



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Paul Bishop

November 2019

### Dear fellow citizen,

It is once again approaching the festive time of year as graduating students and family members adjust to the summer schedule and preparations for Christmas.

On behalf of Council, I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our teachers, youth, families and guardians, as well as the great work done by volunteers and parents' groups, as demonstrated by Birkdale State School's recent Halloween-theme fete and St Mary Mackillop Primary's Family Fun Day, which were tremendously well organised and supported by the community.

I would also like to acknowledge the benefits created by those families who choose to support local businesses, as well as those business owners who employ locals and provide training opportunities for youth.

The more we keep local dollars in the local economy, the more inherent health, wealth and well-being we co-create, so **think local** as much as possible.

Enjoy these articles and know that my family and I wish you all the

best as we approach the year 2020. PS: I urge householders to prepare for storm season in case of extreme weather. You will find helpful information at [disaster.redland.qld.gov.au](http://disaster.redland.qld.gov.au)



**Cr Paul Bishop  
Division 10**

Connect with me at **CrPaulBishop**

### Upgraded gymnasium equipment

It's great to see people enjoying the refurbished all-age gymnasium equipment in Thorneside's Beth Boyd Park. So many people love this area, so I'm pleased Council has recently undertaken repairs to the boat play structure to make it safe and useable for young and old while Council plans the future of this park.



### Boundary changes

The Local Government Change Commission has decided on boundary changes for Division 10 from the next election in March. These changes are primarily to align with Division 8.

In the south-east, Howeston Golf Course and the Birkdale Commonwealth lands will be returned to the division. In the south-west, Division 10 will gain properties north of Old Cleveland Road East, up to and including Sunnybay Drive along Tarradarrapin Creek and extending north along Pitt, Hardy and Badgen roads to Three Paddocks Park, including Thomas Street.



### Mobile library visit to seniors

The new, more compact mobile library has the ability to get to new places.

I was delighted to help negotiate its first visit to Regis Birkdale aged-care facility, which adjoins Wellington Manor Retirement Village, which proved a great success.

Some residents found Council's books with large print a great delight, while others discovered audio-books, DVDs and magazines to be a real treat.

If you have residents who really need assistance with home delivery of library books, Council has a service that may assist.

While future mobile site visits to this site are possible, the schedule is likely to be quarterly, subject to interest and availability.

Let me know what you think about this as an initiative. For more information about our library services, go to [www.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au). The mobile library visits Beth Boyd Park, Thorneside, on Tuesdays from 2pm-5pm.

## Passing of a local legend

Many people knew Isabella Alcock as “The Goat Lady” of Birkdale and some locals knew her as Ann Porter. But few realise that she lived for 61 years on the property that, with her mother and grandmother, she helped save from development due to their continued animal husbandry practices.

The land to the west of Old Cleveland Road, north of Jones Road, was initially selected by pioneers James and Margaret Willard in 1863. In 1940, James Cotton and his family moved there with plans for a country estate. In 1942, when the Japanese Imperial Forces began attacking Australia, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces General Douglas MacArthur claimed the site as the base headquarters for the innovative new radio telecommunications infrastructure that would ultimately change the future of the “free world”.

Cotton’s Farm became the receiving station for all incoming messages that MacArthur’s forces used until the historic surrender message came to Birkdale from Emperor Hirohito

in August 1945. The first ever use of SIGSALY, an unhackable encryption code that is considered to be the birth of the internet, took place on this site.

After World War II, as the US soldiers left, Isabella and her mother used Cotton’s Farm for dairy, sheep and cattle grazing. They milked the Cotton family’s two cows as part of the deal, while Doug waited to get his land back from the Australian Government which had inherited the abandoned radio infrastructure after the US troops decamped.

When Cotton needed to prove ownership, he asked the ladies to say the cattle were his, and that he had kept farming since the war. However, they refused, fearing eviction and Isabella and her mother were eventually given an ongoing lease. Cotton lost his private development rights, while the land transferred into public ownership - the main reason the area has not been developed for housing.

Isabella lived on site from 1953 until 2014, when she suffered a fall, and



*LOCAL TREASURE: I was privileged to help Isabella Alcock record her stories.*

more than 150 years of pioneering land management came to an end. While she lived most of her life like those pioneers in the early days, Isabella spent her last five years in comfort at a local nursing home, where I had the chance to record her stories and learn her history until she passed away in late September.

She leaves no family, yet she has left us all a lasting legacy, as we consider the importance of this land in the future. For more information, web-search “The Goat Lady, Birkdale”.

## Proposed Birkdale Fair development

A recent development application (MCU19/0142) for 2-12 Mary Pleasant Drive, which includes a medical centre (next to Woolies) and proposed MacDonalDs on the Birkdale Road/Mary Pleasant Drive corner has been very topical.

In order to acknowledge widely different views by residents, I will broadly describe the planning parameters which are critical to the process of assessment: There are two categories of development assessments: “Code” and “Impact”.

“Code” broadly means the development uses are generally consistent with the zoning of the land but an assessment is required to ensure that the development meets the assessment codes. Code assessment does not go through a public notification process. “Impact” means that the development use may not have been anticipated and is a broader assessment of the merits of the proposed development, and includes formal public notification.

As the development proposes uses that are anticipated in the district centre zone, the application is code assessable in accordance with the City Plan. Yet, some residents have raised concerns about other potential impacts that this development may pose.

While there is no public notification process, anyone can make comment on the proposal in writing to Council before the application is decided. If you have thoughts or concerns in line with relevant planning considerations, I would urge you to do so in the next month to ensure these are considered before a decision is made. Please contact me on 0478 836 286 or [paul.bishop@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:paul.bishop@redland.qld.gov.au)



## Registering your pet is easy

Make sure your cat or dog is registered with Council. It’s as easy as visiting [redland.qld.gov.au/RegisterPet](http://redland.qld.gov.au/RegisterPet) or visiting one of Council’s Customer Service Centres. It is mandatory for all cats and dogs over the age of 12 weeks to be registered.