



# News from your local councillor Cr Lance Hewlett

Division 4: Victoria Point edition



## Dear resident,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all 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



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

Point Shopping Centre. A gold coin donation per gift wrap 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](https://www.facebook.com/lance.hewlett)

## Lighting up the festivities

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.

There will be free live entertainment, photos with Santa, a Christmas movie in the park, and the official lighting of the tree. It is a free event with no tickets required.

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.

Over on Coochiemudlo, the lights will be twinkling bright from 1 December with the Coochie Progress-supported annual Christmas Lights event. Judging will be held on Thursday 14 December.



*An artist's impression of the new clubhouse being built at the Charlie Buckler Memorial Sporting Fields.*

## Fields of dreams becoming a reality

Works are underway on the Charlie Buckler Memorial Sporting Fields upgrade at Redland Bay and are expected to be completed by mid-2024.

The upgrade will see a new clubhouse, more car parks, reconfigured fields that will improve drainage across the site, new practice cricket nets, a new dog off-leash area, new pathways and safer site entry.

The new clubhouse is set to become a wonderful community asset. Designed to meet the sport-specific requirements of both rugby union and cricket, it will also

house a bookable multi-purpose space that other community members and groups can use.

The facilities will be sustainable from environmental, maintenance and operational perspectives – a true reflection of Council's commitment to delivering high-value, intergenerational projects.

Meanwhile, Bill Scudamore-Smith Park in Victoria Point will receive an upgrade in the new year, with contracts for works recently signed.

## Caring for Coochie's coastline

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.

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.

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 Landcare wetlands weeding project. 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.

## 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.**



### 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](http://redland.qld.gov.au)

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