



News from your local councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Division 5: Redland Bay edition



Summer 2022



Dear resident,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and thank you for the way you have worked with Council over the past few COVID-impacted years.

I am also thrilled to report that Council is supporting the Redland Bay Village Christmas event on Saturday 3 December through a Village Events and Activation Grant to the CAGE Youth Foundation. Special thanks to event coordinator Pastor Linda Grieve, who has many great things planned for this event which we hope becomes a tradition.

Christmas by the Bay, Redland Bay Village, will include live entertainment on stage, along with street entertainers, about 20 stall holders and Kids' Zone games.

The event is sponsored by Council to support our community, local businesses and youth programs presented by CAGE.

As we enter our peak storm and bushfire risk season, please be proactive and take precautions now to ensure that your family and your home are prepared. Be fire and storm aware, have evacuation kits prepared and brief everyone on your plans.

Being well prepared and having a plan ahead of the event, whether storm, fire or other eventuality, makes the difference.

Last year's severe weather events showed us we cannot be complacent. We hope you never need your emergency plan but don't leave it until you hear there is a storm or fire on the horizon to take action.

To ensure you can be best prepared, go to disaster.redland.qld.gov.au

During the holiday period, Council offices will close from 4.30pm on Friday 23 December 2022 and will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

If you need urgent assistance for an issue that may pose an immediate risk to Council's services and significantly impact residents' amenity or capacity to access services, then please call our main number 3829 8999 and stay on the line to be redirected to the after-hours service as we will have crews on call.

Please take care throughout the holiday season.

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 – Redland Bay

Group appointed to identify Games opportunities

The torch has been passed to a great group of 12 community leaders tasked with ensuring the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games deliver lasting legacies for Redlands Coast.

The members of the Redlands Coast 2032 Legacy Working Group, selected after an overwhelming response to Council's call for submissions, bring a wealth of knowledge and experience and will work with Council to develop a legacy plan to ensure our

entire community can benefit from this exciting opportunity."

They will help Council identify key priorities and opportunities to create long-term social, economic, cultural, and environmental benefits for the city.

The Games are about so much more than a few weeks of sport and venues - they are also about better roads and transport for local families, better jobs for our kids

and better sporting infrastructure for tomorrow's sporting stars. This working group will focus on helping Council to deliver these legacy opportunities.

The members - Andrew Bradley, Anne Livingstone, Dr Caroline Riot, Cindy Corrie, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, John Brennan OAM, John Simpson, Michael Choi OAM, Michael Mrowka, Noemie Fox, Sandra Jacob and Shane Rendalls - will hold their first official meeting in early 2023.

Recognition for SES Unit

Redland City State Emergency Service (SES) Unit volunteers are always ready to assist during extreme weather events and disasters.

During the severe weather event last February and March, the unit received 430 calls for assistance and was also deployed to assist Moreton Bay unit in its storm and flood response.

The unit was recognised with two major state awards at the SES Week State Awards recently:

- Cleveland Group Leader Mitch Brushe was named SES State Member of the Year, and
- Redland City SES Unit was joint winner with Brisbane City SES Unit and Moreton Bay Regional SES Unit for Operational Response of the Year for service to the Brisbane Region community during the February 2022 severe weather and flood event.

In addition, a number of other Redland City SES Unit members were recognised at the 2022 Brisbane Region SES Awards.

This included:

- Meritorious Service Medals (MSM) – Peter Brown, Scott Chambers, Luke Forster, Laurence Holt and Robert Hurren
- MSM 20 years clasp: Raymond Melbourne
- SES Week Awards: Michael Ryan, Steven Hayes, Ricky Cook and Justin Kirkby

Changes to sandbagging station

Council has changed the way it distributes sandbags on the mainland ahead of this year's storm season

They are now available through Nuway Landscape Supplies at 249 Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, Thornlands.

When Council announces sandbagging stations are activated (through its Facebook page and news site), residents will be able to collect six filled sandbags from Nuway upon presentation of identification such as a rates notice or driver licence.

To help with storm preparation, and when sandbagging stations are not activated, residents are encouraged to check with their local landscaping supplier or hardware store for availability of filled sandbags.

Council will open its South Street Depot in Cleveland for sandbag distribution, if needed, in a significant weather event.

Information on how to use sandbags to protect your home is available on the SES website.

Keeping dogs under control

I would like to remind dog owners that, in the interests of public safety and community wellbeing, they are obliged at all times to keep their dogs restrained unless in a designated off-leash area.

Dogs being walked off-leash are a constant source of complaints. While many owners may believe their dog is well trained and friendly, others can become concerned or uncomfortable by even a small dog when they are off leash.

It is the obligation of owners to ensure their dogs do not attack or frighten people or other animals. And please carry a bag or container and pick up your doggie do when in a public place. On-the-spot fines apply in all instances.

For more information, go to Council's website.

Cat owners must take responsibility

While cats can be much-loved family members, owners have certain requirements and responsibilities to ensure their pets do not become a nuisance to others or kill native wildlife. Redland City Council requires cat owners to register their pet by the time it is 12 weeks old or within 14 days of gaining ownership and that registration must be renewed every 12 months.

While de-sexing is not mandatory, it is encouraged by way of discounted registration fees. It is, however, mandatory to microchip all cats unless they were born or came into your ownership before 1 July 2009.

Cat owners also have a responsibility to adequately contain their cat to their property at all times under Council's local laws, as wandering cats poses a risk to native wildlife. Putting your cat out day or night to let it roam the neighbourhood or nearby bush contravenes local laws. Besides, wandering cats are also more susceptible to injury, disease and ticks and can land you with hefty veterinary bills as well as a fine.

Dealing with midges part of the seasonal cycle

With biting midge breeding season upon us following a wet winter, we can expect an increase in numbers over the coming weeks.

Unfortunately, unlike mosquitoes for which Council has a year-round spray program, there are no midge-specific insecticides approved or safe for use in the Moreton Bay Marine Park, where biting midges breed, as using such chemicals could harm fish and other marine creatures.

Council has a marine parks permit from the State Government that allows us to use certain chemicals in the marine park environment, like the ones we use for mozzies, but the permit does not allow

for the use of chemicals that are effective on midges.

Thankfully, unlike mosquitoes, midges are not known to transmit any human diseases in Australia.

Council hasn't given up the challenge of finding a better way to manage midges and is partnering with industry research bodies and other councils to keep up to date with the latest research and practices.

While biting midge are endemic to our environment and can be a real nuisance through summer, you can take measures to protect yourselves during the peak breeding season.

This includes:

- Wearing insect repellent and long, loose-fitting clothing if heading outdoors at dawn and dusk
- Installing fine mesh fly screens where midge are making their way through into homes. Fly screens can also be treated with UV stable insecticide
- Increasing air flow around your home
- Keeping vegetation surrounding the house to a minimum to reduce insect-harbours areas
- Privately initiated barrier treatments from qualified pest controllers

For further information on biting midges, visit Council's website.

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