

BOROUGH BITES



Representatives from every level of government as well as the library, museum and visitor information centre turn the first sod for the new hub.

Sod turned at the Queenscliffe Hub

With major demolition work complete, new construction is about to commence on the Queenscliffe Hub following the turning of the first sod on 1 April.

Victorian Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney, Senator for Victoria Sarah Henderson, and Member for Corangamite Libby Coker recently took part in a ceremony alongside Borough Mayor Ross Ebbels to mark the end of demolition works and usher in new construction on the \$5.75 million project.

The new Queenscliffe Hub – an integrated research

and learning centre, will revitalise the Hesse St streetscape while promoting and enhancing existing services. The design for the Hub was produced following extensive community engagement, and will incorporate the existing heritage façade of the library while providing state-of-the-art modern conveniences throughout its interior. The new Hub will have the Wadawurrung name *Wurrng Wurrng* – meaning to listen with both ears. For more information on the project, including updates on construction, visit queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/hub

Community Grants returning this May

Council is excited to announce the return of the Borough of Queenscliffe Community Grants program for 2021/2022.

The Community Grants program assists local community groups and organisations to expand their valuable contribution and provide opportunities for Council and the community to work together. The application period opens on Monday 3 May

2021 and closes at 4pm on Friday 18 June 2021.

Applications can be completed online via Council's website at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/communitygrants. If you'd prefer to complete a hard-copy form, you can pick one up from Council offices at 50 Learmonth Street, and return it via email, post or in person.

This year, we're also running an information session titled 'Grant Writing Workshop: Hints and Tips' at 4pm on the 25th May 2021, and repeated later that

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2021 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 28 April 2021
- Wednesday 19 May 2021
- Wednesday 23 June 2021
- Wednesday 28 July 2021

Subject to coronavirus health restrictions, these meetings will be open to limited public attendance. Recordings will be also captured 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 Queenscliffe website.

day at 6pm. Community groups considering lodging an application are strongly encouraged to attend one of these sessions. The session will help community groups prepare grant applications for a wide range of grants and funding opportunities. To register your interest, contact Council on info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au.





Mayor Ross Ebbels inspecting works on Hesse Street South last year.

Hesse Street South upgrade reaches practical completion

The southern end of Hesse Street in Queenscliff has just about completed its makeover, with the creation of a second shared path and a zebra crossing providing greater delineation between vehicles and pedestrians.

There's also a host of new angled parking and a resurfaced roundabout, with further tree planting and landscaping to come.

Residents and tourists walking along Gellibrand Street from Princess and Citizen Parks (or even the ferry terminal) now have an uninterrupted pathway to the Ocean View car park without having to cross any roads – a major win for

accessibility. The zebra crossing also provides added safety on football and netball match days at the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve, where many young children and elderly residents are often on foot while vehicles pass around them.

The Hesse Street South redevelopment project was made up of joint funding from the Victorian Government's Fixing Country Roads program (\$904,558), the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery program (\$190,984), and Council itself (\$261,295). We thank all levels of government for their contribution to this important upgrade.

Draft Climate Emergency Response Plan released

Council has published the draft Climate Emergency Response Plan we've developed in partnership with the community as part of a final stage of consultation on the project.

Developed by the community for the community, the draft CERP uses the ideas that residents and visitors of the Borough shared with us during extensive community engagement to plan a transition to a zero-carbon Borough by 2031. It also includes 54 individual actions

to achieve the goals set by the plan, and includes opportunities for the community help prevent and prepare for climate change.

Community input was central to the development of the CERP. Here are just a few ways community input shaped the plan:

Renewable energy projects are an essential part of the plan

Consultation participants told us that renewable energy projects were the most popular way we could respond to the climate emergency, so they're a key focus of the draft CERP. Two of the plan's three targets and the first and most

extensive action pillar are focused on delivering renewable energy solutions.

The plan is ambitious, committing to a zero-carbon Borough by 2031

Participants also said they wanted the plan to aim high, so the plan includes ambitious targets, like matching our community's electricity consumption with a 100% renewable electricity supply by 2025, and becoming a zero-carbon Borough ten years from now.

From waste reduction to sustainable transport, our community's ideas have formed the key actions we'll take together over the next ten years.

The draft CERP contains 54 action items that will help us achieve our ambitious targets. Each action was selected by a community panel, and many were directly inspired by the suggestions participants shared with us during the first round of consultation.

To read the full draft plan, visit queenscliff.vic.gov.au/cerp

Exploring pedestrian safety in Queenscliff

In early 2020, Council conducted public consultation on pedestrian safety in Gellibrand Street after studies showed that cars were regularly exceeding the speed limit on this road. We heard that residents supported building a pedestrian crossing on Gellibrand Street, but also wanted to see an investigation into pedestrian safety across the broader area. In response to this feedback, we commissioned a specialist report on pedestrian safety in Queenscliff more broadly.

Council recently received this report, which made four key recommendations to improve safety for pedestrians in Queenscliff:

1. Convert two crossing points on Hesse Street to pedestrian crossings;
2. Set a permanent speed limit of 40km/h in Hesse Street;
3. Conduct further work examining nearby roundabouts for potential additional safety treatments; and
4. Further examine pedestrian and vehicle interaction at the north end of Gellibrand Street.

Council will consider the recommendations of this report at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 28 April 2021. You can read more about the project at queenscliff.vic.gov.au/pedestrian-safety



Conservation workers conduct health checks and attach a tracking band to a hooded plover in Point Lonsdale.

Supporting hooded plover conservation

In late February, Council staff were on site to witness some of our conservation partners attach a small band featuring a unique number to one of our newest residents – a hooded plover raised at Point Lonsdale Back Beach.

Staff from BirdLife Australia, Barwon Coast Committee of Management and Hooded Plover Volunteers were present to attach the band, which assists researchers in tracking life-spans and

movements to help with conservation efforts.

It's important to follow proper etiquette when using our beaches. Areas where hooded plovers live and nest are regularly signed and marked, so when passing through these areas, keep your dog on-leash, walk as close to the water's edge as possible and don't linger around fenced areas. By working together, we can keep the beach a safe and enjoyable place for both people and animals.

Investigating a new bike park in the Borough

Feedback from nearly 500 people has formed the basis of Council's next steps investigating the development of a bike park in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

We heard that respondents wanted a park that was flexible and suited a variety of users. Whether you were a parent of very young children wanting an accessible space, or an older rider wanting a challenge, we heard that

a bike park should consider ways to incorporate the needs of riders of different skill levels.

While a slight majority of respondents were happy with the Department of Environment, Water, Land & Planning (DELWP)'s suggested location of the old high school site for a new bike park, many also preferred alternative locations, including near the skate park in Point Lonsdale. In response to this feedback, Council will now work with DELWP to investigate alternative locations for a bike park in the Borough.

Get ready for Council's 2021 e-waste drop-off day

What: Borough of Queenscliffe e-waste drop off day

When: Saturday 15 May 2021 from 9am to 2pm

Where: Ocean View Car Park in Queenscliff

After a year off due to COVID-19, our perennially popular e-waste drop-off day is back! You're invited to gather up old, broken or unwanted e-waste items such as televisions, computers and computer equipment, printers, cameras and mobile phones and bring them to be recycled.

For a full list of what can and can't be collected, head over to the E-waste Drop-off page on Council's website by visiting queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/ewaste or call us on (03) 5258 1377.

Annual tree trimming work about to begin

Every year, Council undertakes tree trimming work around powerlines throughout the Borough to reduce the risk of fires and keep our community safe. This year, trimming work will begin on 27 April and last until the end of May. If you spot workers out pruning trees, please give them a friendly wave and obey any detours and directions to keep yourself safe as work is completed. If you have any questions about tree trimming work, please contact Council.

After the location assessment is completed, our engineering team will put the community's ideas into practice and develop concept drawings that show how a bike park might incorporate the features that participants said mattered the most. A workshop group and a design review stage will provide more opportunities for community members to take part in the design process.

You can read more about the project at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/bikepark

Festivals return to the Borough

In less than a decade, the Queenscliffe Literary Festival has become one of the must-attend events on the annual calendar. After an enforced hiatus in 2020, the festival is back bigger and better for 2021 with an all-star cast of writers presenting over three weekends in May.

The festival was launched with a sold-out event at the Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall in early April featuring author Pip Williams, whose historical fiction *The Dictionary of Lost Words* has received glowing reviews from critics across the globe.

As the core sponsor of the festival, the Borough of Queenscliffe supports the return of COVID-safe events to our townships and we look forward to facilitating more events in the near future. To purchase tickets for Literary Festival events, visit queenscliffeliteraryfestival.com.au



The Queenscliffe Literary Festival is making a comeback in May 2021.

Community Vision and Council Plan development under way

Thank you to everyone who took part in the first round of consultation on two of Council's most important strategic documents: our Community Vision, and our Council Plan. These documents are central to the work we do at Council – they help us plan for the long term while also setting targets for how we will play a role in building a better Borough.

Under Victorian law, almost all Council decisions have to be consistent with and guided by a Council Plan. The projects Council chooses to fund and the way different areas of our work are prioritised are guided by our Council Plan, which will in turn align with the values and principles set out in the Community Vision. In short, these are the single most important strategic documents for Council – they influence every other piece of work we do. By taking part in the creation of these documents, you have a say in what Council's priorities are and what kind of place

the Borough will be in the future.

The next round of consultation, taking place in May, consists of a community panel made up of randomly selected applicants. They'll analyse community ideas and determine the main priorities contained in the Vision and Plan.

For more information on the plans and how they'll be developed, visit queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/plan

Visit the temporary library at 18 Hesse Street

While construction on the Queenscliffe Hub has required our local library to temporarily find a new home, you can still access all your favourite books and services at The Tavern at 18 Hesse Street, Queenscliff. The library is open 1:30pm – 5pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, 10am – 5pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9:30am until midday on Saturdays.

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