



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Peter Mitchell

ISLAND
EDITION

Budget boost for Straddie

Council's 2017-18 budget provides a boost for North Stradbroke Island's tourism credentials, with \$672,000 allocated for the Gorge Walk Trailhead project and \$300,000 set aside for the renewal of Point Lookout's Wail Rock Stairs, among a host of other projects.

This budget includes funding for much-needed facilities such as showers and taps at Deadmans Beach, Cylinder Headland and

South Gorge, as well as upgrades at Cylinder Beach and Adder Rock.

Importantly, it also addresses the needs of the local community by including \$268,600 for work at Dunwich's Ron Stark Oval, as well as funding for seawall projects at Amity Point and Dunwich.

Funds also have been secured to seal gravel roads on the island, along with \$2.7 million for sewer and wastewater treatment projects at Point Lookout.

Straddie Salute

Redland City Council is a proud supporter of the Straddie Salute, believing it is a perfect way to attract new visitors who will return after the triathlon with friends and family.

The 10th anniversary of the Straddie Salute Triathlon Festival at Point Lookout drew the largest field of competitors the island has ever seen. Almost 900 people took part in a range of events including a fun run, ocean swim, kids' duathlon and two triathlons.

I am a proud advocate and supporter and was also pleased to compete in my ninth of the 10 Straddie Salutes to date. I am looking forward to a bigger and better event in 2019, with organisers planning a "gap" year for 2018.



NAIDOC honour for Elders

Congratulations to the Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elders-in-Council Aboriginal Corporation (MMEIC), which was honoured at the 2017 NAIDOC Awards with the prestigious Caring for Country award.

It recognises the exceptional commitment of the elders from North Stradbroke, Moreton and Moreton Bay islands to their traditional lands and culture.

The award was accepted by Aunty Merle Dipple and Aunty Lynette Shipway on behalf of MMEIC.

It is great recognition of the Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elders' efforts to preserve culture and country for future generations.



Festival time

I hope everyone has their Quandamooka Festival program, with a feast of great events on offer. I was privileged to be at the opening ceremony of what is becoming a cultural drawcard for our city.

I am particularly looking forward to this year's Kunjiel (Corroboree), which will light up Dunwich on the weekend of 23-24 September with a celebration of dance, music, art, culture and ceremony.

It will feature performances by Black Arm Band, Roger Knox & Band, Adam James Band, Joe Geia and Quandamooka spoken-word artists, along with a few surprise guests.

Helping community

It is a pleasure to be able to support local not-for-profit groups with a grant when I can.

I was thrilled to be able to provide \$1000 towards funding for iPads and accessories to aid the development of the Spanish language and other programs at Stradbroke Early Learning Centre. Nicole Watts and the team do a tremendous job in the critical early learning and development of the next generation of islanders.

Funding is highly competitive and oversubscribed but if your not-for-profit group would like to apply, please contact Council on **3829 8999**.



FIRST HAND: On a recent visit to Straddie, Redland City Council CEO Andrew Chesterman and myself saw the result of an erosion event the previous day.

Still time to have a say on tackling shoreline erosion

Residents still have an opportunity to provide on the management of coastal erosion.

Two community engagement events, supported by displays, have already been part of a City-wide campaign to identify erosion issues across the City's 220km of foreshores.

As part of Council's Coastal Adaptation Strategy, islanders have been asked what's most important to them about where they live and spend their leisure time, and what they want to see preserved the most.

The first engagement on Straddie was on Saturday June 3 at Point Lookout, with about 50 people stopping to give their views or taking surveys to fill in later. Another 70 people shared their thoughts at a second engagement at Cylinder Beach a fortnight later.

You can still be involved by telling us about the changes you've seen, and what you want to see preserved.

Council has provided an interactive map online which shows erosion hotspots and provides details of what planning, monitoring and work is underway to manage coastal erosion in each area.

To see this or join the discussion on coastal erosion, go to 'Your Say' at redland.qld.gov.au/yoursay.

The site allows users to add photographs, pinpoint areas of erosion which may not have been identified and leave comments.

The issue was brought home to both myself and Redland City Council CEO Andrew Chesterman on a recent visit to Straddie when we witnessed the result of an erosion event the previous day.

Memorial a lasting tribute

The 70th anniversary of the Netherlands East Indies Dakota aviation tragedy was marked at Point Lookout with the unveiling of a permanent memorial plaque which will stand as a poignant reminder of the lives lost.

It was fitting that Council funded the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation to install the stone which was sourced from the local quarry and put in place by a Straddie contractor.

Flight Sargeant David Bell from the RAAF Scuba Club, who requested the park naming, was instrumental in sourcing the appropriate stone for the memorial plaque.

The Netherlands East Indies aircraft was just 23 minutes into its flight from Archerfield on 26 February 1947 when it crashed into waters off North Stradbroke Island, claiming the lives of all six men on board.

Surviving family members of the men and representatives from RAAF, Redland City Council, QYAC and the community were among those who gathered at the unveiling.

I was pleased to be able to support the request to name the former road reserve as NEI Dakota Memorial Park following consultation with the community.



FAMILY TIES: With David Bell, far right, and members of the Bekema family, who funded the memorial plaque.

Signs of the time

Imagine iconic public art entry signs on Straddie - something tourists would snap selfies with, that would engage and attract visitors and celebrate the area's people, place and culture.

This is Council's vision for a signage project as part of Straddie's economic transition strategy, and we are working with the State Government and other stakeholders to make it happen. We are not just thinking metal signs, rather memorable examples of public art. Community consultation sessions will be organised to seek your feedback on designs and locations. You can email your ideas to NSlentrysigns@redland.qld.gov.au

Out and about

I am always keen to hear your ideas and discuss your concerns, so please stop for a chat if you see me at my regular consultations on the island.

Keep an eye on my Facebook page [@CouncillorPeterMitchell](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorPeterMitchell) for details of where and when. I am also available by phone and email seven days a week, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Cr Peter Mitchell
Division 2 – Island