

BOROUGH BITES



The Borough of Queenscliff's newly elected Council will serve the community for the next four years.

Your new Councillors

Five Councillors have been elected to serve the Borough for the next four years following the 2020 Council election. Councillors Ross Ebbels and Susan Salter were re-elected, while new Councillors Fleur Hewitt, Michael Grout and Donnie Grigau have been elected to Council for the first time. Cr Ross Ebbels

has been re-elected by his fellow Councillors to serve another one-year term as Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliff. Congratulations to our new Councillors, and thank you to all the candidates who nominated for election. Contact details for your new Councillors are available on the last page of this newsletter.

Help create Council's Community Vision and Council Plan

At the start of every new term, Council produces strategic documents that outline the focus of our work. In line with new Victorian Government legislation, we're starting work on two separate documents that plan for the future – the Community Vision and the Council Plan. We're asking for your help creating both of these documents.

The Community Vision is a long-term vision document that describes what our community want the Borough to be in ten years. Council has an important role to play in achieving this vision, but the document

will be a useful reference point for everyone in the Borough. Meanwhile, the Council Plan sets out measurable goals and objectives for this four-year term of Council. It will explain the actions Council will take towards achieving the Community Vision, and organise those actions into pillars or portfolios. Taken together, these documents will help Council plan for the long term while also setting targets for how we will play a role in building a better Borough.

We're about to begin the first stage of consultation on these important documents. For more information about how you can get involved and share your ideas, as well as some background about the project, visit Council's website at queenscliff.vic.gov.au/plan.

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2021 Council Meetings

Upcoming Ordinary Meetings of Council will be held at 7:00pm on the following days:

- Wednesday 17 February 2021
- Wednesday 24 March 2021
- Wednesday 28 April 2021
- Wednesday 19 May 2021

Subject to coronavirus health restrictions, these meetings will be open to limited public attendance with prior registration. Recordings will be also captured and the video published on Council's website the following day, and a livestream made available on Council's YouTube page. For up-to-date information on attending or viewing Council meetings, visit the Borough of Queenscliff website.



Pedestrian safety funding confirmed

Pedestrians in Queenscliff will soon have safer access to the town's parks and eateries after the Council secured grant funding to install traffic calming measures in Gellibrand Street and undertake a wider investigation into pedestrian safety in the area.

In January 2020, Council conducted public consultation regarding the use of Gellibrand Street by vehicles and pedestrians after studies showed that the speed limit was being exceeded by almost 10 km/h on average on that stretch of road. We heard that residents wanted to see a raised pedestrian crossing built on Gellibrand Street, as well as an investigation into what other improvements we could make for pedestrian safety in the area. Council has since secured funding for both a wombat crossing on Gellibrand Street and a broader investigation into pedestrian safety in the local area thanks to the Transport Accident Commission's Local Government Grants Program.

Works on the new crossing will begin in early 2021, and traffic management and diversions may be required. The pedestrian safety study component of the project will also include an opportunity for the community to have their say. Council will share more information on both these projects as it becomes available.



It's a different look for the Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre as it finds a temporary home in the old Tavern building.

Temporary home for Library, Information Centre and Museum

Construction has begun on the Queenscliff Hub, and with it means the relocation of three valued Queenscliff organisations: the Library, Visitor Information Centre and Historical Museum. Each of these services will eventually share a home at the new Hub, but for now, you can find them all under the one roof at 18 Hesse Street, Queenscliff (inside the old Tavern building).

The Visitor Information Centre and Historical Museum are both open seven days a week, while the Library is open six days a week, closed on Sundays. There's plenty to see at all three, so pop in when you get the chance and check out how well the temporary location has come up. Opening hours and contact details are available on the business' respective websites.

For more info on the Hub, including design plans and more, visit queenscliff.vic.gov.au/hub

A new bike park for the Borough

The Borough of Queenscliff is building a new bike park for adventurous riders in the Borough, and we're calling on the community to help design it.

A new bike park will be a win for everyone in our community, giving local riders a safe and purpose-built location to ride while better protecting fragile vegetation in areas previously used for riding. We want to make sure the new bike park meets the needs of our local riders, so we'd like to hear what features you think we should include. There are a few ways you can participate and be a part of the design process.

You can share your ideas by taking our online survey about the features you think the bike park should include, as well as its location. To take part, visit queenscliff.vic.gov.au/bikepark and follow the links. You can also send us a sketch, drawing or plan of what you want the park to look like. You can attach

it as part of your survey response, or send it separately via email or post.

Consultation is open to all ages (parents may want to help kids under 18 take part) and closes on Sunday 14 February, 11:59pm. More information about the project is available on Council's website.

Australia Day Award winners announced

Congratulations to all of our Australia Day Award winners for 2021, including our Citizens of the Year: Peter Deacon and Peter Callahan.

Peter Deacon has been an active member of the Queenscliff Rotary Club for many years, including a period serving as the club's President. Mr Deacon secured more than \$150,000 in funding for new exercise stations throughout the Borough and was instrumental in leading the innovative project, which now provides free and accessible exercise equipment to people of all abilities in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

Peter Callahan has volunteered extensively throughout our community for decades, including currently serving on three committees: the Point Lonsdale Tennis Club, Queenscliff Football and Netball Club and the Queenscliff Music Festival. Mr Callahan has been instrumental in securing financial support for community groups for many years, as well as lending a hand on the ground in a vast array of roles and responsibilities.

Information about all our award winners, including photographs, is available on Council's website.

2021 Award winners:

Citizens of the year: Peter Deacon and Peter Callahan

Young Citizen of the year: Frankie Davis

Community Organisation of the Year: Cottage by the Sea

Community Environment Project of the year: Queenscliff Community Indigenous Nursery.



The Queenscliff General Store Café was the first eatery in the Borough to trial the new outdoor dining Skiplets.

Skiplets bring outdoor dining to the Borough

More café and restaurant users can take advantage of the extended periods of sunshine this summer with the Borough of Queenscliff taking an innovative approach to outdoor dining. COVID-19 density restrictions for indoor hospitality businesses prompted Council to investigate an alternative way of seating more guests.

In early December 2020, Queenscliff's General Store Cafe received the first of 12 new outdoor dining 'Skiplets' that have since been installed across the Borough. The recycled skip bins are manufactured in

Geelong and can seat up to 10 extra diners for COVID-safe outdoor dining.

The Skiplets feature timber seating, planter boxes full of coastal foliage and plenty of room to enjoy local food and drink in the summer sunshine. The modular pods are easily transportable and versatile, such that a number of Skiplets have been uniquely constructed to fit the angled parking along Hesse Street.

After a difficult year, our local traders need support more than ever. Why not take the time to treat yourself and try out the new Skiplets by visiting your favourite local business?

A new Coastal Marine and Management Plan for the Borough

The Borough's coasts are special places. They're among our most popular recreational spaces and tourist attractions, while also playing an important environmental role. To ensure our coasts are managed in a way that

protects and preserves these features, we're developing a long-term Coastal and Marine Management Plan.

Council's Coastal and Marine Management Plan will provide a roadmap for how we'll use, manage and protect our coastal landscapes. This will help ensure individual developments or changes on the coast are considered strategically and in line with community priorities.

Climate Emergency Response Plan draft imminent

Residents and ratepayers are only weeks away from being able to read the first draft of Council's Climate Emergency Response Plan, which is being created in response to the increasing risk our area faces from coastal inundation, sea level rise and bushfires.

Over a three-week period in October 2020, 346 respondents participated in an online survey as part of the initial engagement stage in the development of the Borough of Queenscliff's Climate Emergency Response Plan. 12 primary school students from the Borough of Queenscliff area also participated in a workshop.

These early engagements were an opportunity to gain a general understanding of the Borough community's priorities for the development of a Climate Emergency Response Plan. The results of this consultation was presented to a panel of 30 community members, who used the data collected to shape and inform the development of the draft response plan. The draft plan is scheduled to be shared with the community for further feedback in February 2021. More information about the project is available at queenscliff.vic.gov.au/cerp.

Community input will form a key part of the development of the plan, with hundreds of residents taking part in a recently-concluded initial round of consultation. Thank you to all those members of our community who took the time to share their ideas with us.

For more information about the project, including a detailed issues paper and future opportunities to comments as the plan is developed, visit queenscliff.vic.gov.au/coasts.

Differential rates explained

Differential rates ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of Council's functions. Council's differential rates are expressed as a percentage of the general rate, as tabled below:

Differential rate	% of general rate
General or Residential	100%
Tourist accommodation	110%
Residential vacant land	125%
Commercial	130%

Differential rates do not change the total rate amount collected by Council each year. While the total rate amount collected remains the same, the proportion collected from general residential properties is marginally reduced, and the proportion collected from tourist accommodation, residential vacant land and commercial properties is marginally increased.

Differential rate reflects the capacity of tourist accommodation and commercial properties to generate income, as opposed to general residential properties and a financial contribution towards the cost of additional tourism-related services that Council provides.

To find out more, or to check whether you have been charged the correct differential rate, visit the Rates and Property page on Council's website or contact Council's Rates Coordinator.

Changes to Council services

Here at the Borough of Queenscliffe, the health and safety of our community is our first priority. As COVID-19 restrictions ease, many services have now returned. These include:

- **Customer service**
Council's customer service desk at 50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff is back

open to the public from 9:00am to 4:30pm weekdays. If you prefer, you can also 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.

- **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 at the pop-up location of 18 Hesse Street, Queenscliff (the former Tavern building). If you prefer, you can also 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.

Councillor contacts

Cr Ross Ebbels (Mayor)

Ph: 0427 448 160

E: ross.ebbels@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

Cr Donnie Grigau

Ph: 0437 842 380

E: donnie.grigau@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

Cr Michael Grout

Ph: 0437 118 037

E: michael.grout@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

Cr Fleur Hewitt

Ph: 0437 860 520

E: fleur.hewitt@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

Cr Susan Salter

Ph: 0428 398 966

E: susan.salter@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

Lighting of the Tree goes virtual

Cr Ross Ebbels led a Christmas celebration of a different kind last December, as the Lighting of the Point Lonsdale Christmas Tree went 'virtual' for the first time due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing large gatherings.

Hundreds of local residents as well as visitors from across the country joined the live stream on Facebook or Zoom from the comfort of their homes, perhaps fittingly as inclement weather hovered throughout the evening.

The event featured a cameo from Santa Claus and his helper (complete with shiny red tractor), carols from local performer Cass Waugh, and 2020 Borough of Queenscliffe Citizen of the Year Gary Tomlins, who had the honour of flicking the switch to illuminate the tree.

The tradition has now lasted more than half a century and remains a quintessential part of the holiday experience for those in the Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale area over summer.



An elf causes some hijinks near the tree's 'switch' as Santa and Mayor Ebbels watch on.

