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## **Redland City named Queensland's Sustainable City for 2010**

Redland City has been awarded the title of Queensland's Sustainable City for 2010 by Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland and has won a second award for Outstanding Volunteers for Sustainability for the Redlands IndigiScapes Centre.

Announcing the award with Mayor Melva Hobson today at Redland City Council's IndigiScapes Centre, Chief Executive Officer for Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland, Rick Burnett said the prestigious award recognised the efforts of residents and communities in protecting their local environment.

"The Redlands is embracing all the criteria for a sustainable community," Mr Burnett said. "It is mindful in its planning that recycling, and waste and water management are key issues and it is demonstrating new approaches to achieve best practice, in partnerships with the community, council and business.

"Apart from Council programs, Redland City is also host to the unique IndigiScapes environmental education centre.

"Redland City Council's IndigiScapes Centre attracts thousands of visitors and hundreds of volunteers drawn by its interpretative walks, native landscaped gardens, bush café, native nursery and wide range of bush care, fauna and environment protection programs," Mr Burnett said.

Accepting the award in the company of community volunteers, Councillors and Council staff, Redland City Mayor Melva Hobson said the award was a particularly proud moment for the city and the Redland community.

"We are thrilled to be recognised for the positive direction our city is setting and our desire to lead by example through the efforts of the community to protect and sustain natural environment and wildlife populations for the future, including the threatened local koala population," Mayor Hobson said.

"As population grows in south-east Queensland, we face many challenges and we are planning ahead to help reduce our waste, minimise our carbon footprint and reduce the waste of recoverable resources and energy."

"Community education and the role of volunteers are key part of these efforts and the Redlands IndigiScapes Centre is an important focal point for both.

"It provides support for community wide environment and waste education programs, has over 700 affiliated volunteers working with various environment and wildlife programs, and runs a range of popular school age education programs," Mayor Hobson said.

“We are immensely proud of this award and the recognition it gives to the efforts of volunteers, community groups and Council staff who work tirelessly to achieve the city’s vision for a sustainable Redlands for 2030 and beyond.”

As the Queensland winner of this year’s Sustainable Cities Award, Redland City will automatically be entered in the National Keep Australia Beautiful Award for Australia’s Sustainable City.

Keep Australia Beautiful has announced four other 2010 award winners;- Community Pride (Ipswich), Water Conservation (Brisbane), Litter and Waste Management (Gold Coast) and Outstanding Volunteer for Sustainability (Redlands – IndigiScapes)

The Redlands IndigiScapes Centre website is located at [www.indigiscapes.com.au](http://www.indigiscapes.com.au).

**Media information (not for publication):**

Gerard Noon, Principal Adviser Media & Marketing  
Redland City Council  
Tel: 07 3829 8726  
Mob 0412 447 562

**Additional information:**

*Redland City Council program examples cited by Keep Australian Beautiful.*

- The Redlands IndigiScapes Centre’s **Community Bushcare Program** allows the community to positively contribute to its local bushland areas and learn more about the local plants and animals. Volunteers are provided with training, resources and equipment, field trips and social events, such as National Tree Day, Koala Community Plantings, Community Plantings and Trees for Weeds to create ownership and pride within the community.
- Redland City Council runs the **Waterways Extension Program** focussed on reducing pollutants entering the waterways (primarily) and improving waterway health (secondly) through extension practice and engagement of private landholders.
- In waste minimisation, the Redland’s has a full time Education Officer in Resources and Waste, dedicated to education on the subject in schools, businesses and community groups.
- With IndigiScapes, Council’s waste operations group will trial an ‘eco-day’ program next month at a local primary school where students will gain a broader understanding of the environment. IndigiScapes will deliver lessons on flora and fauna (with a focus on endangered species) in the Redlands. Waste Operations will also deliver lessons on waste minimisation and Eco Force will deliver lessons on pollution prevention.
- Currently, Redland City Council has various locations where locals can take recyclable items (that can’t be recycled in residential recycling bins) such as corks, batteries and mobile phones. To increase resource recovery of such items our Education Officer is setting school challenges to recover some of these items. For example, Redland Bay State School will act as a ‘hub’ and is aiming to collect 1,000 household batteries. This saves hundreds of parents making a car trip to dispose of batteries, reducing carbon emissions and potentially increasing resource recovery where batteries may have just been put in to the general waste bin instead.
- A stand- out program operating from IndigiScapes is the Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue (RWR). It is a community volunteer program that responds to calls regarding sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in the city and is supported by Redland City Council.
- Vicki Pender is the person who goes above and beyond, who lives and breathes wildlife care and rescue and makes a significant contribution to the community. She has been an integral part of the Redlands’ 24hr Wildlife Rescue service for over 15 years, training techniques to rescue

koalas, and making herself available at any time of the day or night to assist with “problematic” issues the volunteers may face. Vicki is also the convenor for the Bushcare Link Road Fodder Farm at Victoria Point, spending her weekends spreading mulch and pulling weeds. Vicki is one of our greatest “unsung heroes”, and earned the Outstanding Volunteer award for IndigisScapes.