



News from your local councillor Cr Tracey Huges

Division 8: Birkdale/Alexandra Hills/Capalaba/Wellington Point



Christmas 2024

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the busiest time of the year.

This is particularly so for our students and their families attending high-energy presentation nights, well-deserved award evenings, and emotional assemblies.

Many students are saying goodbye, while all year levels are looking forward to exciting opportunities next year.

I truly wanted to pass on my congratulations for all the hard yakka that has gone into the year and high-five to the enormous network of support given to all our students. Together our next generation is surrounded by many strong and caring hands.

We know that the most vulnerable in our community are our older cohort of family members and friends. With my personal journey of my mum moving into high care with her dementia, it is particularly important for me to share my heartfelt thanks to our aged care sector. I am genuinely grateful to our beautiful caregivers who give so much.

It is so important to remember that we have an enormous amount of support that combines to offer a hand up to those in need. Please reach out if we can help you in any way, don't hesitate to give me a call and with respect, love and compassion you will be surrounded with the care we can provide as one city and one heart.



As we take a moment to reflect on the year that has flown by, our family has experienced the joys of the 'terrific 2s', toilet training, and conversations with almost real words, as our Max (pictured with me) transitioned into a fun, energetic little boy. As he reaches significant milestones, the memories that resurface always bring a smile.

From my family to yours, we wish you abundant blessings through your valuable family time, opportunity, health, and most importantly, simply having fun.

Sending joyous Christmas wishes that carry through to your holidays and please know that I am always available to you, especially as a JP. Simply just give me a call.

T. Huges.
Cr Tracey Huges – Division 8



Check out your local library – big and small!

The Capalaba Library has temporarily relocated to the former Coles site in Capalaba Central Shopping Centre.

The move was required in order for work on the \$250 million Capalaba Town Centre Revitalisation Project.

It will be at the shopping centre, along with Council's Customer Service Centre, until the construction of the new buildings are complete.

Make sure you check out the new library and service centre space.

And don't forget to check out the little community libraries such as the Ye Olde Community Library (pictured below), at Montgomery Drive Park, Wellington Point, and the Judy Holt Park Little Library (pictured, inset) at the Redlands Rugby Union Club, Birkdale.

The Capalaba Town Centre Revitalisation Project is set to transform the area behind Capalaba Central Shopping Centre into the urban heart of Capalaba.

Works on the first stage of this project are expected to start in early 2025 and will see a new state-of-the-art library building, community and innovative arts space and a new customer service centre, as well as three levels of office space.





▲ Kick off the new year in your community

The new year presents a great starting point to get out and about in the community.

We have a wealth of sporting and community groups across Division 8 and they offer a wide variety of activities, providing physical, mental and social wellbeing.

The Capalaba Bulldogs Football Club has a range of competitions and activities based

out of John Fredericks Park, Old Cleveland Road, Capalaba.

As well as Masters and Legends groups, the club has the popular Minirosos teams for children aged 4 to 12. Online registration for Bulldogs teams open in January.

Also offering junior and senior teams are Capalaba Warriors Rugby League Football Club who are also based at John

Fredericks Park, Banfield Lane, Capalaba. The club's sign-ons are held late January or early February.

The Judy Holt Recreation Reserve (pictured) on Old Cleveland Road East, Birkdale, is home to numerous clubs including The Muddies (Redland Rugby Union Club) and Muddies Cricket Club.

It is also home to Birkdale Sports Club (formerly Redlands Multi-Sports Club) which offers a vibrant social hub for locals, featuring a variety of activities with affiliates including Redlands Darts, Orchid Society, Bridge and Fishing Clubs and more.

The club hosts music events, trivia contests and is a place for the community to come together, unwind, and enjoy a welcoming atmosphere.

Other great places to check out are the Birkdale and Alexandra Hills men's sheds.

Keep an eye out on social media for the sign-on days for these clubs and the many others across our wonderful city.



Keep dogs on leash to avoid increased statewide penalties

Dog owners in Division 8 are urged to keep their dogs on leash while in public places following the introduction of increased penalties as part of statewide changes to animal management laws.

The Queensland Government has made amendments to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008.

The first changes came into effect in July this year and include increased penalties for general off-leash offences from \$322 to \$806.

The Queensland Government has also introduced an increased penalty for declared dangerous or menacing dogs that are exercised off-leash.

Local governments are responsible for enforcing the amendments.

The changes are a timely reminder about the importance of responsible pet ownership.

Council maintains about 30 designated dog off-leash areas across the city, on both the mainland and the islands, where people can allow their dogs to run around off-leash and socialise with other dogs.

In Division 8, there are dog off-leash areas in Valentine Park, 78 Finucane Road, and George Street Park, 23A William Street, both in Alexandra Hills.

For more information about responsible pet ownership on Redlands Coast, including a full list of dog parks and off-leash areas, visit Council's website at redland.qld.gov.au/dogparks

▼ Fire ant vigilance

Fire ants have been an increasingly concerning problem across much of our city.

With changes to biosecurity obligations that came into effect in July, Council is now required to undertake treatment and surveillance for fire ants on Council-owned or managed land.

Drones and helicopters are being used for treatments, along with traditional methods such as all-terrain vehicles fitted with spreaders.

Importantly though, it is still everyone's obligation to report any suspected fire ant nests to Biosecurity Queensland in the first instance, whether the location is on private or public land.

Council will be informed of any reports to Biosecurity Queensland that are on Council-owned or managed land, to ensure relevant surveillance and treatment is carried out.

Fire ants are copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen and are quite small, 2-6mm.

If you identify or suspect that there are fire ants in an area, call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or lodge a report via their online form.

More information on Council's Fire Ant Management Program can be found at redland.qld.gov.au/FireAnts

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