# Living in Brisbane

## October 2019 Edition

### Inside:

First home buyers’ rates saving | More to see and do on the river | Get ready for storm season | Find treasure on the Garage Sale Trail

## A message from the Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner

Brisbane is a great city and I want to make it an even better place to live by easing cost of living pressures.

That’s why Council is giving back to seniors who have helped shape our city, by providing free off-peak travel on Brisbane buses and ferries for maroon senior go card holders.

Council is also making it easier to buy your first home by providing a one-year 50% rates discount for first home owners, making Brisbane better by providing relief for first home owners when they need it most.

The 50% rates remission applies to title transfers on or after 1 October 2019 for properties valued less than $750,000.

We’re also bringing life to the suburbs with cafes, food trucks, start-ups and more by supporting local businesses with a $2 million cut in fees.

More life in our suburbs means more opportunities to connect, work and relax in the unique places that make our communities great.

I’ve been delighted with the ideas shared by the people of Brisbane to inspire the Victoria Park Vision for the creation of Brisbane’s biggest new park in 50 years. I look forward to hearing your feedback on the draft Vision when it’s released in the coming months.

**Adrian Schrinner**

**Lord Mayor**

## Bust out your togs, pool season is here!

A cooling dip is not far away, with Council’s 22 world-class pools across Brisbane. We’ve recently invested more than $17 million in upgrades to give you more opportunities to enjoy our beautiful climate and outdoor lifestyle.

Head to Sandgate Aquatic Centre to make a splash in the new 25-metre heated pool and see the swimming murals and tiled feature walls illustrating the history of the Sandgate baths and pool. The centre also has a new gym with a training room overlooking the outdoor pool.

There’s also a new water play area opening at Runcorn Pool this month, while works on the Langlands Park Memorial Pool upgrade (including a new 25-metre pool and water play area) are on track for completion by late 2019.

Pool facilities such as barbecues, kiosks and water play areas vary between venues. To find a pool near you, visit **brisbane.qld.gov.au**

## Seniors get around Brisbane for free

Free off-peak travel is now available for seniors, creating more opportunities for older residents to move around the city and connect with family and friends.

Whether heading to an appointment, the shops or meeting up with friends, you can travel there for free on Brisbane buses, CityCats and ferries from 8.30am-3.30pm and 7pm-6am Monday to Friday, and on buses all day and night on weekends.

All you need to do is tap on and off using an eligible TransLink senior go card or Seniors Card +go, and you won’t be charged for your journey. It’s another way Council is getting you home quicker and safer. *Get*

## Three cheers for grandparents

Celebrate the important role grandparents play in our families and communities on Grandparents Day, Sunday 27 October.

There are plenty of free and low-cost activities for the whole family. Enjoy a picnic at any of Council’s 2100 parks, explore the Hide ‘n’ Seek Children’s Trail at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha or head to Perth Street Park, Camp Hill for giant games, food trucks and live music.

Take advantage of the free off-peak public transport for seniors for an affordable and memorable day out.

Grandparents hold a special place in our hearts all year round, and Council’s GOLD ‘n’ Kids activities are specially designed for seniors and children to do together. From the adventurous to the creative and sporty, there are low-cost activities for the young and young at heart. To find out what’s on, visit **brisbane.qld.gov.au/activeandhealthy**

## New savings for first home buyers

Buying your first home just got a little easier, with first home buyers getting a 50% rates remission for the first 12 months of home ownership.

Council’s rates remission is available on properties valued at under $750,000 and leaves first home owners with up to $1000 extra in their back pocket when they need it the most.

We’re making Brisbane better by lowering the cost of living and making it easier to buy your first home.

Apply for your rates reduction at **brisbane.qld.gov.au/rates**

## Hop on the Garage Sale Trail

Put second-hand first this month and do your bit to keep Brisbane clean and green by joining the Garage Sale Trail on 19-20 October.

Hosting a registered garage sale, stall or shop is a great way to fundraise and encourage sustainable living while decluttering your property and diverting waste from landfill.

Council has registered Brisbane’s Geebung and Acacia Ridge tip shops on the trail, so you can snap up quality second-hand household items that have been salvaged before going to landfill. Bargain hunters will find an array of goodies, including clothes, books, toys, furniture and homewares.

To find a garage sale near you or to register one of your own on the trail, visit **garagesaletrail.com.au**

## **Embark on a river adventure**

Residents are jumping on board Council’s expanding River Access Network, with thousands lapping up the new facilities at Dutton Park, West End and New Farm.

The New Farm Park River Hub is open for public boat mooring, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, jet skiing and canoeing.

Whale watching and Moreton Bay tours are a hop away now that tourism operators can pick up and drop off passengers along the network.

Council has added a range of free and low-cost activities at some hubs, including moonlight kayaking and children’s fishing classes. Visit our website for details.

Don’t have your sea legs? You can still explore our iconic river by foot or cycle along more than 25 km of riverside pathways.

## Purple reign

Jacarandas are so closely associated with Brisbane springtime that many people assume they are native to our city. But did you know jacarandas originate from South America? They were introduced to Brisbane when Walter Hill, the first curator of the City Botanic Gardens, planted the first jacaranda tree in 1864.

Council continues to nurture our love affair with jacarandas, committing $108,000 to planting more at Bulimba, New Farm and St Lucia.

To snap an Instagram-worthy photo with jacarandas in bloom, walk along the Brisbane River from New Farm to St Lucia, through the City Botanic Gardens and Kangaroo Point – you can’t go wrong.

For your chance to be featured on Council’s social media channels, share your best jacaranda photos on **facebook.com/groups/viewsbrisbane**

## Brisbane Portrait Prize finalists on show

Don’t miss the Brisbane Portrait Prize exhibition at Brisbane Powerhouse until Thursday 31 October.

Showcasing the finalists from 660 entries in the inaugural competition, the artworks honour the characters of our community who make the city great.

The Brisbane Portrait Prize gives talented artists the opportunity to compete for cash prizes, including a Lord Mayor’s Prize of $50,000, as well as prizes for digitally created works and a People’s Choice Award.

Head to Brisbane Powerhouse for the free exhibition and celebrate our city’s new artistic event.

## Visionary ideas for Victoria Park

Victoria Park is being transformed into Brisbane’s biggest new park in 50 years while retaining its popular features, such as the putt putt course, driving range and function spaces.

Residents have shared hundreds of ideas with Council to help shape the Victoria Park Vision, with submissions including a city lookout, interactive fountain and treehouse playground.

To spark everyone’s imagination, Council also asked some of Brisbane’s leading designers for their own creative concepts, such as the ‘Active Forest’ by Urbis.

The draft Victoria Park Vision will be released later this year. To stay up to date visit our website and search ‘Victoria Park Vision’ or #MyVictoriaPark on social media.

## IN BRIEF

### CREATING THE NORTHSIDE’S FUTURE PARKS

Council maintains more than 2100 parks, with more created all the time. Eildon Hill Reserve in Windsor and Chalk Street Park in Lutwyche are being enhanced over the next three years. Last month, residents had their say on how they would like to use these greenspaces in the future. This feedback is being used to draft plans for the park upgrades, with works starting next year. For more information, visit **brisbane.qld.gov.au**

### IMPROVING SAFETY FOR ROAD USERS IN WINDSOR

The intersection at Lutwyche Road and Bowen Street is being upgraded as part of the Australian Government’s Black Spot 2019-20 Program. The upgrade includes a new traffic signal mast arm and lanterns to improve visibility of the traffic signals at the intersection, which has had 14 crashes reported between 2013 and 2018. Works are expected to be completed by late 2019.

### HONOUR AN UNSUNG HERO

Nominations for the Lord Mayor’s Australia Day Awards close at 5pm on Monday 4 November. Honour a friend, family member, community leader or colleague with the recognition they deserve for contributing to our city’s vision of a diverse, friendly and strong community. Categories include Senior Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Nominate online at **brisbane.qld.gov.au**

### CAST YOUR VOTE FOR BEST GREEN PICTURE

Public voting has opened for the Lord Mayor’s Green Heart Photography Competition. Visit our website to vote for your favourite image that captures the theme ‘Green Brisbane’ and go into the draw to win a Story Bridge climb for two. Voting closes on Wednesday 23 October, with winners announced on Friday 1 November at a ceremony at QPAC’s Green Jam on the Melbourne Street Green.

## Be safe during storm season

Brisbane’s subtropical climate brings the possibility of severe weather every summer, and now is the perfect time to begin preparing for storm season.

Keep your family, pets and property safe with these tips.

* Clear your roof, gutters and downpipes.
* Keep trees trimmed to a manageable height with no overhanging branches.
* Identify loose objects in your yard, plan where to store them or how best to tie them down
* during severe weather.
* Prepare an emergency kit including a first-aid kit, battery‑operated radio and torch.
* Sign up to Council’s free severe weather alert service.

Visit **brisbane.qld.gov.au** for more tips and to register for the Early Warning Alert Service.

## Spotlight on Downfall Creek Bushland Centre

Curious about native plants and animals? Head to Downfall Creek Bushland Centre to view interactive environmental displays and participate in hands-on activities to learn about living sustainably.

You can also reconnect with nature at weekly yoga classes and enjoy nature-based sensory play at bush kindy sessions.

Bring the whole family for a picnic or barbecue in the undercover shelters outside while the kids hit the playground, or meander along tracks through open forest to spot wildflowers, birds, butterflies, wallabies and koalas.

Open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 4pm, the centre is located at the Raven Street Reserve.

## Mosquito protection

With the return of warmer weather comes the beginning of mosquito season. Council crews treat mosquito breeding grounds year-round with eco-friendly sprays, but saltmarsh mosquito season ramps up in spring.

Visit our website to find tips for reducing mosquito breeding on your property.

**WIN!** We’re giving away five hampers to help you enjoy a mosquito-free summer, each including insect repellents and a Thermacell repellent device. To enter, search ‘Living in Brisbane competition’ on our website and tell us three places container-breeding mosquitoes can breed in your backyard (hint: see our online ‘Mosquitoes in Brisbane’ fact sheet). Entries close at 5pm on Friday 1 November.

## Recycle your garden clippings

Did you know there are several ways you can keep your lawn clippings and prunings out of landfill?

Recycling garden waste keeps Brisbane clean and green by saving valuable resources from going to landfill, where it ends up producing harmful greenhouse gases that affect our environment.

This month, you can take your garden waste to any of Council’s Resource Recovery Centres for free on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October, where it will be turned into compost and mulch which goes back to the environment.

If you want to recycle your garden waste at home, try a backyard composting system or order a green waste recycling bin. For more details, visit **brisbane.qld.gov.au**

## Did you know?

It’s not uncommon for suburbs to have themed street names. Most towns in Australia had their first streets named after British monarchs. However, you can spot some interesting themes in Brisbane suburbs. McDowall has ‘movie star’ streets including Brando, Connery, Eastwood and Monroe; Mackenzie boasts artists such as Michelangelo, Monet and Van Gogh; in Forest Lake you will find Cambridge, Eton, Oxford and Stanford; while King Arthur, Lancelot and Merlin are in Tennyson.

## Quiz time

Question: Name Brisbane's first in-ground public baths?

Answer: Spring Hill Baths

Question: What was the name of the first bridge built across the Brisbane River in 1865?

Answer: Brisbane Bridge

Question: Apart from purple, in what other colour do jacaranda varieties flower?

Answer: White

Question: The first Oktoberfest in 1810 was a celebration in honour of what occasion?

Answer: A royal wedding.

## Community Spotlight

### Save Our Waterways Now

When Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN) first began in 1994, the volunteer group from The Gap aimed to educate the community and encourage others to help protect Brisbane’s waterways.

Now, 25 years on, SOWN’s membership continues to grow with more than 30 local groups working along Ithaca, Fish and Enoggera Creeks.

“On Saturdays we hold working bees to clear out rubbish and weeds from one of our creeks and plant new native trees,” explains SOWN Secretary John Rohde.

Central to SOWN’s efforts is its nursery, which grows native plants to put along waterways to encourage waterway health and biodiversity.

“In the future, we would like to see more local groups start their own nurseries,” John says. For more information about SOWN and how to volunteer, visit **saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au**

## Support Brisbane’s homeless

Planning is underway for Council’s next Homeless Connect event on Thursday 28 November. The event brings together business and community groups to provide free services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Attendees have access to free services such as health checks and haircuts, as well as clothing, personal grooming items, bedding and food.

Council is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents. The last Homeless Connect event in June provided more than 240 health checks and 2500 treatments by service providers.

You can donate non-perishable food items and toiletries to ward offices from Monday 14 October to Monday 11 November. You can also register to volunteer at **volunteeringqld.org.au**

## Bringing your suburbs to life

Brisbane’s neighbourhoods are so much more than where people live; they are places for work, hubs for community and spaces to connect with family and friends.

To help bring more life to the suburbs, we’ve launched the Better Suburbs Initiative to focus on revitalising areas outside the city’s inner five kilometres.

The Better Cities initiative of the 1990s transformed Brisbane precincts such as New Farm, Teneriffe, South Brisbane, the Gabba and West End. The Better Suburbs Initiative will look to apply similar strategies of renewal and revitalisation to suburban communities.

Renewal projects will be identified by the Better Suburbs Initiative Board, comprising professionals highly experienced in urban renewal.

Moorooka-Salisbury is the first area to be explored for opportunities of revitalisation, with plans to be revealed over the next 12 months.

## Competition: Get behind the Brisbane Bandits

Four-time Australian Baseball League champions, the Brisbane Bandits are back in action for the 2019/2020 season. Don’t miss a minute of the excitement when the Bandits take on the Auckland Tuatara at Onehub Stadium in Newmarket on Friday 13 December from 6pm.

We have five family passes (two adults and two children) to give away. Head to our website and search ‘Living in Brisbane competition’. Entries close at 5pm on Friday 25 October.

## WHAT’S ON

### OKTOBERFEST BRISBANE

**18-20 October, various times and prices, Brisbane Showgrounds, Bowen Hills**

Pull out your dirndl and lederhosen for Australia’s largest German festival. Enjoy authentic German fare, from bratwurst to bier, and live entertainment, including the Bavarian Strongmen competition, Heidi the Yodeller and live music and dance. **oktoberfestbrisbane.com.au**

### INAS GLOBAL GAMES

**Until 19 October, various times and venues, $10 (children under 6, free)**

Cheer on world-class athletes as they compete, succeed and prove intellectual impairment is no barrier. **inasglobalgames.org**

### GOOD FOOD & WINE SHOW

**25-27 October, 9am-5pm, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane, various prices**

Discover new products, see celebrity chefs and more. **goodfoodshow.com.au**

### BRISBANE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

**26 October, 4-7.30pm, The Amphitheatre, Roma Street Parkland, Brisbane City**

Come early for music, food, face painting and sword play then stay for Hamlet. **brisbaneshakespearefestival.com.au**

### DIWALI FESTIVAL

**26 October, 4-9pm, Chinatown Mall, Fortitude Valley**

Enjoy Indian live music, dance and special light displays in honour of the traditional Hindu celebration. **brisbane.qld.gov.au**

### FIESTA LATINA

**2 November, 12 noon-8pm, Roma Street Parkland, Brisbane City**

Discover the sights, sounds and flavours of Latin American culture with live shows, food stalls and more. **lacaqld.org.au**

## **IN YOUR REGION**

### FREE GREEN WASTE TIPPING WEEKEND

**19-20 October, 6.30am, Nudgee Resource Recovery Centre, FREE**

Prepare your yard for storm and bushfire season by disposing of your natural garden waste, including weeds, grass clippings, prunings, palm fronds and loose bark.

### FISHWISE

**19 October, 10am, Nudgee Beach Reserve, FREE**

Learn the basics of shore-based fishing, including bait gathering, knot tying and casting. To book, visit **2bentrods.com.au**

### DRAGONBOATING

**20 October, 9.30am, Yowoggera Park, Albion, FREE**

Start with a warm-up then have fun paddling from Breakfast Creek to the Brisbane River. Suitable for children 8 years and over who are accompanied by an adult.

### WRITING WORKSHOP: SHORT, SHARP STORIES

**26 October, 10.30am, Nundah Library, Nundah, FREE**

### Discuss techniques and writing habits to develop, draft and improve your short stories at this Queensland Writers Centre workshop. To book, call 3403 8888.

### MEET WILDLIFE NEIGHBOURS

**27 October, 11am, Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, McDowall, FREE**

Get up close to the native animals that call our wetlands, bushland and backyards home.

### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT PROGRAM – SESSION 1

**28 September, 10am, O’Callaghan Park, Zillmere, FREE**

Play instruments and get active with your children while they learn essential skills. Suitable for 5 years and under.

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Every effort is made to ensure that information is correct at time of printing.

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