

# **News from your local councillor** Cr Wendy Boglary

**Division 1 Wellington Point/Ormiston** 





**Christmas 2024** 



















## A celebration of community

Dear Residents.

I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas season ahead.

This year has definitely felt like one of my shortest and to be attending school awards nights already seems way too early.

Thank you to all the various volunteers who throughout the year have worked tirelessly to support our community. Whether you belong to a club, or individually, your contribution has benefited and strengthened Redlands Coast.

Council acknowledges the value of our volunteers so please take a well earned rest over the Christmas season so you are refreshed for the new year.

Here is a little photo montage of some of those wonderful volunteers and their work throughout the year.

### Cr Wendy Boglary Division 1 For daily updates follow me

@councillorwendyboglary



### Christmas calendar

#### 16 November:

IJM Christmas Market, 8am-1pm, Redlands College, 38 Anson Rd, Wellington Point. Handmade goods, woodwork, jewellery, Fair Trade and more.

#### 22 November:

Annual lighting of the Council Christmas tree, free community event at Raby Bay Harbour Park, Cleveland, 4.30pm-8.30pm.

#### 24 November:

Ormiston House, Christmas markets/car boot sale, 10am-2pm.

#### 30 November:

Cleveland/Ormiston Scouts Christmas Fair, Ormiston Scout Den corner of Bainbridge and Gordon streets, 2pm.

### 7 December:

Ormiston House, carols featuring Popera Belles. Gates open 5pm.

### 7 December:

Wellington Point Village Traders Community Christmas Street Festival, 4pm-8pm.









## Our environment is our greatest asset

Over the past year, Redlands College, alongside Environmental Management Unit (EMU) and Council's Redlands IndigiScapes Centre, has worked to restore the school's degraded creek.

Through targeted removal of invasive species and replanting native vegetation, the creek has been revitalised, offering improved erosion control, stabilised banks, and new habitats for birds and insects.

The project's impact extends beyond the campus, enhancing the local ecosystem downstream including Sovereign Lake.

Our local Bushcare volunteers also have been industrious throughout the year in their various areas.

An exciting new project is the Gourmet Gum Trees initiative. Through scientific research it has been proven certain trees species have a higher nutritional content for our koalas and I have been working to have these trees included in Bushcare plantings.

If we continue to place stress on our conservation areas it is imperative to manage and ensure priority food trees are planted for our endangered wildlife.

These areas are not only valuable for flora and fauna but play a significant role in our local economy attracting visitors to our region.

Recent koala watch activities at Bligh Street Wellington Point and Sturgeon Street Ormiston, plus a bird watching event out to King Island, highlighted that the number of enthusiastic participants for ecotourism is increasing.

With south-east Queensland to be spotlighted internationally over the next decade our environment will be a main attracter of the outside dollar to our region. Presently, according to the Constanza Review 2010 Redlands ecosystems services is valued at \$2,899,230,000pa! That's a lot of reasons to protect what we know is a naturally wonderful place to live.

## Fire ant fight continues - we need you!

With changes to biosecurity obligations that came into effect on 1 July, Council is now required to undertake treatment and surveillance for invasive 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. Council staff



(pictured) recently demonstrated to Councillors one of their new vehicles and its fire ant fighting equipment bought from this year's Budget. Importantly, 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.

Fire ants destroy the environment and will attack wildlife and humans when disturbed. 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

### **Division 1 Wellington Point/Ormiston**

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### **Tuture** sustainability

Councillors will shortly begin Budget deliberations for next year and also commence the revision of the Redland City Plan.

Both are extremely important documents for short-term and longterm sustainability and liveability in our city. For many years I have spoken about the need to prioritise infrastructure as there are constraints on revenue sources. Infrastructure charges paid by developers do not cover the cost of the necessary infrastructure, only approximately 30 per cent of our Local Government Infrastructure Plan is recovered. These charges were capped in 2012 and remain capped so Council has to find funding for this gap.

Councillors have to prioritise projects and, in my mind, deliver necessary infrastructure and also consider the ongoing operational costs. Wholeof-life and ongoing operational costs are often rather concerning. These costs and decisions have to be considered in the coming Budget and also when we revise our City Plan. Please keep an eye out for when community consultation commences and have your say. In my opinion, nothing is more important than to get our financial and planning decisions correct.

### **Sporting support**

Over this year I have worked with various groups and am pleased to see various grants approved. Redlands Softball and Redlands Cricket will both benefit from Oueensland Government and Council funding for the lighting of their grounds. This will not only support our local players but also attract tournaments to our area. The local economic benefits of such competitions were recently seen with our Touch Football Club once again attracting approximately 10,000 visitors to our city. Council is presently investigating an Indoor Multi Sports Centre to further encourage sporting engagement within our city for all the obvious social, physical, mental health and economic benefits. Presently I am working with Pickleball and Allstars to improve their existing facilities. This is a very exciting project and will accommodate the needs of both Clubs moving forward.