



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Craig Ogilvie

Pandanus update

More than 200 Point Lookout property owners have responded to the call to help save the island's iconic pandanus trees from the pesky planthopper bug.

Independent contractors have been systematically treating affected trees and, by the middle of the year, a predatory wasp will be released to ensure long-term control of the pest, which has been eating new shoots while their larvae suck sap from the leaves. The sticky residue they leave encourages fungus and mould which can eventually kill the tree.

Pandanus trees on Council land and public reserves have already been inspected and treated.

Saving the seawall

Plans are being prepared for the remediation of Dunwich's historic Junner Street seawall (known to many as the right-hand lane when boarding the Red Cat).

There are a number of failures within the wall and adjacent road that need fixing.

Options are being developed which take into account the heritage values of the seawall, which is one of two remaining convict-built structures in Queensland and is listed on the Cultural Heritage Register.

Keep in mind that just planning to do this work will take time because of the listing and permits required.

Dear island residents of Division 2

Welcome back to the world of regular newsletters from me. The feedback I received is that people appreciate regular updates on the issues that affect them in their area. I hope you find this useful.

Christmas holiday bushfire



A fire crew takes a break from the battle during the Straddie bushfires and (inset) a strategy meeting at the Incident Control Centre.

A massive thanks for everyone's support and co-operation during the recent response to one of the biggest Straddie bushfires in memory.

Many government agencies were involved while other organisations like Bay Island Transit Systems, Straddie Camping and Sibelco all responded magnificently when asked.

Some of the things Council did:

- Critical liaison duties at the Incident Control Centre on the island
- Firefighting on North Stradbroke and Russell islands
- Operation of our Local Disaster Coordination Centre
- Operation of the respite/evacuation centre on the island.

That's as well as operational and support activities such as tree-clearing, provision of fuel, community information etc.

The fire is gone but the repair job will go on. Already, plans are afoot to try to tap federal funding for repair work, and inter-agency meetings are being held to think about how to best target repair efforts.

Post-fire debriefs have identified the need for clearer communication with the community regarding ongoing fire management and this has been communicated to the relevant authorities.

They say that these situations bring out the best and the worst in people - I only saw the best: the best of intentions and the best efforts from agencies, businesses and the community.



Helping Division 2

It is my privilege to support many very worthy local community groups and causes through Council's grants program.

My congratulations go to those who have been successful, including:

- **Stradbroke Chamber Music Festival:** \$2635 to assist with expenses for hire of venue and piano and tuning at the "A Musical Menagerie" concert.
- **Myora Masonic Lodge:** \$3000 to help buy a defibrillator unit.
- **Island Vibe Festival 2013:** \$9000
- **Quandamooka Yoolooburabee Aboriginal Corp:** \$3500 for the Joint Managed Parks and Indigenous Management Agreements Forum.

- **Point Lookout Boardriders:** \$4000 for the 2013 Straddie Assault.
- **Grand View Hotel:** \$4000 for the New Year's fireworks.
- **Pt Lookout Boardriders:** \$5960 for the "Get it together through Surfing" program.
- **Q Crew:** \$10,000 for the Island Style Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Expo.
- **North Stradbroke Island fishing industry history:** \$9175.
- **Lines in the Sand, woven sculptural installation Convolution:** \$7600.
- **Cleveland Uniting Church:** \$3000 to connect three-phase power to the church's Men's Shed.

Our hall of fame

Popular Dunwich Hall is something of our own "hall of fame" after Council's sensitive conservation work was highly commended by the Queensland Heritage Council.

The recognition was quite timely, coinciding with celebrations of the hall's centenary in December.

An informative presentation by former Queensland Heritage Council member Howard Guille revealed the asylum admitted/re-admitted an extraordinary 21,000 people over its 80 years.

Listed on the Queensland Heritage Register, this Straddie landmark is a true Redlands treasure.

 If you want to follow Island news and my activities, please like the Straddie Futures page.

If you have any further questions about any issues please contact me at any time.

Warm regards

Cr Craig Ogilvie
Division 2 – Island