

# Borough Bites

FEBRUARY 2023



*Cr Isabelle Tolhurst, newly appointed Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor.*

## NEW MAYOR APPOINTED

**The Borough of Queenscliffe has a new Mayor. Cr Isabelle Tolhurst was elected unopposed as Mayor at the November Ordinary Meeting of Council, for a term of one year.**

“My commitment to the Borough community is that I will be available and present. I will advocate for you.”

Honoured to have the opportunity to help shape the future of the Borough, Cr Tolhurst appreciates the steep learning curve she is undertaking.

“I’m humbled to have the support of my fellow Councillors in electing me as Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliffe,” Cr Tolhurst said.

With a long-term association with the Borough and a connection to our local community, Cr Tolhurst is committed to working hard to improve the place we all call home. In her acceptance speech, Cr Tolhurst acknowledged that mayoralty is about vision and expressed her dedication to “putting in place now what is required for a vibrant, safe, and successful Borough in the future.” The mayoral role will enable Cr Tolhurst to actively pursue matters important

to our community including protecting cultural heritage, community-led action on climate change, and supporting local businesses.

Cr Tolhurst’s decision to nominate for Mayor was primarily driven by a desire to fiercely advocate across all tiers of government for sustainable outcomes for the Borough and to make lasting improvements for our community. “I’m looking forward to working with my fellow Councillors, and plan to bring a fresh perspective, energy, and pace to the role.” Cr Tolhurst has committed to “continuing to cultivate relationships, to deepen trust and ties, to listen and understand how we can better work together.”

Cr Fleur Hewitt has been re-elected Deputy Mayor unopposed. Cr Hewitt said she was looking forward to working with Cr Tolhurst over the coming year. This will be Cr Hewitt’s second term as the Borough’s Deputy Mayor.

“I’m thrilled to continue in my role as Deputy Mayor of the Borough,” Cr Hewitt said. “I’m looking forward to supporting our new Mayor as we continue working for our community.”

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## 2023 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 22 February 2023
- Wednesday 22 March 2023
- Wednesday 26 April 2023

All meetings will be held at The Hub, 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.



**Borough of Queenscliffe**  
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

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## Budget 2023–24 Engagement report

During November and December last year Council undertook a survey of our residents and ratepayers, asking them what they would like to see included in the 2023–24 Budget. We have collated the results and our 2023–24 Budget consultation report is now available.

The report clearly outlines trends and themes emerging from the feedback we received, alongside specific examples of participant comments. Interestingly, the highest priority for respondents was the “assets, facilities, and public spaces” category, which attracted 46% of the popular vote. Within that, our community wants to see more attention directed to footpaths, public toilets, beach maintenance, and playgrounds.

Your voice is helping us create a better Borough. We appreciate the more than 200 residents who took part in letting Council know where we should be directing our financial resources, we welcome this insight ensuring we make good use of the detail to explore and inform our budget considerations. Council will invite Community members to review the draft budget from 27 April, providing further opportunity for community feedback prior to the adoption of the budget in June.

If you're interested in learning more about the initial community feedback – please give our 2023–24 Budget consultation report a read; you can find it here [boq.news/budget23-24report](https://boq.news/budget23-24report)

## Coming soon

Please tell us!

In the coming months, Council will invite feedback from community members interested in sharing with us ideas and views on the following initiatives:

- Active Transport Strategy
  - Draft 2023–24 Budget
  - Coastal and Marine Management Plan
- Community engagement allows us to work closely with our community to greater understand what as locals you care about. We encourage all those interested to participate.



*Cr Tolhurst together with the recipients of the Community Organisation of the Year award 2022 – Point Lonsdale Primary School – Nippers in School.*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

**Nominations now open. The Borough of Queenscliffe Community Service Awards are back for 2023 and nominations are now open. Do you know of someone or an organisation that is worthy of recognition for their contribution to our community? If so, please consider nominating.**

Council's annual awards ceremony is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the many individuals, community groups, and organisations that make outstanding contributions to the Borough of Queenscliffe each year.

This year's awards have been simplified to two categories – Citizen of the Year (now an

open-age award) and Community Group of the Year. All nominees will be acknowledged, and the winners celebrated at an event to be held, for the first time, during National Volunteers Week in May.

The Council appointed community reference group will assess the nominations against set criteria and recommend who might be awarded each title. Anyone who lives, works, or volunteers in the Borough of Queenscliffe can be nominated by any member of the community. For group awards, self-nominations are very much welcome.

More information about the nomination process is available at [boq.news/csa](https://boq.news/csa)

## Download the Borough Bins app

Here's a great idea – Join the growing group of informed residents who have already downloaded the Borough Bins app to receive personalised reminders on your bin collection dates. You can find out all this and more in the Borough Bins app, where you can search an A–Z list of waste items, or download a printable calendar. Scan the QR code or visit [boq.news/bbi](https://boq.news/bbi).





QCAN will help locals learn more about 'going solar.'

## COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM COMING TO THE BOROUGH



Queenscliff – Point Lonsdale Lions Club and Cr Ebbels at A. W. Hodgetts Reserve, Queenscliff

### Lions Australia – 75th Anniversary

Lions Australia celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2022.

Our local representatives, the Queenscliff – Point Lonsdale Lions Club, have proudly been serving the Borough community for more than six decades.

Council recently assisted the Lions Club celebrate the occasion by providing the garden space to conduct a special planting in A. W. Hodgetts Reserve, Queenscliff. Mayor at the time, Cr Ross Ebbels, stopped by to check out the lovely display and thank local members. The planting display in the traditional colours of the Lions Club came up a treat.

Residents, businesses, and organisations across the Borough of Queenscliff are encouraged to consider taking up solar power as part of a community program launching mid-February.

Council is supporting local volunteer organisation Queenscliff Climate Action Now (QCAN) to spearhead the initiative, which aims to help reduce confusion in accessing solar technologies and encourage a major uptake in renewable energy across the community.

“Community solar programs like this help reduce barriers to buying, installing, and using solar systems, batteries and heat pumps, and in turn, help the community achieve the CERP’s three core targets around lowering carbon emissions,” said Queenscliff Mayor Isabelle Tolhurst.

QCAN President Kitty Walker, who was instrumental in supporting Council to declare a climate emergency back in December 2019, said the program’s primary aim is “to make installing solar, batteries and heat pumps easy and affordable.”

As a community, we have an opportunity to dramatically reduce our emissions, and the QCAN solar program can assist you to navigate the sometimes confusing process to ‘go solar.’ The Community Solar program will launch at 7 pm, Thursday 16 February at Town Hall.

To learn more and register your interest, visit: [boq.news/communitysolar](http://boq.news/communitysolar)

## Climate Emergency Response Plan

In May 2021 Council adopted the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP). The plan included 49 actions, many of which would be led by Council. In the two years since adoption, Council has completed 13 actions and continues to work on 12 others.

Actions that have been completed include:

- All electricity purchased by Council is generated by renewable energy
- The introduction of the FOGO service
- Wadawurrung Cultural Awareness Training of Councillors, staff and community

While the CERP contains ambitious targets, we are making progress.

But there is still more to do!

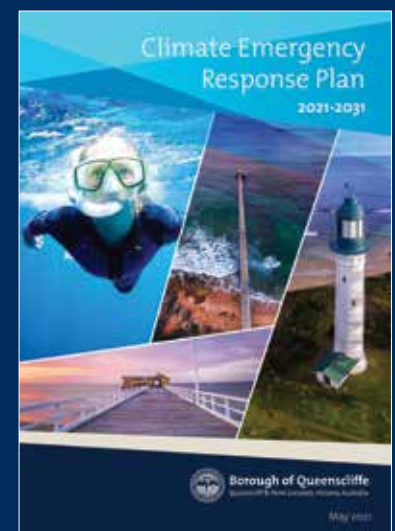
Actions that are currently underway include:

- Development of our Active Transport Strategy
- Weed Control and Revegetation
- Development of our Reconciliation Action Plan

And this year we will install the first public Electric Vehicle chargers in the Borough and work with State Government and QCAN to install a community battery.

As a Borough, Queenscliff’s small size provides us with a unique opportunity to drastically reduce our impact on climate change. We are proud to report there is a lot happening in the background as we move forward to making the Borough a zero-carbon community by 2031.

You can find a copy of the CERP at [boq.news/cerp](http://boq.news/cerp)



13 actions from the Climate Emergency Response Plan have been completed.



The roundabout trial on Kirk Rd has concluded.

## KIRK ROAD INTERSECTION

Following a trial period for the temporary roundabout at the corner of Kirk and Winterley Roads, we asked you for your feedback concerning the future of this intersection. We received 236 responses and saw 66% of participants support the reversion back to a standard T-intersection. Feedback received from residents noted that the temporary roundabout raised additional concerns about road width, parked cars, and driveway access. We listened to our community and at the

November ordinary meeting, Council approved the ending of the roundabout trial on Kirk Road, and the intersection was reverted to a standard T-intersection in mid-December with improved safety measures also implemented. Thank you to all who participated, we value your input. Council will continue to monitor the traffic on Kirk Road and investigate further traffic calming options that encourage slower speeds and increase the safety of road users.

## DOGS IN THE BOROUGH

We care a lot about dogs in the Borough, here's a snapshot of how our Enforcement Officers go about dog control in our community.

Over a typical week approximately 20 hours of proactive patrolling is dedicated to beaches, including paths leading to our beaches, and around 70 dog bag dispensers are serviced with bags being replaced.

In December, a total of 1062 dogs were observed by our officers on the beaches and paths, 50 of these were off lead, as such three penalty notices and 11 warnings were imposed, however, we were unable to speak with some owners. We will continue to work with dog owners to ensure adherence to our regulations.

Borough Enforcement Officers undertook joint patrolling in December with Parks Victoria Rangers on Point Lonsdale Beaches. Interestingly, both local law dog restrictions and Parks Victoria Regulations apply on beaches that are Marine and National Parks.

We are currently in the process of upgrading and replacing dog restriction signs with the aim of improving awareness and compliance by dog owners.

## Councillor contacts

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## Changes to Councillor Portfolios

At the November Ordinary Meeting, Councillors were nominated to portfolios and committees.

Councillors were elected to portfolio responsibilities as follows:

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

A full list of Councillor responsibilities is available on Council's website at [boq.news/councillors](http://boq.news/councillors)

