



News from your Local Councillor Cr Lance Hewlett

November 2018

COOCHIE
EDITION

Dear Coochie resident

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner, so I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

This is the time of year when we reconnect with family and friends in the true spirit of the season. It's also the time of year when my calendar is full of many end-of-year celebrations and ceremonies at our local schools.

These are especially exciting for senior students who are leaving their school communities to begin their careers or to undertake further studies and for Year 6 students who will be transitioning to secondary school in 2019.

One of the highlights for me, as it is every year, was participating in the 2019 school leaders interviews at Victoria Point State High School, during which I was highly impressed by the calibre of all candidates. All



HIGHLIGHT: With Victoria Point State High School P&C past president Stephanie Morris and principal Scott Steinhardt during the school leader interviews.

will make wonderful leaders in the future. I have been a member of the Victoria Point High School P&C for seven years and it has been a privilege to be a small part of the journey of these fine young adults.

More than 300 new students will start Year 7 at the school next year, so best of luck to them all as they start a new and important chapter in their lives.

Landcare in focus during island tour

Delegates attending the National Landcare Conference in Brisbane recently were treated to a field trip to Coochie.

The full-day program hosted by Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare showcased the saturated steam weeding project funded by the State Government, as well as the Landcare

interpretive signage project in the Melaleuca Wetlands. Both projects were undertaken in collaboration with Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and rangers Brandon Martin and Elijah Addley were on hand to assist.

Weedtechnics Australia CEO Jeremy Winer helped with technical

queries, while trained volunteers demonstrated the success of saturated steam to reduce noxious weeds in coastal zones.

A highlight of the day was a walk along Coochie's trademark sandy bush beaches, pictured, to inspect restoration works following the storm surge from ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013.

The works, a collaborative project between Redland City Council, SEQ Catchments and Coastcare cover almost a kilometre of shoreline from the Melaleuca Wetlands north to Main Beach east.

Council is currently developing a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan led by consultancy, BMT Global and supported by the local community.





REFLECTION: With Member for Redlands Kim Richards at the nearly completed Coochiemudlo Island War Memorial.

Honouring our heroes

It has become evident in recent years that Redlands Coast's residents are embracing the various war memorial services across the city.

We are turning out in our thousands for Anzac Day services, as well as the other special days of reverence such as Remembrance Day and Long Tan Day, where we have the opportunity to honour, remember and pay respects to Australia's fallen and returned service men, women and even animals of war.

Although many residents attend the services at Cleveland and Redland Bay, the services at the Coochiemudlo Island War Memorial are indeed special and very moving experiences.

I was pleased this financial year to seize the opportunity

to combine funding from my Community Infrastructure Fund and the State Government's Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program to enhance the Coochiemudlo War Memorial with the inclusion of a "reflection" space with engraved sandstone seating to complement the existing memorial. There is now a walkway which provides disability access to the memorial.

I sincerely appreciated the support of Member for Redlands Kim Richards, Mayor Karen Williams, Council officers, the Coochie Heritage Society, Coochiemudlo Progress Association and Coochiemudlo Coastcare in delivering this great project for the residents of the island and the broader Redlands Coast.

Market day

Mark down 9am-2pm on Sunday 2 December for Coochie's Christmas market.

It promises to be a great day next to the beach with a variety of stalls, plenty of food and information outlets. There is always live music plus plenty of activities for visitors to this beautiful spot.

Public toilet

A contractor has been engaged for work on the Coochiemudlo Island public toilet block. The existing artwork will be documented as part of the island's history. Council is now working with the contractor on the works schedule, so keep an eye on my Facebook page for updates.

Become an emergency 'Island Champion'

With the summer storm season here, Council is seeking volunteers to train to play an active role in Coochie's disaster management.

We are currently recruiting for the new Coochiemudlo Island Community Champions Program, which recognises the benefits of local input and immediate response on the island.

This program is an innovative response to the isolation of island

communities, recognising the critical importance of local knowledge and having a reliable first point of contact for information and assistance already on the ground should a natural disaster threaten.

Island community champions must be permanent local residents not currently volunteering for other emergency agencies. Call 3829 8999 or email emergency@redland.qld.gov.au

Island art project

A consultant curator has been engaged to work with the Coochie community and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation on the island art and sign project.

A design brief will be now developed and then an artist selected.

The brief will be for artwork on the jetty and a welcome sign at Coochie which honours island community input and the Quandamooka story.

Best wishes to all

In 2019, I intend to continue to be as accessible to the community as possible and will keep you updated on what's happening in the local area via:

- My fortnightly Councillor information booths at local shopping centres;
- My regular Council newsletter;
- Regular updates on my Facebook page.

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.

Please enjoy the coming season and stay safe.

Cr Lance Hewlett Division 4

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