



News from your local councillor

Cr Lance Hewlett

Division 4: Coochiemudlo Island edition



Summer 2022

Dear Coochie residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry and blessed Christmas, as well as a safe and prosperous New Year.

The Christmas season is marked by a variety of joyous celebrations with friends and family but it is also a time to think about those less fortunate than ourselves and to extend a hand of friendship and help to those who need it most.

As in previous years, my wife Sheena is organising a toy drive to support the local Redlands Coast community through donations to the Champions Church Support Services. Anyone who wishes to contribute, please feel free to contact me

for details. Collection can be organised and donations should be new toys or gifts. Thank you in advance.

As a member of RedVic Lions, I look forward again this year to wrapping Christmas presents at Victoria Point Shopping Centre. A gold coin donation per gift supports a very worthy cause.

Enjoy the Christmas season, please stay safe and God bless..

Cr Lance Hewlett – Division 4

Please connect with me on Facebook to stay posted on all local issues.

@lance.hewlett



GIVING: The Findlay family, owners of local business Just Add Water Pools, always generously donate to the Christmas Toy Drive.



COMMUNITY: Cr Lance Hewlett with Jessica Ward, Kristyn Ranson, Dylan Ranson and Member for Redlands Kim Richards at the recent Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)-One Walk.

Supporting vital research

Les Moore Park, Victoria Point, is the new home for the annual Redlands Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)-One Walk. The event held in October each year is organised by locals Kristyn Ranson and her daughter Jessica. This year we celebrated its 10th anniversary. Walkers have the option of a 3km or 5km walk. This year the event raised more than \$10,000, which is an amazing result.

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.



Play time gets better at neighbourhood park

Duncan Jenkins Eucalypt Park's recent improvements are sure to be a hit with locals.

Located in a quiet pocket of Victoria Point, the renewed elements have brought a new lease of life to the small neighbourhood park which now features climbing equipment, slide and sensory elements, a double swing and a carousel.

Residents, young and old, are now able to enjoy more time in this naturally wonderful environment but please note there is minimal street parking available and no toilets on site.

Council to livestream all statutory meetings

Residents will be able to see their local council in action more easily from 2023, when all statutory meetings will be livestreamed.

This will eliminate geographic and social barriers which may prevent people from attending meetings.

Since 27 June 2012, all statutory meetings of Council have been recorded, with the recording available on Council's website within a couple of days.

From January next year, our meetings will still be uploaded to the website but you will also be able to watch proceedings as they are occurring on line.

More details will be provided ahead of the first meeting for 2023 on Wednesday 25 January.

Upgrade for Coochie inspiring classrooms

The Department of Education is proposing to refurbish the Lodge on Coochiemudlo Island to be used as a local campus of the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre (EEC), a departmental day visit centre at Manly.

Its education programs are delivered to students from Prep to Year 12, providing opportunities for young people to explore and connect with their environment through authentic hands-on experiences.

By refurbishing the Lodge, it will be able to better provide such learning opportunities for students.

It is proposed that the refurbished lodge will allow for a variety of day-visit

programs, with the possibility of eventually hosting small overnight programs and curriculum-based.

Work planned for the Lodge includes replacing the roof and gutters, painting, internal upgrades and vegetation management.

It would be hard to find a more inspiring learning environment than Coochie, with work expected to begin early next year and be finished mid-year.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with Council regulations, with construction beginning no earlier than 6.30am and concluding no later than 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

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.

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