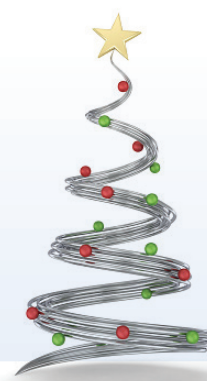




A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams



November 2020

Merry Christmas Redlands Coast

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the role you have played in helping to keep our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and to wish you all the best for Christmas and the year ahead. While COVID has hit many residents hard and Christmas will be tough for some this year, I hope the joy that comes with catching up with family and friends will make for a brighter end to what has been a testing year.

Redlands Coast will ring in this Christmas with a new program of festivities delivered

in a COVID-safe way. Hosted by Redland City Council, this year's Christmas program will combine the annual lighting of the city's Christmas tree and Christmas by Starlight into a multi-day festival. There is more information on the back of this newsletter.

From the onset of COVID-19 early this year, we asked much of our residents and I am most appreciative of the way our community became invested in our efforts to keep the virus at bay and also supported local businesses and traders. I

encourage you to keep up the "buy local" effort this holiday season as it will go a long way to ensuring a good start to 2021.

Council, as one of Redlands Coast's largest employers, has been doing whatever it takes to support residents and businesses, including assistance for those doing it tough along with advice for businesses and residents trying to cope with losses of income and jobs. We have provided a total \$3 million safety net to be used to help those most impacted by the pandemic and continue to implement an \$80 million capital program aimed at generating and preserving local jobs and sustaining vital community infrastructure and services.

Once again, I hope you and your family have a safe and satisfying holiday and that we can work together in 2021 to continue to make Redlands Coast the best place to live, work and do business.

K Williams

Cr Karen Williams
Mayor of Redland City

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GOOD TIMES: Best wishes for the holiday season from my family to yours.

Vital projects brought forward

Our advocacy for a range of shovel-ready projects to protect jobs and boost the local economy has paid dividends, with the bringing forward of upgrades for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands ferry terminals; expansion of the Redlands Hospital to deliver a new 32-bed ward and new six-bed intensive care unit; and funding for the upgrade of the Cleveland Aquatic Centre.

We also have thrown our support behind proposals for fast rail links which would ultimately connect the Sunshine and Gold coasts and Toowoomba, a 20-year project which would have significant spin-off

benefits for Redlands Coast, especially if we can get State Government approval for the much-needed duplication of the Cleveland rail line. It would allow Redlands Coast residents fast rail access to these major South East Queensland centres – and vice versa.

As part of our investment in the future, we have been encouraged by the automated vehicle trial on Karragarra Island, which will now continue at Cleveland. Our preparations also continue for the Redlands Coast Regional Sport and Recreation Precinct at Mount Cotton and the rejuvenation of the Capalaba

CBD, with substantial upgrades to parks and community facilities under way across the city.

We have also approved funding for the first stage of the \$90 million Wellington Street duplication at Thornlands, which will make a big difference to people's daily lives by alleviating peak-hour congestion through Redlands Coast, improving work commute times and increasing safety at intersections. Construction of the first stage is expected to start in 2021, be completed in 2023 and create upwards of 140 jobs.

Mayor Karen Williams

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'Hole-in-one' moment for Redlands Coast

Filming of international hit sports reality show *Holey Moley* at Thornlands last month injected \$20 million into the local economy, created 100 local jobs and will be a massive promotion of Redlands Coast when it airs early next year. The miniature golf obstacle course, with 96 contestants and \$100,000 winners' prize, wrapped up filming last month.

Eureka Productions' first Australian series has provided opportunities for the construction and tourism sectors, including accommodation providers and local suppliers, particularly in areas such as landscaping, construction, security, waste management, and food and beverage. Alexandra Hills Hotel was booked out by the crew, while two other local accommodation providers also

hosted cast and crew members. As well as the massive temporary obstacle courses on the \$4.5 million set, the production company developed a temporary tech village on the site. Kennards Hire at



DRIVE: Teeing off on the *Holey Moley* set with Eureka Productions' Rikkie Proost.

Cleveland was another local business that assisted the production company that had dozens of demountables on site, while local security firm MSE kept everything safe.

More than 2500 locals and visitors took up the offer to be audience members and will be on the lookout for themselves when the show, hosted by Sonia Kruger, Matt Shirvington and Rob Riggle, goes to air in January 2021. Local tertiary and vocational film industry students have also gained valuable work experience on set. To underscore Redlands Coast's film-friendly credentials, *Love and Monsters*, filmed at Alexandra Hills and Siromet Winery, has also gone to air in the US. Council is part of Screen Queensland's Film Friendly Pathways Program.

Community approach to domestic violence

I have high hopes a ground-breaking project to train local community organisations to readily identify and report instances of domestic and family violence will ensure that more people get the help they need.

It is hoped our six-month pilot project in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), which is well underway, will provide other councils throughout Queensland with a blueprint for easing the social and personal trauma of domestic and family violence in their communities.

The aim is to provide specialised training and support to "front line" community groups to make it easier for those affected by such violence to get help. Redland City

Council has been steadfast in its support of those affected by domestic and family violence and we are proud to be the first council in the state to partner with the LGAQ on this trial.

It was also great to see the response to our annual fundraiser. This year it was a new-look live stage show called *Musique en Rouge*, which substantially added to the \$330,000 raised over the past six years to support those affected by domestic and family violence.

I was honoured recently to be named on Queensland's inaugural Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Honour Roll and believe that anything we can do to influence and drive social change to reduce abuse is well worth the effort.



COMMUNITY VOICE: I am proud to have been named on Queensland's inaugural Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Honour Roll, along with local philanthropists Dan Holzapfel and Ros Kinder, Red Rose Foundation CEO Betty Taylor, long-time domestic violence advocate Rosemary Skelly, Centre for Women and Co CEO Stacey Ross and the committee members of Diner en Rouge.

For domestic violence assistance contact DV Connect on 1800 811 811 or the Centre for Women & Co on 3050 3060.

Join us to celebrate the season

Redlands Coast will ring in this Christmas with a new program of festivities delivered in a COVID-safe way. Hosted by Redland City Council, this year's program will combine the annual lighting of the city's Christmas tree and Christmas by Starlight into a multi-day festival.

Each night there will also be performances by some of the region's talented singers and entertainers, exciting Christmas activities and rides, and the lighting of the city's new Christmas tree.

To be held over several days in the lead-up to Christmas to ensure COVID requirements are met, it will also include a range of local food trucks and market stalls. At the time of going to print, the details were still being finalised, so keep an eye on redland.qld.gov.au/Christmas for more information.

Please 'Get Ready'

Council is stepping up preparations for bushfire and storm season and I urge residents to do the same.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is to be prepared for such events and to have a bushfire survival plan, especially if you live in island and hinterland areas. If fire breaks out, there is often little time to escape to safety, so having a survival plan and practising it can save lives. It is also important to stay informed, which you can do by monitoring Council's news site, social media and Disaster Dashboard at disaster.redland.qld.gov.au. Council has continued its hazard reduction program throughout the year but we all need to play our part to ensure community safety.

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