



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Alan Beard (Deputy Mayor)

### Alex High again shows its class

Alexandra Hills State High School has once again shown it is one of the best with a terrific OP performance last year. Four students earned OP1s, with 37 percent of its Year 12 students in the OP1-10 range. Remarkably, every Year 12 student left this great independent public school with either a VET qualification, QCE or an OP.

This is a great result and shows we are blessed with quality teachers and schools.

### Welcome back to family festival

The Redlands Easter Family Festival will resume on 6 April at Cleveland's Norm Price Park after a year's break. The free family festival started back in 2000 and this year is expected to attract about 15,000 people, making it one the largest annual events in the Redlands. The show will open at 10am and run to 3pm.

### Sports field boost

Council has committed \$3 million over the next three years towards upgrading sports fields across the City, including Judy Holt Park.

As part of the program, Council is contributing \$600,000 towards upgrading the lights for Redlands Rugby Union Club. The design work is well advanced and we are about to call for tenders for the project.

### Council and science to the rescue of koalas

Council is taking positive steps towards helping our koalas by financially supporting a plan to target the cause of one of the biggest single killers - the deadly chlamydia virus.

Unanimous support was given to moves to extend a University of Sunshine Coast chlamydia vaccination trial to the City and to use specially trained rescue dogs to track koala colonies. This is an important step towards a more scientific approach to koala protection.

Mayor Karen Williams has met with Professor Peter Timms from the University of Sunshine Coast, who developed the chlamydia vaccine for koalas, to formalise the Redlands' role in the research. Professor Timms reports encouraging results from the trials of the vaccine so it makes good sense to extend it here.

To that end, Council resolved to contribute up to \$30,000 from the environmental reserve to support this more scientific and targeted approach to koala protection within the Redlands.

The university will provide a scholarship for a PhD student to do laboratory work.



As part of the project, koala detection dogs will be used to locate scats which will be tested for signs of chlamydia.

The researchers believe that the future of koala conservation will rely on the ability to non-invasively assess koala presence and health, so key koala populations - or "green islands" - can be identified. During the trial, researchers will vaccinate koalas taken into care before they are returned to the wild.

### Application for new medical centre



*HEALTHY OPTION: The site of the proposed new medical centre.*

Council has received an application to build a three-story medical centre on the land adjacent to Horizons Shopping Village at Wellington Point.

The application, for the corner of Allenby and Old Cleveland Road East, indicates that the centre will contain a doctors' clinic, dentist, chemist, rehabilitation gym, psychologist, physiotherapist and chiropractor.

There are issues such as traffic on Old Cleveland Road East to be worked through, as well as ensuring that a facility such as this meets local needs.



### Pet micro-chipping

Council offers a mobile micro-chipping service for pets. Officers will visit pet owners at home for \$25. People can pay on the spot via EFTPOS. For more information, call Council's Animal Shelter on 3829 8663.



### Graffiti gone

Help us manage graffiti by notifying Council as quickly as possible. You can download the handy VandalTrak app or visit [www.vandaltrak.com.au](http://www.vandaltrak.com.au) to report graffiti at the click of a button. You also can call or text Graffiti Stop on 1300 472 334 or email [graffiti@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:graffiti@redland.qld.gov.au).



### Wild encounters

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



### Inquiries

All general Council inquiries can be made on 3829 8999.

## Council surplus a 'red letter day' for Redland City

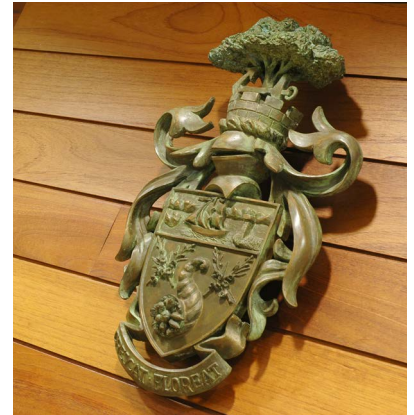
Council's first operating surplus in more than a decade was quite rightly described as a "red letter day" when it was revealed at the end of last year.

As a long-term Councillor, the \$14 million surplus which was signed off by the Queensland Audit Office in November shows how far Council has come in the last few years to reduce operating costs and realise real benefits for residents.

While as your local Councillor I am pleased with Council's current financial position, we cannot afford to become complacent.

Council is working hard to identify efficiencies so we can continually improve our bottom line.

Councillors also have started looking at next year's Budget and again we do so with residents' cost-of-living pressures in mind. I will update you as work progresses.



### Redland City Plan project update

Redland City Council reached a significant milestone in the State Government-prescribed planning process when it submitted the draft of its new City Plan for State Interest Review in November last year.

Subsequently, Council has made a number of minor amendments and resubmitted them for the Minister's approval. Once approval is received, Council will take the proposed City Plan to public consultation, giving the community its chance to both review the scheme and provide formal feedback on it through a submission process. This process will be widely advertised and include community forums, mailouts, interactive online engagement tools, displays, website and social media information and meet-the-planner sessions.

When adopted the Redland City Plan will be Council's blueprint for the future development of the City. I encourage everyone to have a look at it and have their say when it opens for public consultation.

### Keeping pesky mozzies at bay

The wet start to the year has created ideal conditions for mosquitoes, which can present a significant public health issue. They are more than just a nuisance as they can pass diseases to people, as well as transmit heartworm to dogs.

Council's mosquito management crew has been ever vigilant, conducting surveys and ground and aerial treatments but it is important that as a community we stay on top of the issue.

Residents can help by regularly checking there's no unnecessary water where mozzies can breed around homes, such as in pot plant bases.

You can find out more about Council's treatment program and what you can do at [www.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au). Go to "About Council" and then "news and publications".

### Keep in touch

In closing, may I invite you to keep informed on Division 8 issues by visiting my Facebook page, 'Division Eight news'.

**Cr Alan Beard**

Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Division 8