



News from your local councillor Cr Lance Hewlett

Division 4: Coochiemudlo Island edition



Dear Coochie resident,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all island residents a very merry and blessed Christmas, as well as a safe and prosperous New Year in 2024.

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 Redlands Coast community through donations to the Champions Church Support Services. If anyone 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 members of RedVic Lions, Sheena and I look forward again this year to wrapping Christmas presents and selling Lions Christmas cakes at Victoria Point Shopping Centre. A gold coin donation per gift wrap supports a very worthy cause.

Enjoy the Christmas season, enjoy the island, 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

Caring for Coochie coastline an ongoing commitment



Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare members continue their transformative work.

Building the resilience of our city's sandy foreshores to strengthen biodiversity and enable ongoing public enjoyment is serious business for members of Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare.

For more than a decade, the volunteer group has managed official work zones of more than 1.5 kilometres of the island's eastern shoreline and overseen more than \$500,000 in external funding projects and environmental effort.

The group's determination was born from adversity after a storm surge from ex-tropical cyclone Oswald in 2013 gouged the island's eastern beaches, downed mature trees, compromised the Melaleuca Wetlands, and destroyed infrastructure.

Collaboration between SEQ Catchments, Redland City Council and Coastcare, with funding from the Australian Government, saw the start of restoration works including sand movement, geo-bags, dune fencing and planting of 12,000 trees, groundcovers and shrubs.

Today, with 197 members and growing, there's no shortage of volunteers to maintain the momentum and with Council support the future should be bright.



Coastcare's strong commitment to successful collaboration on environmental projects is reflected in the recent completion of a four-year federally-funded Landcare wetlands weeding project, supported by Healthy Land and Water. This was followed in late June by a wetlands foreshore revegetation project after Council undertook sand nourishment recommended in the 2020 Coochiemudlo Island Shoreline Erosion Management Plan.

With the spotlight on the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, and talk of legacy projects, what better environmental investment is there than showcasing Coochiemudlo's bush beaches, the closest to Brisbane City.



The Findlay family, owners of Just Add Water Pools, always generously donate to the Christmas toy drive.



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

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.

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.

When island lights are shining

The lights will be twinkling bright right across the island from 1 December with the Coochie Progress-supported annual Christmas Lights event.

Judging will be held on Thursday 14 December. Winners will be announced at Christmas Eve on the beach.

On the mainland, the annual Redlands Coast Lighting of the Christmas Tree will be held from 5pm to 8.30pm on Friday 1 December at Raby Bay Harbour Park, Cleveland.

Meanwhile, Christmas by Starlight returns to its original format and location this year on Saturday 16 December 2023, from 3pm to 8.30pm, at Norm Price Park – Redland Showgrounds, Cleveland.

It is a free event with no tickets required. There will be live entertainment, free rides, Christmas merchandise stalls, food trucks, a visit from Santa Claus and Christmas carolling.

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

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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