



New Year's Eve fireworks

Our fireworks spectacular is back again this year and is set to be bigger and better than ever. The Paradise Point event is one of the largest on the Gold Coast, attracting up to 6000 visitors. This year will feature a three-dimensional fireworks blast from the water with live music on the main stage by hot party band, Amplify, and Aussie rock favourites, The Friendly Weapons. There is free face painting for the kids, and crowd favourite, The Lions Club will be there hosting a sausage sizzle and selling glow sticks. The event begins at 5pm, concluding with fireworks at 9pm. This is a popular event for locals, and I recommend bringing a camping chair or picnic blanket, or booking a table at one of the many restaurants overlooking the park. I hope to see you there!

Mobile office and community engagement

Moving forward, I think it's important to facilitate regular pop-up mobile offices in frequented community spaces such as local parks and shopping centres. If you would like to suggest a location, or you want to know the upcoming dates and times I will be out in the community, please contact my friendly team at division4@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or **5581 1680**.

Mayor Tom Tate's message

The City is investing millions of dollars to purchase wildlife habitat across the Gold Coast.

In the current financial year alone, we have allocated \$4.5 million for land acquisitions including wildlife corridors as we head towards our target of 51% of native vegetation cover within our overall city footprint.

Investing in green and open space is about protecting our flora and fauna as well as protecting our lifestyle. After all, the Gold Coast is home to over 3,000 native animal species, 2,500 native plants, 2,300 parks, 758km of bush trails and 171km of navigable waterways. We have 52km of open beaches and we manage more than 13,000 hectares of green and open space.

Right now, it's koala breeding season (until January 2024). This means adult koalas are on the move seeking a mate. The increase in movement causes a rise in koala injuries and fatalities due to vehicle collisions or encounters with dogs.

Koalas mainly move between trees by travelling on the ground and as Gold Coasters know, they are most active between dusk and dawn.

If you live or travel in koala habitat areas, you can help keep koalas safe by following these simple steps: drive slowly and stay alert on the road; make your backyard is safe and contain your dog at night; and create a koala corridor with koala food trees and koala-friendly fencing to ensure safe passage through the landscape.

Of course, if you spot a koala in danger, call for help on 5527 2444 (Wildcare Australia's 24/7 hotline).

For information and to report a koala sighting, visit cityofgoldcoast.com.au/helpsavekoalas

Tom Tate

TOM TATE
MAYOR



Fire ants

Fire ants are still a very real and significant issue in Division 4, and the greater Gold Coast. At the time of writing this, a federal funding boost of \$268 million was committed to essentially 'ring-fence' southeast Queensland and protect our natural assets. The potential for fire ants to migrate even further to south-east Queensland and beyond, is a very real threat, and has the potential to cause economic, health and social impacts in excess of \$1.25 billion annually. I am heartened to learn of the federal government's financial commitment, but I also hope this is the first step in winning the battle in eradicating fire ants for good. We need everyone's help to get rid of fire ants in our community. To order a free treatment kit for your property please visit the National Fire Ant Eradication website fireants.org.au or contact my office at division4@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or **5581 1680**.



Lands End Bridge



COUNCILLOR SHELLEY CURTIS

After an extensive career in the ADF, it will come as no surprise that I retain teamwork and collaboration as high priorities. None of us are as smart as all of us.

I have had the great privilege of meeting with many of our local community groups and residents over the past three months and have been humbled by the warmth and support afforded to me as I continue to find my feet in what is proving to be an immensely challenging, yet undeniably rewarding role. Attending Sunday Sounds, the Runaway Bay Christmas Carols and Movies Under the Stars has been a highlight. I have seen firsthand the joy and connection these community creating events provide for so many of our residents and I look forward to supporting their ongoing delivery.

Many locals have taken the opportunity to bring a range of important issues and potential opportunities to my attention, either through my office or at one of my mobile pop-ups. This has been an incredibly effective way of rapidly expanding my appreciation of the local area, along with the needs and expectations of our residents.

Although I much prefer the personal interaction afforded via face-to-face meetings, the trained strategist and tactician in me is looking for efficiencies in the way I obtain input from the public. This will allow me to identify and respond to priority issues more effectively. Very soon I will be calling for division-wide input via a short online survey. The purpose of this consultation is to provide me a more wholistic view of the needs and aspirations within the local area and the data

will better enable me to advocate for and deliver on priority outcomes as identified by you, the residents.

This consultation will be a key informant on how I plan for and allocate divisional funds, so I am encouraging anyone with an interest in optimising our beautiful area and community, to get involved. The survey will be promulgated to residents via our e-newsletter and Facebook page. If you are not already receiving the Division 4 e-newsletter or following my Facebook page (@CrShelleyCurtis), you can subscribe via my City of Gold Coast website: cityofgoldcoast.com.au/council-region/mayor-councillors/division-4. Although online surveying is preferred, there will also be hard copies available for pick up from office.

As a self-confessed, festive season tragic, I want to wish every resident of Division 4 a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. I hope you find yourselves among those you love, enjoying the blessings of our vibrant and beautiful community – look after yourselves and each other.

Shelley Curtis

CR SHELLEY CURTIS
DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR

Councillor Shelley Curtis expresses her personal views and makes no representations on behalf of the Council of the City of Gold Coast.

Accessibility is important to us. For more City information, visit: cityofgoldcoast.com.au

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Future of Paradise Point Parklands

Paradise Point's Esplanade playground is almost due for replacement! With so many accessible features, the parklands are becoming a favourite destination for visitors of all abilities, and one that Councillor Curtis considers a true asset to the area. Improved accessibility to the playground, BBQ areas and picnic settings means that park users of all abilities can have an inclusive and enriching experience. The new and improved playground won't just have better accessibility, it will also have playground equipment for all ages to enjoy.

There will be a series of community consultation events over three weeks so you can share your thoughts and views on what you want in the new playground. There will be online surveys as well as QR codes around the current park to have your say. In addition, Councillor Curtis will be consulting with local schools to get direct feedback from kids who will be using the playground. There will also be a pop-up event held on Saturday 9 December from 8am to 10am which will be a fantastic opportunity to meet and discuss your ideas with Councillor Curtis and Senior Project Officer, Caitlin Newberry. Make sure you take part in creating the new future for Paradise Point parklands.

Photo above: Journalist, Lianna Turner, class 5/6S, Biggera Waters State School



Spotlight on Quota Park

Every publication I will shine a spotlight on one of the many beautiful local parks in Division 4 that don't often get a special mention and may be less utilised in comparison to some of our more popular, well-known parks.

This time I am highlighting Quota Park, which also features on the front of this summer's newsletter, its stunning blue green waters leading over Lands End bridge and onto Marine Parade, Biggera Waters. This beautiful park offers 180-degree views of our spectacular Broadwater with cooling onshore winds. With the mercury starting to climb, it is the perfect place to be this summer. Featuring two undercover picnic shelters with BBQ's, natural tree plantings for additional shade, and a big open space to kick the ball around, it is the perfect set-up for large groups and families.

A nautical-themed playground has plenty of imaginative play elements for the kids, including a pirate ship on the high seas and crow's nest to climb. The park also caters to fitness enthusiasts with three separate outdoor fitness set ups to get the body pumping. Car parking is along Marine Parade opposite Burrows Street and at the very northern end of the park near the playground, but I encourage you to get out in the sunshine using Active Travel, and ride your bike, skateboard, or e-scooter. The beach south and adjacent to Quota Park is also a popular off-leash dog exercise area during the hours of 5am to 8am and 4pm to 7pm, so bring your furry friends along too.

Calling all future journalists

Although I am loving my role as Divisional Councillor, any former educator will tell you, there is nothing quite as rewarding as directly supporting the development of the next generation. Wanting to stay connected with my teaching roots, I recently set a challenge for students through our four local schools to report for the Division 4 Newsletter.

Lianna from Biggera Waters State School was the first to volunteer for this project and has independently researched, crafted, and delivered an impressive feature article and image for the Paradise Point Esplanade playground upgrade. I met with Lianna at her school for an initial briefing and provided the relevant material for her chosen topic. A week later she delivered a first-class draft that was pretty much ready for print!

I was impressed by Lianna's enthusiasm and professionalism and would like to continue to offer this opportunity to local students. If you have a child interested in photography, journalism, or local government, that would like to report on an area of local interest, please let your school's administration know. Home school students are welcome to express interest directly through division4@goldcoast.qld.gov.au. I am excited to support our future writers in achieving their first published works through this mutually beneficial pathway.



Friendly activities for over 50's

The Paradise Point Senior Citizen's Association hosts a number of free and low-cost activities for locals in the small and large halls located on Community Lane, Paradise Point.

Indoor Bowls

Monday (large hall) 12pm-3pm

Thursday (large hall) 12pm-3pm

Saturday (large hall) 12pm-3pm

Card Games

Monday (large hall) 12pm

Wednesday (small hall) 11:30pm

Thursday (large hall) 12pm

Saturday (large hall) 12pm

Art

Wednesday (small hall) 11:30am

All activities are \$3 per person, with an additional fee of \$12 for art classes. An annual subscription of \$3 with the association is also required. For more information, please contact Secretary, Noreen Riley on 0410 875 763.



Photo credit - Animal Welfare League Queensland

Animal management

In my time as Division 4 Councillor, it has become very apparent to me that animal management is an important issue in our community, one that residents hold very dear to their hearts. For many, their pets are more than just pets, they are family members.

With a stunning natural landscape, complimented by accessible walking routes, pet-friendly cafes, and off-leash exercise area, it is no surprise dog ownership forms an important aspect of our local lifestyle. As with any area of importance, opinions and expectations vary significantly across the community, and a multitude of dog-related issues and conflicts have been brought to my attention since my appointment.

Dog amenities support important health and wellbeing outcomes for residents within our community. However, I have quickly learned that the needs of individual dog owners vary considerably and don't always align with the very reasonable expectation of other park users. I believe it is critical that we take the time to collectively consider requests to extend, fence or increase the number of off-leash exercise areas within the division to ensure safe, equitable, and harmonious solutions for all park users – furry or otherwise.

My community consultation survey will include opportunities for participants to share their personal views on the provision of dog amenities in the local area and I welcome your input in this important debate.

