



News from your **Local Councillor** Cr Paul Gollè

November 2017



Dear resident of Division 3

As the regional mosquito management chair, I urge residents to get on the front foot when it comes to mosquitoes and ensure your yards are free of possible breeding sites.

Rain, coupled with warmer weather, has provided ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes but there are measures people can take to protect themselves.

Council will increase its inspections of known breeding sites and we encourage everyone to do the same in their own backyards.

Mosquitoes are endemic in our coastal environment and it is impossible to eradicate them completely, but everyone in the community can take simple steps to assist Council in our efforts to reduce numbers.

Council spends about \$845,000 on the Mosquito Management Program annually but does allocate more when necessary.

During 2016-17, we did 24 aerial treatments covering about 12,500ha and another 357ha by ground application.

So far this financial year, there have been four aerial treatments and these will continue throughout the breeding season when our surveillance identifies breeding occurring in treatment areas.

We treat these areas by helicopter as they are large and, at times, inaccessible. We conduct ground treatments in areas we can access safely once we identify breeding.

But we need residents to also do their bit. People are often surprised how little water it takes for mosquitoes to breed – even the water at the bottom of a pot plant base is enough.

Please check your yard, emptying water pooling in items such as toys, boats, fallen palm fronds, blocked roof gutters and old tyres. It's also timely to check your insect screens are in good condition and, in areas where mosquitos and biting midges are particularly prevalent,



Aerial spraying is used to target mosquitoes in inaccessible areas.

consider treating screens with a UV-stable insecticide.

Council's mosquito team targets mosquito larvae or "wrigglers" before they can fly and bite and has an inspection program to monitor larvae numbers and the efficacy of our treatments.

But they are unable to treat biting midge larvae, as their prime breeding grounds are natural coastal habitats where it is illegal to spray with the required insecticides.

For personal protection from biting midges and mosquitos, residents should avoid being outside during peak activity periods at dusk and dawn where possible, use insect repellent and wear light-coloured, long, loose-fitting clothing.

Council has a very close relationship with the mosquito management teams in our neighbouring areas. For example, Tingalpa Creek is treated by both Redland City Council and Brisbane City Council. For this reason, as well as our efforts to maintain best practice mosquito management, Council engages in ongoing collaboration with neighbouring Councils to ensure the effective management and treatment of mosquito numbers for the region.

You can find more about mosquito management at www.redland.qld.gov.au.

Dealing with midges

Biting midges – or sandflies – literally come with the territory in our part of the world.

Unfortunately there is little we can do about them as there are no midge-specific insecticides available. And even if there were, it would be difficult if not impossible to treat larvae that are living in mud, unlike mosquitoes which breed in water.

Intertidal habitats, especially those associated with mangroves, are protected under State Government fisheries legislation and general insecticides cannot be used in these areas.

This is because most of these insecticides are highly toxic to fish and crustaceans and their use could easily lead to fish kills.

There are no products registered in Australia for the control of intertidal biting midges in natural habitats such as mangroves.

Unfortunately there are no other scientifically proven, environmentally appropriate and cost-effective ways to manage midges.

While Council can't control biting midges or larvae with chemical sprays, it does however partner with industry research bodies and other councils to keep up to date with the latest research and practices.

Thankfully, midges are not known to transmit any human diseases in Australia.



Get in the festive spirit

Redland City Council has an awesome community Christmas celebration planned for this year.

The first major event will be the lighting of the city's Christmas tree in Cleveland's Library Square, on the corner of Bloomfield and Middle streets, from 5pm-7.30pm on Friday, 1 December.

You are all welcome to come along to celebrate the beginning of the festive season, with a heap of free Christmas fun and entertainment on offer.

The event will include the Twilight Makers Market, "Christmas on Bloomfield", from 4pm.

Then Christmas by Starlight, the Redlands' biggest free community event, returns to Norm Price Park - Redlands Showgrounds in the heart of the city on Saturday 16 December.

From 3pm-8pm, the park at Long Street, Cleveland, will host a wide range of free activities, including a children's show, traditional Christmas carols and fireworks.

Council closures

Phone services:

Closed from 5pm, Friday 22 December, re-opening 8am, 2 January, 2018

Cleveland and Capalaba Customer Service Counters:

Closed from 4.30pm, Friday 22 December, re-opening 8.30am, 2 January, 2018

Victoria Point Customer Service Counter:

Closed from 5pm, Friday 22 December, re-opening 9am, 2 January, 2018

For urgent assistance over the closure, please call 3829 8999.

Out and About



It was a pleasure to help the team cook up a storm at the barbecue fundraiser for Bayview State School.



It was a proud Redlands and family moment with my son graduating from the 1st Recruit Training Battalion and joining the Australian Army.



Congratulations to Mike Selvage of Thornlands for his win in Council's Our Redlands story competition.



I had a wonderful morning tea with my good friend and local resident Shirley from Thornlands.



I was proud to be part of Rotary's hat day in support of defence force members struggling with mental health issues.



I had the privilege of presenting awards and trophies to players from across the Redlands at the recent netball carnival at Pinklands.



I had the honour of opening the Yurra Art Society's Springtime exhibition at Thornlands. It was a magnificent spectacle of springtime colour.

Never miss bin day

"When is my bin collected?" is one of the most frequently asked questions by residents.

To help, Council has launched an online "When Is My Bin Day?" calendar, which can be accessed on your desktop, mobile, tablet and is printer friendly.

You can access the online bin collection calendar at www.redland.qld.gov.au/binday

Best wishes to all

Christmas brings family and friends together and helps us to appreciate the love in our lives we can often take for granted. May the true meaning of this Christmas season fill your heart and home with many blessings! Once again, thank you for supporting me this year and please have a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Cr Paul Gollè -
Division 3

Connect with me at
Councillor Paul Golle