



News from your local councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Division 5: Southern Moreton Bay Islands edition



Dear island resident,

I would like to wish all of you a safe and merry Christmas for another year, which seems to have flown by.

As the summer heats up we need to make sure we are continually aware and prepared for bushfires and storms at this time of the year.

Ensure you have evacuation kits prepared and make sure every member of your household is aware of your plans.

Looking to 2024, there are many significant events ahead including the Local Government and State elections. The Local Government election will be held on Saturday 16 March 2024.

As this is the final newsletter before the next election, I take the opportunity to advise residents who are not aware that, after 12 years of service to our community, I will be retiring.

It has been an absolute privilege to have been a Redland City Councillor and to make collective decisions to improve our city in many ways.

There will be things I will miss, such as the organisation and the wonderful officers who serve us all, as well as all the debates and negotiations to get tangible outcomes that not only benefit the wonderful Division 5 but also the rest of the city.

Thank you for the support I have received and I look forward, as an island resident, to seeing our naturally wonderful Redlands Coast continue to be the best place to live, work and play.

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 – Islands



Making it easier to connect

The recently opened upgrade to the Russell Island car park adjacent to the new ferry terminal will make it easier for residents to connect with mainland services.

This \$1.98 million refurbishment (pictured) has added an extra 64 car park bays and included a number of safety improvements for both motorists and pedestrians.

One of the new features is a commuter drop-off zone that allows vehicles to pull up and safely let out passengers.

This zone also allows about seven vehicles to queue for up to five minutes while waiting for ferry passengers to disembark, meaning these vehicles do not need to use a car park bay.

The safety features include a more efficient traffic flow, dedicated zones for taxis and emergency vehicles and a dedicated bus drop-off zone. There are also eight accessible parking spaces close to the terminal, eight motorcycle parking bays and compact bicycle racks.

The upgrade was completed in three stages to reduce impact to the community and prevent loss of parking during construction.

The upgrade was funded by Council and proudly supported by the Queensland Government with \$650,536 through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.

Midge numbers multiply during summer season

The biting midge breeding season is upon us and their numbers will increase over the coming weeks.

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.

These chemicals could also harm other creatures that are important to the ecosystem, including butterflies and bees.

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 diseases to humans 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.



Council officers keep up to date with the latest research into mosquitoes and midges.

How to beat the bite

While biting midge are endemic to our environment and can be a real nuisance through summer, here are some measures you can take to protect yourself:

- Wear insect repellent and long, loose-fitting clothing if heading outdoors, particularly at dawn and dusk
- Install fine mesh fly screens where midges are making their way through into homes
- Treat fly screens with UV-stable insecticide
- Increase air flow around your home
- Reduce insect-harboring vegetation around your property
- Use qualified pest controllers to carry out barrier treatments

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

ARE YOU READY REDLANDS COAST?

STORM AND BUSHFIRE SEASON IS HERE

Take the steps now to keep you, your loved ones and your property safe.

- 1. Know the risk – everyone's disaster risk is different. Find out what disasters may happen in our area and how they might affect you. Take actions to reduce your risk.**
- 2. Have a plan – extreme weather can happen quickly. A plan means everyone in your household knows what to do, saving precious time.**
- 3. Have an emergency kit – store your kit somewhere safe so you have the things you need when the weather turns bad.**



 disaster.redland.qld.gov.au

 getready.qld.gov.au

Volunteers take on massive foreshore clean-up

Earlier this year, a total of 6.14 tonne of rubbish was removed from the shores of several Southern Moreton Bay Islands in just four clean-up days by the community and volunteers from Ocean Crusaders.

It was a great reminder to all of us not to rubbish our beautiful SMBI foreshores.

Ocean Crusaders received a Community Conservation grant under Redland City Council's Community Grants program. The grant enabled the educational not-for-profit organisation to carry out clean-up days on the island coastlines.

On the first of the trips, the crew removed 1.32 tonne of general trash

and 440kg of tyres from around Garden Island. A further 1.44 tonne was collected on the second day from various southern Moreton Bay areas.

Russell Island was the target for the third trip with 1 tonne of trash and 29 tyres (580kg).

The final day of the project saw the volunteers working on the southern tip of Long Island foreshore, bringing in 1.36 tonne of debris.

The volunteers were cleaning up areas that are often out of sight and in mangrove areas, so they are really making a difference for wildlife in areas that otherwise may be overlooked.

Closure times

All non-essential Redland City Council services will shut from close of business on Friday 22 December 2023 and will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024. This includes Customer Service Centres and Council's Contact Centre.

Council's emergency service will operate during the closure period for Council-related emergencies.

For more information on operating hours, visit redland.qld.gov.au

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