



News from your local councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Division 5: Redland Bay edition



Dear 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 – Redland Bay



Inaugural Queensland SES Young Member of the Year, Sidrah Harcourt from Redland Bay SES Group.

Awards recognise SES Unit's outstanding service

The Redland City State Emergency Service (SES) Unit was recognised with two awards at the 2023 Queensland SES Awards.

Sidrah Harcourt from Redland Bay SES Group was named the inaugural Queensland SES Young Member of the Year and Alexandra Baines, from Cleveland SES Group, won the Spirit of SES Award.

It was the fourth consecutive year the Unit had been recognised with an individual category win at the state awards.

Sidrah Harcourt was recognised for outstanding service in the areas of operations, group administration, recruitment and culture.

Alexandra Baines' win was for demonstrated achievements in assisting the SES to achieve outcomes, being a

strong role model and demonstrating leadership skills.

Redland City SES Group had another two finalists at the state awards – David Frazer from Redland Bay SES Group in the Queensland Member of the Year category, and Cleveland SES Group member Donald Charles in the Spirit of SES Award.

Additionally, six Redland City SES Unit volunteers received SES Week certificates at the regional awards held in September: Alexandra Baines, Donald Charles, Elizabeth Harris, David Sondergeld, Angela Taylor and Daniel Tuckwood.

Also at the regional awards, Ian Bacon from Cleveland SES Group received the SES Meritorious Service Medal 2nd Clasp for 20 years' service and Leisa Battley, North Stradbroke Island SES Group Leader, received the QFES 10 Year Medal.



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.

ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

Be prepared and ready to act

- Have a bushfire survival plan
- Have a quick-grab emergency evacuation kit
- Prepare your property and home
- Check your insurance

IN THE EVENT OF BUSHFIRE

Follow local updates on conditions, evacuations and safest routes:

- Tune to ABC 612 AM and 100.3 Bay FM
-  RedlandCouncil
- qfes.qld.gov.au
- disaster.redland.qld.gov.au

Head to Get Ready Queensland for detailed disaster preparedness advice getready.qld.gov.au

Christmas back under the stars

A Christmas tradition on Redlands Coast returns to its original format and location this year.

Christmas by Starlight will be held on Saturday 16 December 2023, from 3pm to 8.30pm, at Norm Price Park – Redland Showgrounds, Cleveland.

For the past three years the event had been subject to restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and was a ticketed event held over five days at Raby Bay Harbour Park.

This year it returns to its original popular location at the showgrounds and will be free to all with no tickets required.

There will be live entertainment, free rides, Christmas merchandise stalls, food trucks, a visit from Santa Claus and Christmas carolling.

Meanwhile, 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. It is also a free event with no tickets required.

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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