



# A message from the Mayor

## Cr Karen Williams

Christmas 2016



### Innovation the foundation of our future

One of the greatest challenges we face as a community is to adapt to the fact the nature of jobs are ever-changing.

According to the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) about five million jobs that currently exist will have vanished within 10 to 20 years because of automation. This means that most children entering primary school today are destined for occupations that don't yet exist.

The recent census is expected to reflect that many of us are already working in new jobs that didn't exist five years ago due to an increasingly digital world. It will likely also show a large spike in the number of entrepreneurs and people who have created their own jobs.

Over the next 25 years the key employment growth sectors will be in areas such as "computational thinking" and other high-tech fields, particularly those associated with health care. "Business acumen" has also been identified as a core skill of the future.

Whether we like it or not, industries are transforming and the skills we require are changing. Here in the Redlands, the occupations many locals now rely on - both within the city and outside our boundaries - will disappear, while others will emerge.

The Redlands is exceptionally well placed to adapt to the work environment of the not-too-distant future.

Recent research suggests the employment landscape will be more based around work-life balance, with greater reliance on virtual offices rather than traditional spaces tied to long-established and sometimes distant commercial precincts.

We can be a significant player in this space. We offer significant lifestyle advantages and are geographically well placed to access established and emerging markets.

We also have the capacity to be at the forefront, such as through the development of "innovation hubs", where workers can network, socialise,

access latest technology and be part of emerging trends.

Our ability to anticipate and prepare for future skills requirements is critical for Council and local businesses - and indeed the majority of working Redlanders who must leave this city for their job.

My hope is that rather than being a dormitory suburb which exports workers to other areas, the Redlands can become a centre for innovation connected to development of our health and education sectors in particular.

I can see this city as a desired destination for workers who increasingly favour flexibility and work-life balance over old-school environments; one in which long daily commutes are the exception and where there is access to highly evolved hubs where people can collaborate and where innovation thrives.

We can become this place - but we must plan today for tomorrow.

### Mayoral Prayer Breakfast goes from strength to strength

This year's Mayoral Prayer Breakfast was by far the most successful yet, raising more than \$16,000.

Once again, we could never have achieved this without the wonderful support of sponsors, our business community, schools, churches and the community. I would like to thank the sponsors of this year's sell-out breakfast (pictured), many of whom have been supporters for several years: Lee's Liquid Waste (which also donated a further \$3000 after the event for a total contribution of \$10,000), Renaissance Retirement Living, Certified Roofing, Redlands Sporting Club and Frederiks Accountants, along with Albert Benfer, Champions Church, Redlands RSL, Remax Bayside Properties, Beautiful Illusions, Vision Christian Media and Hoppy's Car Wash.

Since the breakfasts were instigated by former mayor Don Seccombe in 2004, they have raised more than \$120,000 for school chaplaincy services in the Redlands. In the five breakfasts I have hosted as Mayor since 2012, we have raised more than half that amount.



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## Transport strategy is a journey for us all

One of the most important initiatives of this term of Council – the Redlands Transport Strategy – is underway.

Congestion and transport are key topics for our residents.

Effective transport systems are integral to the success of any modern city – they connect us to our families, friends, jobs, amenities and communities. They define how we move people and goods from place to place.

Redland City – like other regions – has a strongly entrenched car culture, which has contributed to the growing congestion we see every day.

But we need to plan our transport system around people not cars.

That process began last year with a series of transport forums. The clear message from enthusiastic participants was that we need to look beyond just upgrading our roads.

We were told that we need to look at alternatives to climbing in our cars. They said high-speed broadband could reduce the need for many workers and business operators to travel outside the city. But they conceded there will always be a need for people to travel from point A to point B and they recognised that the best solution to congestion was high-frequency public transport services around our city and to other destinations such as Brisbane.

Because change is occurring rapidly, our transport strategy needs to look at what can be done now as well as what we need to plan for in the future.

We need to think innovatively, and we need to show leadership.

Nothing is off the table – we need to broaden our thinking if this strategy is to serve our community's needs.

We know our community is deeply interested in these issues and that for ideas to be successful we need to bring people with us on the journey and keep them informed.

We need to identify our partners – in government, in business and in the community.

We must ensure our transport strategy supports other Council initiatives such as the City Plan, the Smart Cities program and our economic development framework, in addition to the broader South-East Queensland People Movement Study being driven by the SEQ Council of Mayors.

You have told us transport is a priority and, in response, Councillors have identified this transport strategy as one of their top five priorities for this term.

We want our community to come with us on the journey.



## Well done again Daniel

Council was proud to present a Certificate of Achievement to one of our city's favourite sons, Daniel Fox (pictured), following his podium finish at the Rio Paralympic Games.

Daniel, who grew up in Cleveland, is a two-time Paralympian, representing Australia in the pool at London in 2012 and Rio this year, where he added a 200m freestyle bronze to his impressive collection of medals and records.

Daniel received yet another accolade at the athletes' Welcome Home Parade in Brisbane recently when named Ambassador for the INAS Global Games to be hosted by Brisbane in 2019.

## Seasons' greetings

As 2016 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

For many of us, the holidays are a time of celebration with loved ones – a chance to catch up with family and friends, relax, and enjoy the Redlands' fantastic summer weather in our idyllic surroundings. Yet for others, the festive season can fuel domestic unrest. Every Redlander deserves to feel and be safe in their own home and workplace. Domestic and family violence of any kind is unacceptable in our city, and I remain committed to using my civic voice for change.

**For domestic violence assistance:  
Contact WAVSS Across The  
Redlands on 3808 5566 or DV  
Connect on 1800 811 811.**

Together, we can make a difference and help stop this often invisible danger to our community.

At this year's Christmas by Starlight event, to be held at Sirromet Winery from 3pm on Sunday 18 December, donations will be collected for the cause. Every contribution helps, no matter how small. Council, together with Zonta clubs, Soroptimist International Bayside Inc, the Rotary

Club of Cleveland and local domestic and family violence service advocates, is also planning the third annual Dîner en Rouge charity fundraiser for 2017.

I am proud to be Mayor of such a caring, generous community that strives to nurture everyone in our community.

*Karen Williams*

**Cr Karen Williams**  
Mayor of Redland City

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