

BOROUGH BITES



Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels, Tennis Victoria's Paul Senior, Point Lonsdale Tennis Club President Peter Callahan and Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville officially open the new improvements.

An ace new look for Point Lonsdale Tennis Club

Players at the Point Lonsdale Tennis Club can now take advantage of improved facilities after Council completed upgrade works to the local sporting precinct in November 2021.

With major funding for the project first announced in October 2018, extensive improvement works recently concluded at the club. Upgraded, more accessible clubrooms have been the centrepiece of the renovation, which have also included resurfacing two courts, and new LED lighting and poles for the remaining courts. Also installed is an online membership and court booking system, which the club notes has led to a 54% increase in court usage.

Council held an official opening ceremony in November, attended by Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville, PLTC President Peter Callahan, representatives from Tennis Victoria, and a number of dedicated members of the tennis club. The project was supported by \$250,000 of funding from the Victorian Government, \$53,177 from the Point Lonsdale Tennis Club, and \$46,000 from Tennis Australia. The Borough of Queenscliffe provided \$30,000 of project funding, as well as project management for the upgrade works.

More information about the project, including images of the new clubrooms and upgraded courts, is available by visiting boq.news/pltc-opening.

Borough seeks community input for Active Transport Strategy

The Borough of Queenscliffe's first Active Transport Strategy is now open for consultation, and Council is calling on residents to share their ideas to make the Borough more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Active Transport Strategy will guide Council's investment in walking, cycling and wheelchair

infrastructure, with the aim of encouraging residents to choose active transport as they make their way around the Borough.

The development of the strategy comes on the back of a range of investments by Council in pedestrian safety upgrades. In the past six months, Council has installed or supported new pedestrian crossings in the main shopping streets of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, as well as near popular beaches, parks and walking routes.

While Council has engaged a transport specialist to manage the strategy's development,

community input will be vital to identifying where investment is needed most, and understanding the barriers residents face in choosing to get around by foot, bike or wheelchair. Council is encouraging residents to share their ideas by taking part in consultation online or at an open house session.

Details on how to take part are available on Council's website at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/active.

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2022 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 23 February 2022
- Wednesday 23 March 2022
- Wednesday 27 April 2022

Public attendance at these meetings are subject to coronavirus health restrictions. All meetings will be live-streamed via Zoom and recordings made available on Council's YouTube page. For up-to-date information on attending or viewing Council meetings, visit the Borough of Queenscliffe website.





Santa Claus waves hello to hundreds of excited guests at December's Lighting of the Tree ceremony.

Santa meets his elf helpers for the evening

Borough shares in spirit of Christmas

Point Lonsdale's traditional Lighting of the Tree ceremony held last December had a different look this year as part of a wider Christmas celebration that brought in visitors from all around the Bellarine Peninsula and beyond.

The idea for something new and innovative came from local traders, who have been significantly impacted by lockdowns and other pandemic restrictions over the past 12 months. The four-hour long extended street party closed off the main shopping strip of Point Lonsdale to vehicular traffic to allow revellers the opportunity to take in musical performances, outdoor dining and a visit from Santa Claus himself.

Residents and visitors to the Borough had already been treated to new decorations which remained throughout the festive season, including large trees installed in the Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale shopping villages, and wreaths, bows and flags appearing in a variety of locations across town. The new festive features were supplied and installed by a Queenscliff local and represent Council's largest investment in new decorations in several years.

Help select our local award winners

The Borough of Queenscliffe is calling for expressions of interest to join a new reference group which assists in selecting the recipients of Council's yearly community service awards. The annual awards ceremony recognises and celebrates the many individuals, community groups and organisations that make outstanding contributions to the Borough.

Anyone who lives, works or volunteers in the Borough can be nominated for the awards, and a community reference group assesses these nominations before making recommendations to Council. The reference group is active for a period of two years, prompting a fresh call for new members this summer.

Interested applicants can complete an online form on Council's website, answering the following questions:

- What is your interest in becoming a member of Community Reference Group?
- What is your current involvement and/or activity in the local community?

To get started, visit boq.news/csa and follow the prompts. Expressions of interest close on 18 February 2022.

Adopting a new Council Plan

The Borough of Queenscliffe is now guided by its most extensive and detailed strategic framework to date, following the adoption of a new Council Plan in October 2021. Signed off two months after the introduction of a ten-year Community Vision, the Council Plan 2021–2025 sets out measurable goals and objectives for this four-year term of Council.

Steered by five overarching values – integrity, respect, community focus, sustainability, and openness – the Plan includes objectives for achieving Council's overall strategic direction, indicators to monitor how we are tracking against those objectives, and a description of Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity.

Much like previous Plans, Council's priorities are divided into five portfolios, with each the responsibility of an individual Councillor. Council's five portfolios (and their subsequent strategic objectives) for

this four-year term are as follows:

1. Health and wellbeing: To support community wellbeing and encourage an active lifestyle
2. Environment: To protect our environment and address climate change issues
3. Local economy: To support a prosperous and diverse local economy
4. Heritage, planning and infrastructure: To protect our distinctive coastal, cultural and built environment, and provide sustainable, suitable infrastructure
5. Governance and finance: To provide a financially viable Council that is accountable, transparent and practices good governance.

The Council Plan will be used to guide Council's actions over the coming four years. When devising new policies, programs or services, the Plan will be used as a companion document to guide decision-making, and will provide a key resource when measuring performance and resources.



Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels and Queenscliffe Climate Action Group Founder and President Kitty Walker accept the Community Choice Award from the Climate Council's Dr Simon Bradshaw.

Climate plan takes out top honour

The Borough of Queenscliffe's Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) has been officially recognised at the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership Climate Awards by taking out the Community Choice Award.

Competing against seven other jurisdictions from across the country – including the ACT Government, Brisbane City Council and City of Adelaide – the Borough's efforts gained top marks in the publicly-voted prize, held in November 2021.

The CERP, adopted at Council's Ordinary Meeting in May 2021, commits Council to support the community in achieving net-zero emissions by 2031, as well as interim steps including matching local electricity consumption with a 100% renewable supply by 2025.

In the nomination listing for the award, the

Climate Council praised Victoria's smallest council for "punching above its weight in climate action", and highlighted the Borough's commitment to deliberate engagement with the Queenscliffe Climate Action Group (QCAG) in developing the Plan.

QCAG Founder and President Kitty Walker, whose team of volunteers were instrumental in generating community support for Council to first declare a climate emergency and then commit to developing a response plan, said the title was a fitting reward for the community after a challenging 18 months.

Council will now turn its attention to ticking off plenty more of the 49 individual actions to be completed or facilitated in the Plan, which vary from increasing the Borough's solar penetration, to community battery energy storage solutions, to the elimination of single-use plastics and environmental regeneration projects.



Mayor Ebbels re-elected

Cr Ross Ebbels will continue as Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliffe for another year after he was elected unopposed at the November 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council. This will be Cr Ebbels' third consecutive term as the Borough's Mayor.

Cr Ebbels, who said he was honoured to be returned to the role, is joined in the Deputy Mayor position by Cr Fleur Hewitt, who was also elected unopposed. The pair are looking forward to working with Councillors, officers and the local community.

Council also nominated Councillors to portfolios and committees during the meeting. Councillors were elected to portfolio responsibilities as follows:

- Cr Donnie Grigau – Health and Wellbeing
- Cr Ross Ebbels – Local Economy
- Cr Fleur Hewitt – Environment
- Cr Michael Grout – Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure
- Cr Susan Salter – Governance and Finance

A full list of Councillor responsibilities are available on Council's website at boq.news/councillors.

Borough releases draft Coastal Plan

The Borough of Queenscliffe has released a draft of its Coastal and Marine Management Plan, developed from ideas submitted by more than 270 community consultation participants. The Plan outlines how the Borough will manage its coastal landscapes over the long term and considers its entire coastline in a single strategy rather than a series of isolated locations.

Among the features of the plan is a pathway strategy, with consultation respondents highlighting walking and exercise as some of the most common reasons they visit the Borough's coasts. Other community-backed features include greater recognition of Wadawurrung and Borough heritage, auditing and preparing design standards for beach signage and infrastructure, and tailoring land management strategies on a precinct basis to respond to what residents most value about different coastal areas.

Residents and ratepayers can read the draft and learn more at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/coasts.

Book your COVID-19 vaccination booster

Last year, you helped make the Borough the first council area in Australia to reach the two-dose target, and we couldn't be prouder. If you had your second dose four or more months ago during this time, you may be due for a third dose. A COVID-19 third dose is strongly recommended to help keep you and your loved ones protected from COVID-19, as it helps prevent waning immunity (loss of protection).

You can get a COVID-19 third dose from a Victorian vaccination centre, pharmacy, GP or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. For more information or to make a booking, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/third-dose.

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Shop Local campaign keeps Borough businesses front of mind

Borough residents and visitors have been treated to a flurry of competitions and giveaways this summer to promote Council's ongoing '3225 Love Local Shop Local' campaign.

Weekly prize draws of \$50 gift cards – good to spend at local businesses throughout the Borough – have attracted impressive engagement across the campaign's Instagram and Facebook pages, which prompted entrants to discuss and celebrate their favourite retailers, eateries and accommodation spots.

The competition period, which runs until 6 February, takes advantage of the huge swells in population to Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale over the warmer months. The Council-funded program came about after more than 18 months of promoting the Borough's array of local businesses – and the people behind them – through the '3225 Love Local Shop Local' Instagram and Facebook pages.

In recent weeks, Council has also planted 50 new olive trees in wine barrels located across the Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale shopping precincts. These tree installations will remain throughout the year, adding colour and visual interest to our busy shopping villages. Works

have been made possible thanks to funding from the Victorian Government's COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund 2021.



Council has recently planted 50 olive trees in wine barrels around the Borough to provide a beautiful backdrop for those shopping and dining locally.

Clean up Australia Day with Councillors

Join our Councillors to clean up our beautiful Borough on Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 6 March. Participants will be provided with bags, but will need to wear sturdy shoes and long pants. More information, including event registration, is available at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/cleanup.

Hard waste collection

Council's annual hard waste collection will be slightly delayed in 2022 due to contractor staffing disruptions caused by the ongoing pandemic. We will publish collection dates on

our website and in local newspapers as soon as they're confirmed by our contractor. To stay up to date, check our website regularly at boq.news/hardwaste.

Take part in a Geelong Regional Libraries creative workshop

Geelong Regional Libraries is excited to announce their creative arts workshop series. Running from January until May, these workshops will allow participants to be guided through painting, sketching, weaving, dance, and other creative outlets. To view a full program or register for an event (including events in Queenscliff) visit grlc.vic.gov.au.

