



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Lance Hewlett

COOCHIE
EDITION

Coochie improves its resilience

In response to community concerns surrounding the recent fires on both Macleay and Russell islands, it was a privilege to officiate at an open day in January at the Laurie Burns Recreation Reserve on Coochiemudlo Island.

Representatives were on hand from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Council's Local Disaster Management Team, Queensland Ambulance Service, Coochie's first responders and the island's Auxiliary Fire Service.

It was an extremely informative event which presented a series of emergency scenarios, including a car-crash rescue and a kitchen fire. The day concluded with a community engagement session to discuss bushfires and disaster management plans.



GETTING READY: The open day at Coochie's Laurie Burns Recreation Reserve was most informative.

Funding for coastal strategy

The development of Council's comprehensive Coastal Adaptation Strategy has been backed with \$195,650 in funding from the State Government's QCoast2100 Program.

Council worked closely with the Local Government Association of Queensland to present our case for the grant, which will support Council's strategy to identify and develop management plans for erosion-prone areas.

This will put the Redlands on the front foot in tackling coastal erosion, particularly in island communities, and recognises that we face significant issues as a relatively small council with about 220km of coast to manage.



When finalised, the overall strategy will provide a consistent and transparent approach to managing existing and emerging coastal hazards, as well as informing future planning.

Council is now about to begin community engagement as part of Phase 2, which looks at emerging risks and

will address long-term concerns for areas of our coastline as well as community expectations.

Subject to budget approval, Council will undertake a Soil Erosion Management Plan for Coochie in the 2017-18 financial year, which will include formation of a reference group.

Island green-seal project on track

By the time you read this, the Coochie "green" road-sealing program will have started, weather permitting. All going well, work on all unsealed roads on Coochie should be completed by the end of June, leading to a welcome reduction in dust problems and minimising silt run-off into Moreton Bay.

Save the date

- **Monday 17 April, 10am-3pm:** Head to Cleveland Showgrounds for the **free Redlands Easter Family Festival**. This annual event is a great day out for families.
- **Tuesday, 25 April: Anzac Day**
- **Saturday from 3pm and Sunday, 29-30 April:** Cleveland Showgrounds is the venue for **Redland City Relay for Life**, a fun overnight experience that raises funds for the Cancer Council.
- **Sunday 13 August:** The **Koala Fun Run** is on at Cascade Gardens, Colburn Avenue, Victoria Point. Local community-minded running group Bayside Runners and Walkers is organising this year's event for all ages and fitness levels.



Australia Day round-up



Coochie Progress Association president Tammy Holcroft reports the island celebrated Australia Day in style this year. Here's her round-up:

"From enjoying the markets on the foreshore, to soaking up the sun with a day at the beach with family and friends or learning about our country's indigenous culture and history, many people celebrated Australia Day on Coochie.

"The crowds lined the jetty and barge ramp, all eagerly awaiting their adventure to Coochiemudlo Island.

Thank you to the Amity Trader for putting on an extra barge to help people commute to the island, and the wonderful staff who greeted all the visitors with great Aussie spirit and ensured they enjoyed their journey on the bay.

The markets, pictured, were abuzz with some great stalls which ensured there was something for everyone. All stallholders had a great day and thoroughly enjoyed the community atmosphere.

Thank you again to the Men's Shed group for helping set up and pack down, and the progress association volunteers who work hard to make sure every market day goes off without a hitch."

Great place for everyone

Coochie is blessed to be surrounded by the beaches and waters of Moreton Bay Marine Park, recognised internationally under the RAMSAR Convention as vitally important to the survival of migratory shorebirds.

It makes it all the more important that we take care when sharing Coochie's beaches with resting birds.

Pet owners, in particular, have a responsibility to ensure birds are not needlessly disturbed.

While your furry friend may love running up to others on the beach, it can stress wildlife as well as cause fear and anxiety for others, especially the elderly and young children.

Coochie has a wonderful off-leash dog area on the beach and another is being considered for construction at



SHARING: Advisory signs are being updated on Coochie's Main Beach.

the Laurie Burn's Reserve in the future. So please follow the rules to ensure the beach can be enjoyed by all.

Meanwhile, an audit of all regulatory signage has recently been undertaken on Coochie and Council plans to update redundant signage with clearer, more informative signs.

Well done to our local heroes

Every year that I attend the Redland City Australia Day Awards, I am reminded how blessed we are to live in a community with so many outstanding individuals and community organisations who contribute their time, talents and resources to benefit others in our community.

This year's ceremony had very special relevance as local Victoria Point singing sensation, Leah Lever, won the Young Citizen of the Year 2017 Award. At just 14, Leah volunteers her time to help dementia patients at the Redland Hospital Aged Care Unit and recently released her debut EP Dreamcatcher.

The daughter of family friends Debbie and Graeme Lever, she is very fortunate to be mentored and managed by acclaimed soprano Mirusia Louwerse, pictured with Leah at the ceremony.

I sincerely believe the sky is the limit for young Leah.



Keep in touch

As part of my commitment to personally communicate and get feedback from local residents, I conduct regular Council information booths at Victoria Point Shopping Centre and Pelican's Nest. I always post times and dates on my Facebook Page. Just send me a friend request to remain updated on many local issues and events. I am also more than happy to meet with you in person at your home or in my Council office – all you need to do is phone 3829 8603 or 0421 880 371 to organise an appointment.

Cr Lance Hewlett
Division 4

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