

News from our neighbourhood What's happening in Division 2

ISLAND EDITION

Dear residents

Firstly, let me wish you a happy Christmas and New Year!

As I write this it has become more than apparent what a great community spirit we have on North Stradbroke Island. In my view, some of the recent violent events in Dunwich are not a measure of this community. The quality of this community should be measured by the response.

The fundraising efforts and the proactive efforts to address the causes of these events are to be applauded. We need to take a whole-of-government approach and I look forward to being part of community discussions that address not only these recent events and their causes, but other challenges facing this community. The first Council-driven community meeting was recently held and it produced some positive outcomes.

The past couple of months on Straddie have brought home the value of the community events program for Straddie that Council has supported. The 'Taste of Straddie' and 'Lines in the Sand' festivals as well as the 'Straddie Salute', 'Straddie Assault', 'Chamber Music Festival' and 'Island Vibe Festival' all bring great social, cultural and economic benefits to the island.

Of special significance for me in the past couple of months was the opening of the Bush Tucker trail at Terra Beulla Leumeah and its dedication to the memory of Uncle Pat Iselin. It is great to be part of a community that values its Indigenous heritage and knows how to work together for the benefit of all.

Currently we are still waiting for clear direction from the State Government about the future of North Stradbroke Island. The State has committed about \$13 million to planning and resourcing the next phase, but it is still not clear what this will mean in practical terms. Like you, I wait with bated breath for news.

A number of people have been asking about the dredging at Toondah Harbour. Council has offered to project manage any dredging work but all applications and permits for that work are being handled by the State Government and we are waiting on them. We have made representations to them about the urgency and we hope that something happens sooner rather than later.

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

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Warm regards
Cr Craig Ogilvie
Division 2 – Island

