



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Walker Group preferred developer for Weinam Creek

Residents are a step closer to a vibrant waterfront development and new jobs at Weinam Creek after the State Government and Council announced Walker Group as the preferred partner in the project.

Walker Group has delivered many of Australia's most successful waterfront communities, including Hope Island Resort in Queensland, The Wharf at Woolloomooloo, King Street Wharf and Rhodes Waterside in Sydney, as well as Malaysia's Senibong Cove.

Group Executive Chairman Lang Walker said that "apart from being great places to live, work and play", his waterfront developments had delivered important benefits for local residents and the tourism industry.

As the Divisional Councillor, I believe the Walker Group has recognised the potential of Redland Bay and will deliver not only a world-class facility but also hundreds of jobs. It will be the catalyst for a tourism boom.

Walker Group is currently developing about \$3 billion worth of residential, commercial and industrial projects across Queensland and its portfolio of developments across Australia and overseas has created a development pipeline worth \$17 billion over the next 15 years. It also has been an early adopter of green building technology and environmental management practices.



VISION: Walker Group Executive Chairman Lang Walker has a history of producing vibrant waterfront developments.

The project's final design, now being worked on, will reflect the needs of the community.

Open space is something the Walker Group embraces and there will be the retention and improvement of public open space. This is a significant chapter in our history and ensures we are the best place in the world to work, rest and play.



GET READY: The bay islands are facing a high bushfire risk this summer.

Island residents need to be bushfire ready

Residents on our Southern Moreton Bay Islands are urged to be bushfire ready with forecast weather conditions over the coming months resulting in a heightened risk of bushfires.

It would appear from long-term outlook that we are facing hotter temperatures and less rainfall. All this leads to a drier bushland and the potential for elevated bushfire risk.

Forecasting by the Public Safety Business Agency, in conjunction with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service and Council, has shown the islands are facing medium to very high fire scenarios.

I urge all residents to review their bushfire plans and discuss the situation with their friends and family. We need to be proactive and ensure that we take steps now to ensure our safety.

Don't rely on others for what you can do yourself, so make the necessary preparations and decisions.

You will find information on how to prepare an emergency plan and emergency kit at www.redland.qld.gov.au or www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au.

Stay connected

Make sure you are connected to Redland City Council's social media network to ensure you get the latest warnings and information during bushfire season.

You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter for 24/7 updates and advisories. You also will find information on how to prepare an emergency plan and emergency kit at www.redland.qld.gov.au or www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au.



Pet chipping

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



Inquiries

All general Council inquiries can be made on 3829 8999.

Conchita's joyful spirit

Macleay Island's Conchita Maulguet is an inspiration to others in our community and a worthy recipient of an Inspiring Senior award for 2014.

Originally from Spain, she arrived in Australia with her husband Jon-Claude in 1971 and settled on Macleay in 1997.

The islands didn't have an ambulance service then, so when the volunteer First Responders were formed, Conchita was among the first to put their hands up to provide first aid to patients within 10 minutes of a 000 call being received.

At one stage, Conchita was the only First Responder and was on call 24/7 for a couple of months.

She did this while organising and fundraising at the local seniors' group and volunteering with Blue Care and her local church.

When the local bowls club needed help, it was Conchita who stepped in and took management and hospitality courses.



TIRELESS: Conchita Maulguet is an inspiring presence on Macleay Island.

That was about two years ago and she has been there nearly every day since.

She has a wonderful view of life, saying that "no joy can equal that of looking after others".

The Redlands is indeed fortunate she and Jon-Claude chose our part of the world to settle in.

Portfolios brought into line with new Council structures

In 2013, Council underwent an organisational restructure. One consequence of this was that the Councillor portfolios no longer aligned with the Council's new structure.

This resulted in an unstructured situation where some portfolio spokespeople had to consult with more than one member of the Executive Leadership Team and vice-versa.

To improve effectiveness and efficiency and better align portfolios with Council's new organisational structure, a new system was adopted by Council with six portfolio chairs.

The new portfolios are:

- Office of the CEO;
- Organisational Services;
- City Planning and Assessment;
- Community Services, Environment and Regulation;
- Infrastructure and Operations; and Emergency Management.

I was elected by Councillors as portfolio spokesperson for the Office of the CEO, which includes responsibility for:

- Financial services: rates, financial reporting, monthly management accounting, related financial compliance;
- General Counsel: legal services, including complaints management; and
- Human resources: workplace development, workplace relations, health and safety.

In addition, I will continue my role as the Chair of the Audit Committee.



Island showcase

The inaugural Bay Islands Art & Craft Expo is on from 3-6 December at Russell Island Community Hall, near the jetty.

Open to island and mainland artists, it will include an exhibition, entertainment, workshops and a place to network with professional and budding artists. Designed for the whole Redlands community, it is being supported by Redland City Councillor Small Grants. It will be open to the public on the Thursday and Friday from 10am to 7pm and on the Saturday from 9am to 3pm. Information and entries: Barbara Wilson 3409 5380 or barbianwilson@bigpond.com.

Keep in touch

Why not join the hundreds of residents who have already contacted me for help with an issue? Just email me at mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au or telephone 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 - Islands