



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Lance Hewlett

Pooch problems

Dog owners are reminded that their pets must be securely contained or kept on a leash when out of the yard.

There have been a number of concerning incidents of late with dogs being allowed to roam. Our local law requires owners to ensure that when the animal is in a public place it is kept under effective control, which is defined as including a person who is physically able to control the dog by a leash or chain. Failure to have the animal under effective control may result in a fine. Since January, Council's animal management officers have issued more than 140 infringement notices for offences such as failing to ensure an animal in a public place is kept under effective control.

Coochie boost

The Coochiemudlo Island Foreshore Park upgrades have been focusing on areas between, and adjacent to, the existing barge ramp and ferry jetty. Future works will likely include significant upgrades to the existing playground, Pioneer Park and adjoining picnic areas, as well as new pedestrian footpaths. The Curlew Creek rehabilitation is part of this project.

The draft landscape plan is now open for comment. We are also planning to hold an "open house" event to provide local residents with further opportunity to have their say.

New principals, new partnerships



LEARNING CURVE: Victoria Point State High School principal Scott Steinhardt with P&C president Stephanie Morris and myself and, right, Victoria Point State School P&C president Shannon Kent and principal Esta Thiris.

Scott Steinhardt has been a welcome addition to the Redlands as the new permanent principal of Victoria Point High School. He arrived here after 10 years as principal of Mt Gravatt State High, Stretton College and Cavendish Road State High.

It is good to hear that his first six months have reinforced his view that Victoria Point SHS is a vibrant and exciting educational institution which provides wonderful opportunities for the young people of the Redlands.

One of the most impressive aspects of Victoria Point SHS is the effort and energy that goes into planning appropriate pathways for our young people. These range from tertiary



admission for our OP students to school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

Welcome also to Esta Thiris, principal of Victoria Point State School. Esta has previously led Jamboree Heights, Coolnwynpin and Benowa schools and is looking forward to working closely with the school community. I agree with her view that what sets her school apart from others is not only its long and celebrated history, tranquil grounds and well-appointed classrooms but rather its vibrant, supportive and diverse school community.

I am a member of the P&C at both schools, as in my view it is vitally important to build links and partnerships between school, Council and the local community to achieve the best for our young people.

Supporting local causes

Supporting the Run for Redlands' 24-hour relay event was a natural progression for the Victoria Point Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank this year. After all, the branch has an enviable reputation for supporting local causes across the Redlands as part of its mandate to put local profits back into the community it serves.

The current tally of funds contributed to local clubs, sporting groups and non-profit organisations is more than \$450,000. Branch chairman Garry White says community groups which might need funding should drop into the branch or visit its Facebook page and leave a comment.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT: From left, Bendigo Bank's Victoria Point board president Garry White, Redlands Centre for Women director Katrina Beutel, myself and Run For Redlands Committee vice-president Gary Prickett.



Collaborative effort restores a shoreline



Before



After

When a storm surge from ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald hit Coochiemudlo Island in January, 2013 destroying almost a kilometre of beach and infrastructure it galvanised community action and spurred a valuable partnership.

With Commonwealth funds, SEQ Catchments and Wetland Care Australia joined forces with Redland City Council and Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare to restore the Ramsar-listed Melaleuca Wetland shoreline and historic Norfolk Beach, the 1799 landing site of Mathew Flinders.

Weeks of sand-scraping, 6000 dune plants, hundreds of volunteer hours and re-inforced walkways now covered in sand have returned a valued public amenity to the Redlands and greater south-east Queensland.

Budget comment

The process of developing and adopting Council's 2014/15 budget was complex.

Through a process of 18 workshops, Councillors' input was provided on each and every aspect of the budget and our votes on each issue are recorded in the minutes. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you would like more information on this process.

On a positive note, the headline rate increase of 3.48 percent is the lowest of any South East Queensland council and we are still working on delivering more efficiencies this financial year.

I am please to report that there are numerous capital works and renewals planned for Division 4 and I believe the ongoing operational and maintenance works by Council are of a very high standard.

When you drive back into the Redlands from Brisbane or Logan, I believe you can see and "feel" the qualities that

make our City the best place to live in southeast Queensland.

The City of Redland has many kilometres of beautiful mainland and island coastlines and foreshores which, each year, in addition to other City infrastructure, costs millions of dollars to maintain and upgrade.

We will continue to work hard to provide a very high standard of customer service with a focus on our response times to customer requests and needs, and with a view to continually improve.

I also avail myself personally to any resident in Division 4 who needs to discuss any specific issue or concern.

For full details of Council's budget, you can visit our website at www.redland.qld.gov.au. Details will also be published in our next *Our Redlands* magazine, due out now.




All about access

As part of Council's "embracing the bay" philosophy, I was very happy to see to the completion of the long-awaited pedestrian ramp on Orana Esplanade, Point Halloran, pictured above.

The ramp will allow disability access to this very popular section of beach and foreshore and will help recreational boaties launch their canoes, kayaks, tenders and other watercraft. Enjoy.

Keep in touch

 Follow me on Facebook and catch up for a chat at my regular meet and greets.

I'll be at the Town Centre Victoria Point (in front of Woolies) from 3pm-5.30pm on Wednesday August 6 and September 3 and Friday October 3.

I'll also be at Victoria Point Shopping Centre (in front of Coles) from 10am-1pm on Saturday August 2, September 6 and October 4. You also can call 3829 8603 to organise a home or Council appointment.

Cr Lance Hewlett

Division 4