



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Hall upgrades aid resilience

The Russell Island and Macleay Island halls will be upgraded to better serve residents in times of potential emergencies.

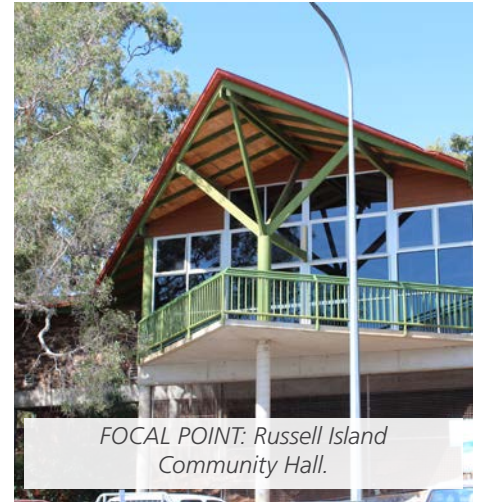
It follows Council's successful bid for funding under the State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Resilience Program for upgrades to evacuation centres across the city. Council will fund 40 percent of the upgrades.

The halls will get an onsite generator system to ensure continuity of power.

The work is expected to be finished by mid-2019.

Council has also received a donation of a mobile shower trailer from the Rotary Clubs of Salisbury that will provide additional capacity should residents ever need to evacuate their homes. Automatic flooded road warning signs will also be installed at five critical water crossings across the city.

The upgrades will reduce our vulnerability to natural disasters and help to build community resilience.



FOCAL POINT: Russell Island Community Hall.

Helping community

I am pleased to be able to assist a range of worthy local groups through my Councillor Small Grants program.

These grants are a small way that I can recognise and help the great work being done for fellow residents by members of sporting, youth, cultural and not-for-profit groups.

As local Councillor, I am privileged to see the extent of the work that is done every day in our community and I regularly hear just how much it is valued by residents.

Recently I have been able to help Bay Islands Chamber of Commerce, the local Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Bay Islands Multi-Sports and Recreation Club and Bay Islands Golf Club.

These grants will support the growth of these great organisations which do so much to engage and support island families.

Redland City Council also supports community projects from cultural events to wildlife programs through its annual community grants program and I urge anyone with an initiative that clearly benefits our community to apply.

For eligibility criteria and to learn more about how to apply for grants or sponsorship, visit

www.redland.qld.gov.au/Grants, email grants@redland.qld.gov.au or call 3829 8999.

Macleay Island carpark update

The Macleay Island carpark project will include significant landscaping to more than offset the trees which needed to be removed to allow the work to be done.

Some of the removed trees will be put to good use with island sculptor Ted Upton eager to use them for sculptures.

Ted's popular carved "Regina" bench seat, pictured, will also be secure, with Ted working closely with site contractors and Council to ensure its safe removal during construction.

The "Regina" seat is one of seven carved by Ted out of local timbers and installed at viewing spots along Macleay's 24km heritage trail.

Once the new carpark is finished, the "Regina" seat, which remembers the wife of islander Danny Wachtel, will return to its popular location near the jetty.



The approved carpark construction plans sought to minimise tree loss but some had to be removed to deliver the long-awaited \$8 million expansion of the commuter carpark and associated works that, when complete, will provide at least 178 parking bays, three new boat ramps and permanent entombment of onsite asbestos. I was able to negotiate to have the trees east of the jetty saved from removal.

The completed site will include significant landscaping work. As well as thousands of ground covers, tube stock plants and shrubs, this will also include at least 48 native trees planted in various growth sizes. This is designed to ensure the softening of the carpark landscape as a key entrance point for Macleay Island's growing popularity as part of Redlands Coast.



Erosion under the bank east of Karragarra Island jetty.



A section off Lamb Island's Tina Avenue affected by erosion.

Experts to tackle coastal erosion

Redland City Council will hold a series of workshops with local experts and State Government representatives in August to ensure it has identified every area in Division 5 affected by coastal erosion.

Redland Bay and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands are all exposed to the impact of natural hazards on coastal areas, with work done recently to protect the foreshore at Bay Street, Redland Bay.

The State Department of Environment and Science has provided \$490,000 for Council to develop a Coastal Hazards

Adaptation Strategy under the QCoast2100 Program. This will identify areas at risk, the level of risk and Council's response, taking into account what the community wants done in each location.

The workshops will include one focused on erosion on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra Islands.

Council has benefited from the input of "citizen scientists" who photographed and/or reported on new or previously unidentified hotspots during community engagement last year.

Find out about planned burns

Council's contractor recently completed burns on several island blocks as part of its 2018 Planned Burn Program to reduce fuel loads in case of fires.

Active Planned Burns can be tracked on Council's website at www.redland.qld.gov.au/WorksUpdate.

Council also has engaged the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee

Aboriginal Corporation to undertake a cultural heritage survey on Russell Island and, once completed, Council will be doing the planned Fire Review works, including establishing trail networks and firebreaks adjacent to private properties.

While much of this work will be focussed on Russell Island, firebreaks will also be established on Macleay Island.

Climactic conditions certainly play a role when it comes to planned burns and they need to be right for them to go ahead, so their timing can be subject to change.

While the island program was hindered earlier this winter by high winds and rain, slashing has continued to reduce fuel loads.

Green Seal program

Council expects to seal more than 7km of island roads as part of its Green Seal program this financial year.

The work will also include additional road widening and drainage works.

As well as the Green Seal program, Council recognises that island roads sealed decades ago may need to be resealed.

Council will be undertaking a survey of island roads to identify and prioritise those requiring maintenance seal work so that budget bids can be put forward.

Wild encounters

To report sick or injured wildlife, call Redlands 24-hour Wildlife Rescue on 3833 4031.



Keep in touch

Why not join the hundreds of residents who have already contacted me for help with an issue?

You can email me anytime at mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au or telephone 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 - Islands