

BOROUGH BITES



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2020 Council Meetings

Ordinary Meetings of Council will be held in the Queenscliff Town Hall at 7:00pm on the following days:

- Thursday 27 August 2020
- Thursday 17 September 2020
- Thursday 22 October 2020
- Thursday 26 November 2020

Unless otherwise stated, these meetings will be closed to in-person viewing by the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recordings will be captured and the video published on Council's website the following day, and a livestream made available on Council's YouTube page.

Renderings of the proposed Queenscliffe Hub, including the entryway, auditorium and central corridor. More images are available on Council's website.

Queenscliffe Hub coming to life

Construction on the Queenscliffe Hub is now closer than ever, with the project entering the town planning stage.

Following months of planning and incorporating feedback provided from Borough of Queenscliffe residents and visitors, detailed renderings of the multi-million-dollar shared space highlight the warmth and intelligence of the building designed by Kerstin Thompson Architects.

The much-loved heritage facade of the library is being preserved and celebrated as part of the design. The design includes an increase in space for every tenant, as well as a shared auditorium and community facilities. Public toilets and other amenities will also ensure the building is a vibrant and accessible public space.

To read more about the design or learn about making a submission, visit Council's website at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/hub.





Message from the Mayor

To all Borough of Queenscliffe residents, ratepayers and visitors, I hope this reaches you well. The unpredictable nature of what 2020 has brought has tested our patience and resilience. But in typical fashion, our community has stuck together and supported each other. The knowledge that there will be an end to this pandemic, however soon that may be, has given us all motivation to stay positive and look towards the future.

Support our local businesses on Facebook

A silver lining of the pandemic has been the willingness for local residents to make a conscious and informed choice about where they purchase their food, clothes and other items. Queenscliffe residents have always had a strong focus on shopping local, and with Council's latest social media offering, you too can put a face to the name of some of our most renowned stores. The '3225 Love Local Shop Local' page has more than 650 followers, regularly promoting the work of our local shopkeepers. Join in today at www.facebook.com/3225LoveLocalShopLocal/

New track on the horizon for local riders

BMX riders will work alongside Council to plan the design of a new bike track in the Borough, if approval is granted by Victorian Government authorities. Council is in the process of searching for more substantial alternatives for local riders to utilise as it begins revegetation works of the Bunny Woods area of the Point Lonsdale Foreshore, which had recently suffered significant damage to coastal vegetation.

For cyclists currently looking for a place to ride their bike, all remain welcome to use the track opposite Point Lonsdale Primary School, or any of the established bike tracks in the Borough. Wherever you ride, please respect coastal vegetation by keeping to established tracks.

Beyond the malaise, there has come a time for my fellow Councillors and I to reflect, as our four-year Council term soon comes to an end. We're particularly proud of achieving a number of significant milestones throughout this period. Declaring a climate emergency in December 2019 was certainly one of those moments. Climate change is one of the greatest threats in our lifetime and Queenscliffe is more susceptible than most to its potential devastation. We love living by the sea and enjoying the tranquillity such a location has to offer. But without a plan in place to protect our coastline, future generations may not be able to appreciate that same freedom. Council will continue to work closely with the community, local climate change groups, and multiple levels of government to put together a dedicated action plan.

Reaffirming Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale's positions as destination towns within Victoria was another of Council's major achievements throughout this time, with the Low Light Winter Arts Festival quickly becoming an important date on the yearly events calendar. Attracting visitors to our twin towns during the typically quieter 'low months', the festival showcases a range of art, music and sculpture creations. The festival grew significantly in size in its first two years, and would have been on track for its greatest edition yet were it not for its forced cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to its return in 2021.

Diversifying the ways in which we interact with and listen to the community has also been a key objective throughout our Council term, and the most recent Community Satisfaction Survey results tell us that you appreciate these initiatives. Councillor Listening Posts, direct and personalised email consultation, our interactive budget survey, and the BoQ Facebook page are all new ideas that came to fruition during the past four years. Our Economic Development team is also working closer than ever before with local businesses, particularly in guiding them through this uncertain future.

We understand that it's sometimes the smallest things that make the biggest difference — that is why we'll continue with such projects like our footpath blitz and routine weeding, which keeps the Borough safe and appealing. On the infrastructure front, major upgrades are currently underway to the southern end of Hesse Street, and we continue to press forward with the new Queenscliffe Hub building and the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve redevelopment.

I would like to thank the contributions of all Councillors who have served on Council, including previous mayors Cr Tony Francis, Cr Susan Salter and Cr Bob Merriman. The strong working relationships between the Councillors have helped ensure this term of Council has been a productive one. To the community, thank you for your support and feedback throughout this period — we are all truly grateful for it. Long may we continue to reside in the best part of the world.

For anyone wishing to enter in the upcoming Council elections, please visit our website for details on the process: queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/elections

Cr Ross Ebbels
Mayor, Borough of Queenscliffe

Digging the trenches at Hesse Street South

If you've noticed some extra traffic around the southern end of Hesse Street, that's because works are now underway to upgrade, safeguard and beautify the area. Council is completing a number of improvements to this well-used stretch of road to make it safer for cars and pedestrians while improving the visual appeal of the landscape, including the undergrounding of power lines, improving street lighting and drainage, and adding new trees. This work is funded by Regional Roads Victoria's Fixing Country Roads program, and the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program.



Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels watched on as construction got underway on Hesse St South in mid-July



Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels alongside one of the new Monterey cypress trees planted in the Avenue of Honour.

Mind the gap! New trees planted to fill out Avenue of Honour

The century-old Avenue of Honour has been given a new lease on life, with the first of many new trees planted along the avenue in June.

First established in 1918 as a tribute to the town's fallen war soldiers, the Avenue of Honour has multiple gaps that have now been filled with brand new Monterey cypress trees as part of a trial planting. The long-term project aims to revitalise the health of the ailing Avenue, replacing many old and unhealthy trees with new trees over several years.

This first step in the renewal of the Avenue of Honour saw trees planted in the large

gaps nearest the Marine Discovery Centre and Memorial Garden, respectively. These trees will be monitored closely by Council to ensure that the new specimens are performing well in the right environment. If these sample trees perform well over a trial period, Council will begin replacing the existing trees with the poorest health.

Because Monterey cypress trees only grow at a moderate pace, this process is expected to take several years from when Council first plants sample trees to when the first mature tree replacements are made. Council will continue to conduct health and risk assessments on existing trees to ensure the Avenue remains safe throughout this process.

More information about the project is available on Council's website at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/avenue

Historic Wreck Bell gets a fresh look

With the recent sunny weather in Queenscliff, there has been no better time to give the historic Wreck Bell a spruce-up. In late July, the two-metre-high post received a fresh lick of white paint while the deteriorating handwritten sign was restored to its former glory. The 'before' and 'after' pictures inset demonstrate what a difference it made. The structure itself is heritage listed and is a significant reminder of the maritime history within our Borough.

A constant beacon on the Gellibrand St streetscape, the Wreck Bell has remained in that exact location since its installation way back in 1891. It was last officially used to call out the lifeboat crew for a ship fire in 1974. You can find out more information on the Wreck Bell by visiting Heritage Victoria's website.



The historic Wreck Bell received a makeover from top to toe.

Council payments

As some of Council's services have changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may notice it takes longer than usual to complete a payment over the phone. Our staff are responding to a large number of enquiries, and we thank you for your patience. To avoid the queues, many of our payments can be made online, including rates payments. Sign up for eNotices today at queenscliffe.enotices.com.au for a fast and easy way to pay.

Library

While the Queenscliffe Library has temporarily closed to visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic, library staff are offering many exciting services online. You can access book readings for children, the full e-book collection and a range of other exciting material by visiting grlc.vic.gov.au

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Borough builds new footpath for Point Lonsdale students and residents

Council's budget building blitz continued in June with the construction of another brand new footpath to safeguard a busy thoroughfare in Point Lonsdale.

School students and local residents alike have benefitted from the extra-wide footpath that links Lawrence Road with Bowen Road, providing safe access to both Point Lonsdale Primary School and the Springs Beach car park.

Council has recognised that building and maintaining footpaths around the Borough is a major priority for our residents. The Lawrence Road path is the third path that has been installed since last year's budget consultation, which identified better pedestrian facilities as one of the top funding priorities for participants. The 2020–21 Budget includes an additional \$69,000 to maintain, improve and add to our footpath network over the coming financial year.

Other pathways recently installed in the Borough include an extension of the Queenscliff Primary School footpath, and a separated pedestrian walkway on Nelson Road to provide safer access to the Point Lonsdale Medical Centre.



Point Lonsdale Primary School student leader Tessa alongside Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels and road workers

Council election enrolment

The Victorian Government has introduced new voting enrolment rules that require some ratepayers to make an application in order to vote in this year's Council elections. If you're a non-resident ratepayer who wasn't enrolled to vote in the previous election, or a company director or secretary voter, you may need to apply to be eligible to vote. For more information, visit queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/vote.

Changes to Council services

Here at the Borough of Queenscliffe, the health and safety of our community is our first priority. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some services and events we deliver remain altered. These changes include:

- **Customer service**

Council is remaining open for business via phone and email, but has closed

our customer service desk at 50 Learmonth Street. You can still call us on 5258 1377 or email us at info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au to make payments, ask questions, or handle any other Council business. Council's business hours remain 9:00am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

- **Home care**

Council is still delivering home care services to clients, however these services now include extra precautions to keep our clients and our staff healthy.

- **Visitor information**

Visitor Information Centre (VIC) services are currently accessible via phone, email and internet only. You can call the VIC on (03) 5258 4843 or email them at info.centre@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

For a full list of up-to-date service changes, visit queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/covid19

