



Keep Shoutin'

The Division 5 newsletter of James Houghton

March - April 2011

Edition No.: 18

I will devote much of the front page of this newsletter to providing information about the recent storm & flooding event. But firstly my thoughts & prayers are with all who have suffered loss through the natural disasters that have occurred throughout Australia in recent weeks.

Also my heartfelt thanks to all those who organised or attended special fundraising events to assist those affected. In times like this I am proud to be a Queensland.

In our region 295 homes suffered inundation and some 50 businesses, most in Morayfield & Dayboro. Some 12 causeways were washed out & over 50 roads were cut or closed. In Division 5, major damage was caused by the associated king tides & storm surge which eroded much of our shoreline.

Look at the photos opposite which show the devastation that could have been prevented had DERM approved construction of solid barriers to protect our foreshores, instead of their preferred solution which is just to keep transporting sand to those affected areas. You can see the loss of some 5-6metres of valuable shoreline in the unprotected areas compared to no loss at all from the sites protected by sea-walls.

I must congratulate Council staff who have done an amazing cleanup of our beaches. Regrettably at the time of writing, they remain closed due to public health risks as they are likely to contain untreated sewage & other pollutants. With on-going release of sewage into the Brisbane River the water quality could remain unacceptable for some time. Unfortunately the storm event has caused our works program to be some 4-5 weeks behind schedule, so please be considerate & accept our apologies.

Moreton Bay Fishing – Sediment surveys have enabled the fishing industry's voluntary stoppage to be lifted in other parts of Moreton Bay, which has given the all clear to commercial and recreational fishers. Please support your local business by eating local seafood. Prawns have never been cheaper than at the moment.



Scarborough Beach, southern end



Queen's Beach South



Brisbane City Riverwalk at Queens Beach

Imagine the damage if Wivenhoe Dam had not been constructed, the photo below shows the water in Wivenhoe held back by the flood gates.



Inside Wivenhoe Dam

I was concerned when both the Premier & Prime Minister stated there would be cancellation of planned infrastructure following the floods. However I can assure residents that the **Moreton Bay East Rail Link to Kippa-Ring** is not included in that list & is still on track for a 2012 start.

Did You Know?

- 20,000 sandbags were provided in our region during the flooding, 90% of these were filled by MBRC staff to release our SES for other urgent jobs.
- Flood maps are available on-line for our region at: www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/flooddata

In the midst of our own recovery, we were able to offer assistance to other South East Queensland Councils with plant and equipment and operators working in Brisbane & Ipswich, an Environmental Health Officer in Lockyer and an entomologist assisting Bundaberg Regional Council with mosquito control in January.

New Land Valuation method - next valuation notices will be received in May 2011 & will be based on site value which means deductions for improvements such as retaining walls & filling (the old unimproved valuation method) will no longer be considered. MBRC had requested that the government hold off their valuation release due to the recent impact of floods throughout Queensland.

Needless Vandalism - Early in January the north amenity facilities at Scarborough Beach suffered extensive damage. Three fires were lit in the male, female and disabled toilets causing significant damage to this recently refurbished block. Should you know the individual/s responsible, I encourage you to contact your local Police station or Council.

Another incident involved solar lights being stolen from a gravesite at Redcliffe Cemetery. Police have apprehended those involved in this incident.



Unveiling of Jack McGuire Plaque -

This commemorative ceremony at the Gayundah Arboretum was held to honour John (Jack) McGuire, famous Redcliffe athletics coach. Jack was known as 'Coach Midas' because everything he touched turned to gold. His coaching record is kept at the Redcliffe Museum. He trained most of his athletes in the Woody Point to Margate area. Council acknowledged Jack's achievements by erecting two historical bollards near the walking track. His daughter Morann McGuire presented Council with a set of home made starting blocks to mark the occasion.

The MBRC Community Grants Program is now open. The five grant categories include Community Capacity Building & Development; Community Facilities Development; Interest Free Loans for Community Facilities; Community Events and Individual Achievement. Further information can be sourced from Council's website. Good luck! www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

The promised foreshore lighting along Endeavour Esplanade is due to be upgraded in the next eight weeks (and not before time !!!). Meanwhile Council has awarded a tender for the restoration of the Newport Bridge embankment which will be completed by May.

The plans for the **Coast Guard Memorial Wall** to be erected at Tingira Park, Scarborough are nearing completion. This wall is to remember all those who have been lost or buried at sea. Contact Coast Guard Redcliffe Ph: 3203 5522.

Auditions- Mousetrap Theatre is seeking actors for two upcoming productions. Contact Lilian on 3880 4598 or Keith on 3888 2393.

Redcliffe First Settlement Festival is no more. Following public consultation the new name will be: *'Celebrate Redcliffe Festival'*

I am a proud sponsor of the **RISING YOUNG STARS Performance 2011** to be held on Saturday 14 May, 7pm at the Mueller Performing Arts Centre, Morris Rd, Rothwell. This will be a classical music event showcasing Attila Sautov, Violinist & Director of Mueller International Chamber Orchestra, Shuan Hern Lee, 8 yr old Pianist & semi-finalist on Australia's Got Talent & 10 other rising young stars whose ages range from 8 to 18. Ticketing phone Mueller College on 3897 2700.



What an effort - from my neighbour and good friend Brenda Noonan who will be riding 4,500kms from Scarborough (WA) to Scarborough (Qld) throughout Autumn. The ride will take 6 weeks averaging 125km per day. Apart from satisfying a personal challenge, Brenda is raising money for the heart foundation. Visit her website: www.brendanoonan-onmybike.com to follow her journey and see how you can become involved with sponsorship support.



The introduction of the **State Government garbage levy** on household rubbish has been postponed, possibly to December. I wonder if there is an election coming?

Fox sightings this week near the Redcliffe Tennis Centre in Oxley Avenue.

Redcliffe PCYC Blue Light Disco, over 500 young people usually attend the disco which is a fully supervised venue without drugs or alcohol. Highly recommended. Contact: PCYC 3385 1900.

Documentary on Demolition of Hornbrook Bridge - a sequel documentary to the 'Beyond the Bridge Hornbrook' dvd is to be produced by Redgum Television. This new DVD will document the demolition of the old bridge & is strongly supported by Council as it completes the historical record.

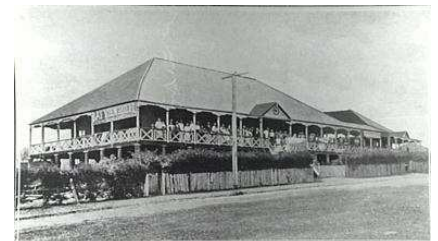
Dolphins Health Precinct officially opened on Saturday 5 February. The new & improved facility includes a gymnasium, café, kids club, the existing pool and new health related businesses including a podiatrist.

New Business Group has formed in Scarborough 'The Hub'. Group meets monthly to discuss general ways to improve business, attract tourists, bring life & vitality to the area and organise events. I was privileged last month to be invited to be their guest speaker. For further information please contact Boroughs Café or Scarborough Post.

Council has finally been able to proceed with securing **Scarborough Hotel** from illegal entry & vandalism after negotiating with the receivers. The site has a number of potential purchasers & Council is deciding on a development application. If approved it is understood the site will be sold with development to commence later in the year.

The Good Old Days

Scarborough Hotel was built in 1879 on part of 90 acres owned by Charles Mein & William Murphy. It was unprofitable and sold in 1883 and major extensions were carried out. A dining room 90ft long 'of magnificent dimensions' was added, also a smaller dining room & private sitting room with bedrooms leading from it. The whole of the building was surrounded by verandahs making a total of 150ft of verandahs. *This photo taken in 1923.*



"You never get a second chance to make a first impression"

Cheers,

James H.

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