



Capalaba

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SMART APPROACH FOR REDLANDS

Wider role for graffiti reporting apps

Great news: the Redlands is now even more inviting as a destination after Council secured agreement for the ongoing upkeep of an area which serves as our City's major gateway.

The vacant Crown land, on Moreton Bay Road opposite Capalaba Park shopping centre, is controlled by the State Government but became overgrown as the screws were tightened on State spending.

In a win for common sense, we have been successful in having the land included in the State-funded aesthetic maintenance program, which itself was only reinstated recently after much lobbying by Council.

This highly visible block of land, at the entrance to our City, will now be mowed 26 times a year at no cost to ratepayers. I have not given up on a more prominent entrance feature at this location, and this is certainly a step in the right direction.

Meantime, the Redlands' new vandalism tracking system, VandalTrak, is proving a significant weapon in the battle with graffiti, which costs the local community more than \$100,000 a year.

Council has received more than 377 graffiti reports in the few months since VandalTrak was launched in the Redlands. This has allowed us to remove tags quickly, which is a major deterrent to repeat attacks.

By comparison, Council received 453 reports for all of the 2012-13 financial year and 392 for the previous financial year. This doesn't mean that graffiti is on the rise — just that our proactive approach is being embraced by residents.

Based on the success of VandalTrak so far, I believe there is scope for a similar app to report abandoned shopping trolleys. I would like to hear from Division 9 residents what they think on this subject.

DECADES OF HELPING



Gana Ralph deserves special praise as one of Division 9's most energetic and thoughtful volunteers.

She has spent decades helping at schools and with children's sports and is always happy to sit down for a chat and a laugh.

These days she has been volunteering at St Luke's Childcare, where she does just about anything that needs to be done, from cooking to fundraising.

She also is a grandmother figure to many, with the children and staff all part of her "extended family".

Gana also is involved in the St Luke's and St Anthony's parish ladies group and makes gifts for the children to buy for special occasions such as Mother's Day.

It was an honour recently to present Gana with a Redlands Inspiring Seniors Award for 2013.



Cr Paul Gleeson with his wife Nikki and children Deagon, 9, Keira, 4, and Jacob, 11, enjoy a visit to Capalaba Regional Park.

HELPING HAND FOR MEALS TEAM

I am pleased to have been able to give the hard-working team at Capalaba Meals on Wheels a Councillors' Small Grant to help make their jobs easier.

The \$2700 has provided a new floor-scrubbing machine for the group's Capalaba kitchen, which produces up to 100 meals a day for residents throughout the area.

By my calculations, by this time next year Capalaba Meals on Wheels will have prepared and delivered a staggering 500,000 meals since it was established in late 1975.

They welcome new volunteers and you can contact them on 3390 3450.

