



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Murray Elliott



Be bushfire ready and storm safe

No area of the Redlands is immune from the threat of bushfires this summer.

Forecasting by the Public Safety Business Agency, in conjunction with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service and Council, has shown large areas of the City face a high to very high fire threat.

Like the massive fires on North Stradbroke Island in December-January, lightning strikes from the usual summer storms can be responsible for potentially life-threatening blazes. Wherever you live, preparation will make all the difference in such an event.

Residents of Division 7 can now access an emergency management plan tailor-made for mainland suburbs. It is available free online as an interactive website and

offers detailed hazard assessments, safety information and potentially life-saving tips at this time of heightened fire risk.

While we all hope we are spared from a serious fire, I urge all residents to get a copy of the guide and make sure they have plans in place given the seriousness of the bushfire outlook.

The plan explains in detail what residents need to know to ensure the safety of themselves, family and their neighbours, right down to up-to-date contact numbers for getting information and help.

For more information, check Council's Disaster Hub at www.redland.qld.gov.au.

Here I have provided some useful information to help you become bushfire ready and storm safe.

Prepare a family emergency plan

- Decide whether you will 'go early' or 'stay and defend'.
- If going early, identify a safe place to evacuate to.
- If staying and defending, ensure you receive expert advice to make certain that you are ready.
- Decide how to look after your pets.
- Make sure you have an emergency and evacuation kit.



RISKY: If your gutter looks like this, it's time for a clean out.

Prepare your home and property

- Display a prominent house number.
- Make sure fire trucks can get into your property.
- Make sure things that can burn are well away from your house.
- Remove, cut or mow bushes, grass and weeds around sheds, fences and gates.
- Trim trees and remove any overhanging branches from around the house before the start of fire season (vegetation protection laws may apply so you should check with Council first).
- Clean gutters and buy gutter plugs.
- Consider metal screens or shutters on all windows.
- Protect underfloor spaces with non-combustible sheeting or mesh.
- Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house.
- If you have a water system, pumps or generators, make sure they are working.
- Buy a battery powered radio to listen to bushfire updates.

Assembling an emergency kit

Your emergency kit should contain:

- a portable radio with spare batteries
- a torch with spare batteries
- a first aid kit
- candles and waterproof matches
- a waterproof bag for valuables
- important documents including emergency contact numbers

If evacuation is likely or required:

- a good supply of any prescribed medications
- any special requirements for babies, the disabled, infirm or elderly
- strong shoes and protective clothing
- food and drinking water





Dob in a dumper

Illegal dumping costs ratepayers money and presents potential health and safety hazards. Help us stamp it out by reporting incidents to Council on 3829 8999 or directly to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on 13 74 68. A phone app is available at www.ehp.qld.gov.au.



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 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.



Remember safety and courtesy

Whatever mode of transport you use - walking, bicycle, scooter, skate, mobility unit, motorised bike or car - please be careful and respectful of local residents, local laws and safety requirements. We all want to remain free to move about and when we behave in a predictable manner, we all remain safe and avoid life-changing accidents or injury.

Tony's great garden work is truly inspiring

Congratulations to Tony Chapman, Division 7's Inspiring Senior for 2014.

You will usually find him at the Oaklands Street Community Garden at Alexandra Hills, where he loves to share his considerable gardening knowledge.

The gardens opened about nine years ago and were the brainchild of Gillian Tilney, who worked for the disability employment and support agency Connect2.

Connect2 clients still visit the garden with their carers and look forward to seeing Tony, who offers them encouragement and talks with them about plants and gardening.

Tony will proudly explain how everything is recycled, with donations from local service groups and businesses supporting this great community space. You will also hear him



HOME GROWN: Tony Chapman, an inspiration at Oaklands Street Community Garden.

sing the praises of the other volunteers who work with him the gardens.

Tony is very passionate about the garden and its value to the community, and is a truly Inspiring Senior.



Starlight's not far away

Our annual community carols, Christmas by Starlight, will be at Capalaba Regional Park from 4pm on Saturday, 6 December.

The line-up includes 2013 *The Voice Australia* runner-up Luke Kennedy, Naomi Price, and Redlands girl and *Voice Kids* winner Alexa Curtis, as well as other local talent, including Jal Joshua and Kiara Rodrigues.

Call in for a chat

I am at the Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre every second Saturday from 9am-midday to discuss your concerns and what's happening throughout Division 7.

Thank you to all the residents who have contacted me over the past few months with regard to local issues in the area.

Best wishes

To all Division 7 residents,

If we don't catch up beforehand, have a wonderful and safe Christmas.

Kind regards,

Cr Murray Elliott

Division 7