

BOROUGH BITES



Ready for action: Mayor Tony Francis inspects the newly completed Point Lonsdale Village Playground which is already proving to be a massive hit with visiting families this summer.

Playground completes the final part of the foreshore improvements

Residents and visitors of all ages are flocking to Point Lonsdale – and not just for the great summer vibe, shopping, cafes and nearby beaches.

The recently completed third and final stage brings the total overall investment to \$3.2 million and means the foreshore, village park and its revamped playground is fast becoming a popular destination in its own right.

Mayor Tony Francis said it was great to see so many people enjoying use of the village park's new facilities which feature refurbished timber beams sourced from the Point Lonsdale Pier.

"Families always love coming to Point Lonsdale and I understand most local businesses are doing well this summer," he said. "It's great to see and hear how positive people are about the look of the town."

"The high level of anticipation and participation by the community and local businesses to finalise the works was amazing," Cr Francis said. "Through the public consultation process a number of changes were made to the concept plan and the final result is impressive. It's a great mix of old and new."

"Council thanks everyone involved for sharing their ideas and preferences. It has helped us deliver an impressive local foreshore area for families and future generations to enjoy for many years to come.

"It's been brilliant how the project team has really retained the coastal character of this playground and given a sympathetic nod to Point Lonsdale's history by using timber salvaged by Parks Victoria from the Point Lonsdale Pier," Cr Francis said.

The timber was refurbished and used in bespoke seats and tables, the clifftop post and rail fence, barbeque shelter, all weather beach huts, toilet screening posts and stepping posts in the playground.

"The use of this timber deliberately ties the three areas and helps with the aesthetics and heritage of the foreshore and holds real meaning. We've updated the facilities but not changed the character of the town," Cr Francis said.

"This foreshore development is one of the biggest improvements to public facilities in Point Lonsdale in 30 years and it's a credit to both the local community and Council. This really is the people's playground."

The upgrade to the Village Playground was the last key element of the Point Lonsdale Foreshore Master Plan begun some five years ago. An annual safety audit of the playground was conducted as part of the works contract handover in early December and it received the all clear meaning that it meets all current standards.

Watch for the final interpretive signage for the Lookout Platform that will be installed in April.

Stay healthy in the heat

Please take care during extreme hot weather through summer, look out for family members, neighbours and friends who may be more vulnerable to heatwaves.

The Borough of Queenscliffe has a 'Heatwave Plan' to support the safety and welfare of our community. This community is very resilient but can be particularly vulnerable to heat-related illnesses given that a large proportion of the population is aged 65 years and older.

Evidence shows that more people die during extreme heat when it is easy to become dehydrated or for your body to overheat. During heatwaves, people may develop heat cramps, heat exhaustion or even heatstroke. Heatstroke is a medical emergency which can result in permanent damage to vital organs, or even death, if not treated immediately.

Council's 'Heatwave Plan' includes promoting a range of public information and includes personal calls to check in on those residents receiving Home Support or Home and Community Care Services.

You can also help by checking in on others most at risk - your neighbour who may live alone, frail or elderly people, young children, pregnant or nursing mothers, and those with a pre-existing medical condition, disability, or mental illness.

If you are concerned that someone you know may be suffering heat-related illness, encourage them to see their doctor. Call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24 for 24-hour health advice. In an emergency, call 000. For further advice on simple things you can do to stay safe in heatwaves check Council's website.

2017 Council Meetings

Thursday 23 February
Thursday 30 March
Thursday 27 April
Thursday 25 May

All Ordinary Meetings of Council will be held at the Queenscliff Town Hall, commencing at 7:00pm.

All welcome. For further information visit www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au



Message from the Mayor

I feel greatly honoured to serve as your Mayor and thank all residents, ratepayers and my fellow Councillors for the opportunity to represent the interests of the Borough community at all levels.

Leading a team of five recently elected Councillors, I am confident that by working together we have the capacity to build stronger productive relationships with community leaders and Council staff.

To help improve performance and better delivery of Council policy and services, Councillors and senior managers recently shared a series of induction workshops clarifying roles and responsibilities.

We hope to lay solid foundations for the future and are committed to continually improve our decision-making and the way our hard-working Council staff go about implementing Council decisions and daily operations.

Hopefully this increases the value of Council's contribution to the social and economic growth of the Borough.

You all have a stake in the Borough of Queenscliffe's future ... and we rely on your timely advice, support and cooperation.

Council Plan – Have Your Say

An immediate priority and the first big challenge for the new Council is the way we approach community consultation and planning for the next four years. Council is seeking your input into the development of the next Council Plan which applies from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2021.

The Council Plan defines the priorities and guides the direction of the Council over our term of office. It sets out what the Council wants to achieve, how to achieve these things, and how we will measure our performance.

We have already started to build the framework for our new Council Plan by developing a draft Vision and five draft strategic objectives. These focus on the key themes of Community Wellbeing, Environmental Sustainability, Planning and Heritage, the Local Economy and Council's Governance and Performance.

As Councillors we are all keen to hear your views and ideas on what Council's priorities should be for the next four years. Your feedback is vitally important and will assist us in making decisions about what to include in the Council Plan 2017-2021 and help shape the Borough's overall direction.

The accompanying documents outline how this process will work and include a community survey.

I encourage you to complete the survey questions and return it in the post by 23 February using the pre-paid envelope provided. Alternatively, complete the survey online via Council's website www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au. If you need any assistance to complete the survey form, please contact Customer Service on (03) 5258 1377.

Once your responses have been received and considered by Council, the draft Council Plan 2017 – 2021 will be prepared and made available for public comment in April. Any further feedback will be considered before the plan is presented to Council for final adoption in June 2017.

I urge you to have your say now and influence Council's vision and priorities in the years ahead.



Cr Tony Francis
Mayor, Borough of
Queenscliffe

Sports precinct taking shape

Council's vision for the future of the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve is now taking shape after Council formally endorsed the Queenscliff Sport and Recreation Precinct Concept Plan in December 2016 after fully considering all public submissions.

Mayor Tony Francis highlighted the involvement and participation of the local community in contribution to the planning and community consultation process.

He said improvements identified in the Concept Plan will provide better facilities for netball, football and cricket participants as well as spectators.

"Key elements of the decision taken by Council in December 2016 include construction of netball courts in the recreation reserve, relocation of the netball game day facility to the south side of the proposed netball courts and construction of four practice cricket nets. Council is clear that the oval size and shape will not be changed," Cr Francis said.

"We'll continue to examine ways of providing access to the sports precinct from the east (Hesse Street) entrance by people with

disabilities, delivery vehicles and emergency vehicles.

Cr Francis said strong advocacy by the Queenscliff Sport Club and Council resulted in a \$3.15million grant from the State Government.

"This creates a fantastic opportunity to lift our game in terms of local facilities," he said.

"We are committed to continuing ongoing discussions the Queenscliff Community Sports Club and its member Clubs during the detailed design phase of the project."

Council requested officers now commence detailed designs and all required planning approvals to upgrade the oval lighting as soon as possible to meet required playing standards for football this winter. This phase should be completed by end of March subject to approvals and tendering.

"Council is yet to consider the future design of the remaining area of the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve and Victoria Park," Cr Francis said.

"The new Council will be briefed in March on the draft concept plans for Council's three caravan and camping areas at Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. Council will then seek the views of the community on the proposed future designs."

Register your pets now

If you own a pet cat or dog residing within the Borough of Queenscliffe, please look out for your four-legged family members and remember that registration is due by 10 April each year.

All cats registered within the Borough of Queenscliffe must be desexed. Any dog or cat being registered with the Borough of Queenscliffe for the first time must be microchipped.

Compulsory microchipping helps to prevent the needless destruction of cats and dogs and provides an additional means of identification in case your animal's collar or Council-issued tag falls off.

If the microchip information is correct and up-to-date, local laws officers can more easily return your animal safely home.

Council does conduct annual checks on all animals that have not been re-registered. Be warned, fines for having an unregistered animal are substantial. So please be a responsible owner and avoid a fine.

For more information please contact the Borough of Queenscliffe on (03) 52581377.



COMMUNITY
ENVIRONMENT
ALLIANCE

BALANCING
OUR BOROUGH
TOGETHER

Community Newsletter
January 2017

Our Achievements

Now in its third year, the Community Environment Alliance continues to support innovative sustainability projects in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. The Alliance is a partnership of locals working to protect the environment and reduce our community's carbon emissions. Here are some of the achievements of Alliance partners from 2016.



Mayor Tony Francis and Gardens-for-Wildlife assessor, Mia Cooke inspect a Point Lonsdale garden that provides food and shelter for local wildlife.

Safe haven for wildlife

Residents can now access expert local advice on how to transform their garden into a wildlife-friendly habitat through the Gardens for Wildlife program.

The program assists residents to create a wildlife garden by introducing indigenous plants, trees and other features into the garden to provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Launched in March 2016, Gardens for Wildlife was established in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale by the Swan Bay Environment Association and already has 10 member gardens.

According to Bob Fuller, who assisted in establishing the program, garden size is no restriction.

"No matter how small your garden, whether it be plant containers, a courtyard or larger space, we can all contribute to the survival of wildlife by providing suitable places for birds, insects, frogs, lizards and other animals," he said.

Interested gardeners are invited to register with Gardens for Wildlife to receive a free site inspection by a local Gardens-for-Wildlife assessor.

The assessor will provide a written report including plant recommendations and suggestions to increase garden biodiversity. This may include a patch of natural mulch to attract beetles and worms, a cat-proof birdbath or a frog-friendly pond.

Visit www.queenscliff.vic.gov.au for more information or www.sbea.webuda.com to obtain a registration form.

Free energy advice hotline

Council has partnered with energy efficiency experts, Positive Charge to help residents reduce their power bills and save money.

Positive Charge is a not-for-profit enterprise that provides independent advice on energy efficiency, installing solar PV, insulating your home, upgrading to LED lighting and much more.

Residents can call the free energy advice hotline on **1300 23 68 55** or visit www.positivecharge.com.au for the latest news on energy efficiency programs and tips on simple energy saving ideas for your home.

This project has received funding support from the Victorian Government.

Community solar

The second round of the community solar photovoltaic (PV) initiative is underway with property inspections being completed across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale this month.

More than 80 people registered for round two, which is designed to take all the hard work out of installing a solar PV system. The program identified a system and supplier that would provide value for money across the life of the system.

The Community Environment Alliance completed a public tender process in November 2016. Eight submissions were received and were evaluated by the Alternative Technology Association.

An information workshop for project participants was held in January to introduce the project's preferred supplier, Radiant Energy Systems from Geelong. The workshop also featured presentations from the Alternative Technology Association, Powercor and Council.

The project was supported with funding from the Victorian Government and Borough of Queenscliff.

More solar for Council

Meanwhile, solar PV systems totalling a combined 45 kilowatts were installed on Council's office building and the Queenscliff Community Sports Club in 2016 as part of Council's Carbon Neutral Action Plan.

All charged up

The Borough's household battery program is charged up and running with 305kg of batteries saved from landfill in 2016.

Nine battery collection containers are located in regularly visited business houses across the municipality for disposal of single use AAA, AA, D, C and button batteries. The three primary schools also accept batteries from students and their families.

The program has recycled 557kg of batteries since it was introduced in 2012. The batteries are transported to Geelong and recycled through Sustainability Victoria's Batteryback program.

Visit www.queenscliff.vic.gov.au/cea for more information

Congratulations to you all!

Your efforts to correctly use your kerbside waste, recycling and green waste bins during 2016 has resulted in our best ever performance in diverting waste from landfill.



Our kerbside recycling increased by



4.5%

596,360 kgs of green waste was composted.



Almost **nine times** more than in 2014.

Keep up the good work.

Visit www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au for more information on how to use your kerbside bins, plus local recycling options for other items.

Dates to remember

Detox your Home

Drop off your unwanted household chemicals for free.

Corio Operations Centre
299 Anakie Road
Lovely Banks

Saturday, 11 February 2017
8am to 4pm

Hard Waste Collection

Hard waste items (other than whitegoods) must not exceed 32kg in weight, 1.2m in length or 0.6m in width/depth.

Place waste on your nature strip for collection, but not before Saturday, 25th March.

Please use your kerbside waste bin for smaller items.

Saturday, 1 April 2017

E-waste Drop-off Event

Recycle your old, unwanted or broken electrical items for free. All e-waste collected will be dismantled and components will be reused in new products.

Saturday, 13 May 2017
Ocean View carpark