



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Lance Hewlett Deputy Mayor

November 2019

COOCHIE  
EDITION

### Dear resident,

With 2019 drawing to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry and blessed Christmas, as well as a safe and prosperous New Year.

The Christmas season is marked by a variety of joyous celebrations with friends and family, but it is also a time to think about those less fortunate than ourselves and to extend a hand of friendship and help to those need it most.

As in previous years, my wife Sheena is organising a toy drive to support the local Redlands Coast community through donations to the Redlands Community Centre and Champions Church Support Services. Anyone who wishes to contribute, please feel free to contact me for details. Collection can be organised.

These are also exciting times for our local school communities, where senior students are leaving their school to transition to their careers or to undertake further studies, while



*GOODWILL: Christmas wrapping at Victoria Point Shopping Centre.*

Year 6 students will be starting their first year in secondary school in 2020. Other students, teachers and staff will get a well-deserved break after a very busy year.

Being involved in the local school communities has been one of the most rewarding parts of my role as

your Councillor. We are so fortunate to have such amazing educational facilities and quality educators virtually at our door.

As members of RedVic Lions, look out in the coming weeks for me and other Lions wrapping Christmas presents at Victoria Point Shopping Centre. A gold coin donation per gift represents excellent value and supports a very worthy cause.

Also look out for my fortnightly Council information booth at local shopping centres and check my Facebook page for regular updates. I am also happy to meet with you to discuss any issue, by appointment, in your home or at my office. Call 3829 8603 to organise a meeting. Enjoy the Christmas season and please stay safe.

**Cr Lance Hewlett** Division 4



Please connect with me on Facebook to stay posted on all local issues.

### SEMP update

Coochie's Shoreline Erosion Study has recently been completed taking in feedback from the community reference group.

The study outlines the environmental, social, cultural and technical considerations to inform the island's Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP), with the community reference group sharing its observations and experiences in relation to the erosion that has occurred at various locations.

Work is now underway on the development of a draft SEMP, which will specify the preferred approach to coastal erosion management and is expected to be available for public comment by the end of the year.

As chair of the SEMP Community Reference Group, I have sincerely appreciated the time and resources dedicated by individuals and the representatives of various Coochie community groups for their valuable contributions to the SEMP process.





## Helping hand for community

It has been my privilege to help a range of worthy groups important to residents through the Mayor and Councillors' Community Benefit Fund.

The money has been used for a variety of purposes, especially the purchase of vital equipment.

Recent grants have included:

- Redlands Touch Association
- Tranquil Waters Residents' Association Committee
- Southern Bay Cyclones Junior Rugby Union Club
- Redland City Bands
- Night Ninjas
- Redlands United Football Club
- Redlands Floral Art Club
- Coochie Historical Society
- Capalaba Amateur Fishing Club
- Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare
- Queensland Scouts
- Bayside Initiatives Group
- Horizon Foundation
- Guides Queensland Victoria Point
- Redlands Creative Alliance
- VMR Victoria Point



*ON SONG: Presenting the grant to Tranquil Waters Retirement Village president Rosemary Skelly to help buy a sound system for the Tranquil Tones Choir.*

## Supporting a valuable service

I was recently honoured to be named patron of Meals on Wheels Victoria Point for another year. I also have been proud to support this wonderful community organisation through my small grants program. I have been volunteer meal deliverer for eight years, among the 15,000 volunteers across Queensland who make Meals on Wheels possible, delivering two million meals a year to more than 10,000 clients. That's no small feat for an iconic organisation that has been established for more than 60 years. If you'd like to be a volunteer or a client and have delicious, home-cooked meals delivered daily, call 3207 7126 to organise.



*GREAT SERVICE: With the Meals on Wheels committee, from left, secretary Debbie Schimkat, vice-president Emma Graham, treasurer Megan Wilkie and president Garry White.*

## Save the date

Council organises, sponsors or supports a range of events including:

- Mt Cotton Christmas in the Park - 3.30pm-7.30pm, Sunday 24 November, Mt Cotton Community Park.
- Lighting of Council's Christmas Tree - 4pm-8pm, Friday 29 November, Cleveland Library Square.
- Council's Christmas by Starlight community carols - 4pm-8pm, 14 December, Norm Price Park, Cleveland Showgrounds.
- Coochie markets - Christmas market, Sunday 1 December. Australia Day Markets, 9am-2pm, Sunday 26 January. Main Beach, Coochiemudlo Island.

Meanwhile, the Victoria Point Markets are on again on Sunday 8 December at the Sharks Sporting Club, Colburn Avenue. Market convenor and local resident Nicole Kennon is excited by the community's support for these popular markets and encourages those interested in having a stall to please contact her at victoriapointmarkets@gmail.com or phone or text 0421 132 376.

## Living on the Edge - a balancing act

Coochie Coastcare has been awarded a Redland City Council conservation grant to develop a publication to create greater awareness of the rights and responsibilities of living in such a special place, surrounded by marine Park and RAMSAR wetlands.

The guide for residents, Living on the Edge, will be developed with Council, State Government and other stakeholders, with the aim to preserve foreshore values and ensure the needs of both marine and terrestrial wildlife are better understood and nurtured.

It will offer information on a range of topics from bush-stone curlews and shorebirds, sustainable fishing and crabbing, the importance of wildlife linkages and healthy bush beaches

A working party will be established to oversee development over the next year of the eight-page information booklet which will be available in hard copy and online for both residents and visitors.

Coochiemudlo Islanders have a proud history of preserving what's unique and the recent Council heritage listing of the Emerald Fringe encircling the island is testament to that community spirit.

This publication will be a welcome resource and will hopefully create better understanding of the reasoning behind local laws relating to compliance issues such as beach fires, camping, vegetation clearance and animal management.



*HIDDEN TREASURE: A Council crew recently came to the rescue of an almost invisible curlew sitting on eggs, minutes before the mowing team arrived.*