



News from your local councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Division 5: Southern Moreton Bay Islands edition



Summer 2022

Dear island 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, there is a quick guide on the back of this newsletter or you can 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 – Islands

Island representation on 2032 Games working group

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games present an opportunity to showcase Redlands to the world. More importantly, it has the potential to deliver much more than a pinnacle sporting event over a few weeks.

There are opportunities to create long-term social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits for the city but only if we can effectively identify and act on realising those opportunities.

Yes, we need better roads and transport systems but we also need to create jobs, new businesses, sporting and recreation facilities, and a lot more.

To help identify and secure those opportunities, Councillors voted to establish the Redlands Coast 2032 Legacy

Working Group, bringing together 12 Redlands Coast residents who could identify and recommend opportunities that would benefit our community for many years ahead.

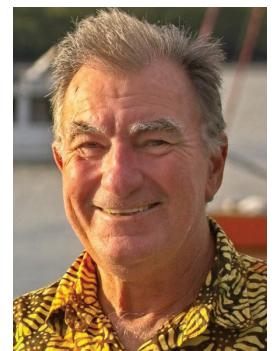
Many wonderful people applied to become committee members and an outstanding 12 people were finally selected.

I'm happy to advise that our Southern Moreton Bay Islands are being represented with the inclusion of Shane Rendalls, a Russell Island resident with extensive experience in management and service delivery in government as well as the not-for-profit and private sectors.

Many of you may know Shane as being the current president of the SMBI Chamber

of Commerce and a member of the Redland Logan Regional Development Board. It's great to have someone like Shane as a member of the Redlands Coast 2032 Legacy Working Group.

I am sure he will be looking for opportunities that will not only benefit Redlands Coast but also our wonderful islands.



GAME ON: Russell Island's Shane Rendalls has joined the Redlands Coast 2032 Legacy Working Group.

GET READY FOR THE SUMMER STORM SEASON

Are you ready for this year's summer storms?

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting above-average rainfall for spring and possibly into summer so now is the perfect time to ensure you, your home and your business are prepared for extreme weather.

The Get Ready Queensland campaign can be broken down to three simple steps: understand your risk, prepare a household emergency plan, and pack an emergency kit.

There are a number of things residents can do to prepare their homes for storm season:

- Clean gutters and downpipes so stormwater can drain quickly, but don't use a high-pressure water blaster on asbestos roofs
- Secure loose items around your property and garden (sheets of tin, trampolines)
- Have tarps available to use with sandbags if you are in an area prone to flooding
- Trim trees and overhanging branches around your property (check with Council first and be mindful of power lines)
- Install metal screens or shutters to prepare your home against embers
- Ensure LPG cylinder relief valves point away from the house to minimize fire risk
- Make sure pumps or generators are working and ready if needed.

Council maintains a dedicated Redlands Coast Disaster Dashboard that provides practical information on preparing for, responding to and recovering from disaster.

This webpage is continually updated during a disaster with vital information on road closures, emergency contacts, Energex power outages, active evacuation centres and weather warnings.

Council also has an opt-in emergency notification messaging service – and residents can sign up to receive weather warnings, community alerts and flooded road notifications.

Drone medical and emergency services soon reality for Bay islands

I have been following with some interest the recent trials of drones to improve services for islanders, especially older residents.

Council is taking a leading role in harnessing the power and flexibility of the latest drone technology to improve services for island residents.

Partnerships supported by Council include the use of drones next year to shuttle pathology samples from the islands to Mater Private Hospital Springfield's pathology laboratories, significantly reducing the time it takes for patients to be diagnosed.

The Mater plans to use a network of 10 Swoop Aero drones to slash hours off the time it currently takes to get them to the laboratory by traditional transport means. It expects this to lead to quicker diagnoses and treatment for island residents and is looking at whether such a service may be extended further, such as the potential to deliver medicines to aged care facilities on the islands.

Council has also engaged with Global Community Resourcing, which has been involved in a number of government-funded research projects over the past few years on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, and aims to overcome issues that seniors can face. This has included the use of smart technologies including drones and in-home monitoring to support people to live as independently as they can in what really are remote communities. Both of these have the potential to provide massive benefits to island residents into the future.

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-harboured areas
- Privately initiated barrier treatments from qualified pest controllers

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

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