



Light shines on MY HORIZON

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I am pleased to have played a role in facilitating this new centre, which provides so much support. It's a place where everyone can feel accepted.

*Cy Murray Elliott
Division 7 (Alexandra Hills,
Capalaba, Thornlands)*

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The crew at Myhorizon's new community and education centre would love Redlanders to pop in and say g'day.

The expansive multimillion-dollar facility on land leased from Council next to Capalaba's Redland IndigiScapes Centre is now fully operational, nearly 36 years since Myhorizon was formed in the Redlands by a group of parents who wanted to create a better life for children with disabilities through education, employment and community connection.

"We encourage people to come down and see the place, have

a coffee at our café or stop for lunch," Marketing Communications Manager Stephanie Campbell says. "We even have a coffee cart out the front from 5.30am, so if you are travelling along Redland Bay Road on your way to work, call in and get a cup."

The public café at the heart of this multi-functional centre is called The Bush Pantry, which is fitting given its idyllic surrounds with views over IndigiScapes' natural landscape.

"The outlook here is pretty spectacular," Stephanie says.

Catering through The Bush Pantry and its adjoining commercial

kitchen is expected to drive employment opportunities, with the centre also offering top-class corporate conference facilities. Weddings and other functions are also on the cards, with plans to host special community events for occasions such as Easter and Mothers' Day.

It all generates income which goes back into supporting people with disabilities.

The centre's social enterprise employment program currently employs about 30 people with disabilities, mainly through a mail and packaging service which handles an eclectic mix of contracts from corporate printing to loading showbags.

The complex also includes the Ian McDougall Centre, named after the late Redlands philanthropist whose trust has supported a range of local causes. The Ian McDougall Trust made a \$450,000 donation to the early intervention centre.

This is a wondrous place for youngsters, where therapy merges with colourful and sensory play areas through the Baby Bridges program and where the parents of children with disabilities in remote

areas can connect with therapists and find support "live" via Skype.

In partnership with QUT, some magical play zones are being installed and, thanks to a Council grant, a Gymzoonasium program will soon begin, which uses animal-inspired movements to help develop youngsters' motor skills.

Myhorizon CEO Joe Gamblin says the new centre reflects the organisation's commitment to continuing its important work in the region.

"Redland City is expected to see a significant increase in the number of people accessing disability support services when the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rolls out in July next year," Joe says.

"Our enhanced facilities mean we now have capacity to meet future demand for our employment and training, support coordination, plan management, independent living and early intervention support services, as well as a suitable location for our burgeoning social enterprises to operate out of, providing meaningful employment opportunities for more than 30 people with disability.

"The inclusion of our community café The Bush Pantry, and public hire spaces for conferences, events, and weddings overlooking natural bushland with connecting walkways to Council's IndigiScapes Centre, completes our vision for the project.

"The centre has been designed with the intent of bringing our diverse Redlands community together, a reflection of Myhorizon's mission: uplifting individual lives by creating connected communities".

Take care of your home these holidays

Holidays are a time of celebration and relaxation. Don't let thieves ruin your time away.

Follow these simple tips to reduce the opportunities for crime:

- Inform a trusted friend or neighbour of your trip and leave them your contact details.
- Try to make your home and property look lived in – cancel deliveries, leave lights on timers and ask a neighbour to collect your mail and bring in rubbish bins.
- Clear your garden of tools, ladders and bricks that could be used to break in.
- Do not leave a message on your answering machine telling people you're on holidays.
- Ensure all of your doors and windows are locked. Don't leave a key hidden outside.
- Do not leave your car keys in the house if your car is parked in the garage or driveway. Take them with you or give them to a trusted friend or neighbour.

For more information www.redland.qld.gov.au/CommunitySafety



Report Graffiti Online

Every holiday season we see a spike in incidences of graffiti and vandalism. It's not unique to the Redlands, but we can all help discourage and reduce this behaviour by reporting it promptly, preferably within 24 hours

Rapid removal limits the admiration a vandal receives from their peers (often the primary motive) and reduces the likelihood of further vandalism.

