your local councillor

Cr Rowanne McKenzie

Division 7: Capalaba/Alexandra Hills/Thornlands/Cleveland

June 2020

Dear resident,

It is with great privilege that I write my first official Councillor newsletter and I thank you for your support in electing me as your new representative for Division 7.

I would also like to acknowledge former Councillor Murray Elliott and, on behalf of residents, wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

I am committed to our community and to serving out the next term to the best of my abilities and to representing your best interests in Council.

There are many ways we can all contribute to a vibrant and connected city and I encourage you to get involved in an event or organisation that resonates with you, as well as engage with Council on local issues.

I also encourage you to be the eyes and ears of our community. If a tree needs pruning, a pothole, footpath, street sign or Council equipment needs repairing, or you see any other issue that requires attention, please contact Council immediately. By working as a collective body we can lift the

stature of our community and take pride in our neighbourhood.

As your new Councillor, I feel it's important to establish clear and open lines of communication with my community. You may call or email me with any ideas or suggestions that will shape our neighbourhood. My contact details are included in this newsletter.

Redlands Coast is a special place for my family (pictured) and, with your input and continued support, I look forward to what we can achieve together over the next four years.

Kind regards,

Rowanne McKenzie

Cr Rowanne McKenzie
Division 7

 Connect with me on Facebook



Keep Redlands Coast wonderful

With COVID-19 many of us have been embracing our naturally wonderful Redlands Coast. We've been visiting our recreation and conservation areas for outdoor exercise and rediscovering the beauty of our area. The downside has been that rubbish has not always been disposed of correctly. Let's work together by placing rubbish in a nearby bin or taking it home for disposal.

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.

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WELCOME: Alexandra Hills' 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

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You can 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 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, Wednesdays from 9am-12pm and Fridays from 9am-12pm and membership fees are kept to a minimum.



TOGETHER: Alexandra Hills' Oaklands Street Community Gardens.

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