

# BOROUGH BITES

## Councillor contacts

Results of the 2020 Borough of Queenscliffe Council election were still being counted as we went to print. To learn more about your newly elected Council, visit our website at [queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](http://queenscliffe.vic.gov.au)

## Library

The Library, along with the Visitor Information Centre and Queenscliffe Historical Museum, are moving to allow for construction of the Queenscliffe Hub to begin. You'll find the Library at 18 Hesse St, Queenscliff from Wednesday 4 November.

Staff are also offering many exciting services online. You can access book readings for children, the full e-book collection and a range of other exciting material by visiting [grlc.vic.gov.au](http://grlc.vic.gov.au)

## Council payments

As some of Council's services have changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may notice it takes longer than usual to complete a payment over the phone. Our staff are responding to a large number of enquiries, and we thank you for your patience. To avoid the queues, many of our payments can be made online, including rates payments. Sign up for eNotices today at [queenscliffe.enotices.com.au](http://queenscliffe.enotices.com.au) for a fast and easy way to pay.

## Changes to Council services

Here at the Borough of Queenscliffe, the health and safety of our community is our first priority. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some services and events we deliver remain altered. These changes include:

- **Customer service**  
Council is remaining open for business via phone and email, but has closed our customer service desk at 50 Learmonth Street. You can still

call us on 5258 1377 or email us at [info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au) to make payments, ask questions, or handle any other Council business. Council's business hours remain 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

- **Christmas closures**  
Council's customer service will be closed from 1:00 pm on 24 December until 9:00 am on Monday 4 January.
- **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 via phone, email and internet only. You can call the VIC on (3) 5258 4843 or email them at [info.centre@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](mailto:info.centre@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au)

For a full list of up-to-date service changes, visit [queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/covid19](http://queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/covid19)

## Bunny Woods revegetation completed

Residents and visitors to Point Lonsdale have once again been enjoying the natural beauty of the 'Bunny Woods' area of the foreshore, after the Borough of Queenscliffe completed its revegetation works in August.

The section of dirt paths, trees and coastal vegetation adjacent to Point Lonsdale Front Beach was temporarily closed to public access in July due to vegetation damage caused by makeshift bike tracks. Council contractors and members of the Bellarine Catchment Network then planted more than 500

new trees, shrubs, and groundcovers, and the rehabilitated area has been enjoyed by the public since reopening.

Residents and visitors can help by taking special care when walking through the area by sticking to the tracks, dismounting if you're on a bike, and letting Council know if you notice any further damage to the area. Your vigilance and awareness will help protect the important coastal vegetation in Bunny Woods.

Council is continuing work on finding a suitable site for a new specialised BMX track in the Borough of Queenscliffe. Officers are preparing some initial concepts and are looking forward to involving riders in the design of the new track.



Hundreds of new trees, shrubs and groundcovers have been planted in Point Lonsdale's Bunny Woods foreshore area.



Queenscliffe Rotary's Peter Deacon tries out the new public open-air gym equipment.

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## 2020 Council Meetings

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

- Thursday 26 November 2020
- Thursday 17 December 2020

Unless otherwise stated, these meetings will be closed to in-person viewing by the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recordings will be captured and the video published on Council's website the following day, and a livestream made available on Council's YouTube page.

## New outdoor gym equipment open for Borough residents

**With construction complete and restrictions easing, residents and visitors to the Borough of Queenscliffe are being invited to try out new open-air gym equipment.**

A joint initiative of Queenscliffe Rotary, the Victorian Government, and the Borough of Queenscliffe, the project features outdoor gym equipment at Queenscliff's Princess Park and

on the Point Lonsdale Foreshore. Both sites allow for a range of exercises to be completed across different fitness levels, including equipment specially designed for seniors at the Point Lonsdale site.

Council encourages residents to try the equipment for themselves and see how they might incorporate it into a daily walk, a visit to the park, or other exercise.

The State Government Pick My Project initiative ran in 2018, with more than 95,000 Victorians casting votes for their favourite community projects. With support from the Rotary Club of Queenscliffe, the outdoor gym equipment project was the most popular initiative in the Borough, receiving 161 votes. Additional project funding was supplied by the Borough of Queenscliffe, the Australian Government and Queenscliffe Rotary.

## Construction soon to commence on the Queenscliffe Hub

The Queenscliffe Hub (QHub) project continues to move ever closer to the construction stage, with the building designs recently receiving formal planning approval.

In preparation for works to begin, the Library, Historical Museum and Visitor Information Centre are currently packing up and moving to their new temporary home at 18 Hesse St, Queenscliff. Some services will be limited during the move, so please contact each organisation directly for updates and assistance during this time.

The design plans for the QHub, which were produced in consultation with the community, will include an increase in floor space for the Library and Historical Museum, a flexible auditorium for presentations and events, the retention of the much-loved heritage facade of the library, and accessible public toilet facilities open seven days a week. The project will create contemporary, flexible and accessible spaces that will enhance the delivery of each organisation's already outstanding programs and services.

The Queenscliffe Hub project is a jointly funded by the Borough of Queenscliffe, the Victorian Government, and the Commonwealth Government. The Project Control Group guiding its delivery also includes representatives from the Library, the Historical Museum and the broader community.

The Project Steering Committee was chaired by Minister Neville and also included community representatives. More information on the project, including a detailed copy of the plans, is available at [queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/hub](http://queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/hub).

## Vale Dave Renton

The Borough of Queenscliffe wishes to pass on its condolences to the family of Dave Renton, who sadly passed away in August. The Ocean Grove local and dedicated surf-lifesaver managed the Mosquito Control Program in the Borough for many years. Council has made a commemorative donation to the World Mosquito Program in Dave's honour.



Nominees for the 2021 Australia Day Awards will be looking to follow in the footsteps of last year's award winners.

## Ready to recognise local legends

**The beating heart of our small community has been on display more than ever throughout these unprecedented times. Now, the Borough of Queenscliffe is calling on you to help recognise the local legends that serve our twin towns so well.**

Nominations for the 2021 Australia Day Awards opened in early October, and this year awards will be presented in four categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Organisation of the Year, and Community Environment Project of the Year. "Everyone in the Borough knows someone who gives up their time and effort simply for the satisfaction of helping their local community," said Queenscliffe CEO Martin Gill.

"While 2020 has been a challenging year for almost of all of us, it's also highlighted how tight-knit, caring and responsive the people of Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff are. You don't have to look very far to find worthy winners of these awards, so I'd encourage as many of you as possible to make a submission."

Like last year, nominations can be submitted digitally via our online nomination form, where you can also upload further

documentation to support the nomination. If you require a hard copy of the nomination form, please call Council on (03) 5258 1377 to make arrangements. Entries close at 4:00 pm on Friday 20 November 2020, so get writing, as there's not long to go!

Those nominated will have the chance to follow in the footsteps of last year's award winners: Gary Tomlins (Citizen of the Year); Jess Robinson (Young Citizen of the Year); Queenscliff Football Netball Club (Community Organisation of the Year); and Queenscliff Music Festival (Community Environment Project of the Year). The Community Event of the Year category, presented last year to the SacredEdge Festival, has been placed on hiatus due to the pandemic forcing the cancellation of many local events and festivals.

All award nominations will be considered by Council's Australia Day Awards Reference Group, which consists of Councillors and community members. The Australia Day Awards are provided under the auspice of the National Australia Day Council, and will be presented during the Australia Day celebrations on 26 January 2021.



The Borough of Queenscliffe is continuing its action against climate change.

## Borough launches climate response consultation

**The Borough of Queenscliffe has continued its work to minimise its impact on the climate with the launch of consultation for its community-led Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP).**

After having officially declared a climate emergency at its December 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council has worked in

collaboration with local residents to reach the next step in the development of the plan. Borough residents and ratepayers have already taken part in a detailed online survey and nominated for a community panel. The randomly selected 30-person community panel will play a crucial role in the plan's development through a series of in-depth workshops.

The draft plan, scheduled for release in February 2021, will define roles and responsibilities for both Council and the community in addressing both climate impact mitigation and adaptation strategies. The plan is expected to be ambitious in its nature and incorporate ideas from a wide cross-section of community members.

To find out more about Council's climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and to read the CERP Strategic Engagement Plan and other key dates in the process, visit Council's website at [queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/cerp](http://queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/cerp)

## Annual Report now available

Council's 2019-20 Annual Report is now available to read at our website. The 190-page document collates all of the Borough's achievements over the last financial year, as well as Council's Performance Statement and Financial Report. Imagery from local photographer Lachlan Manley is featured throughout. To download the report, go to [queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](http://queenscliffe.vic.gov.au) and click the banner image.

## Council progresses plans for expanded outdoor dining

With outdoor activities posing a lower risk of coronavirus transmission, the Victorian Government is looking to increase the capacity of outdoor dining at restaurants and cafes across the state this summer. Council has already started working with local traders and the Victorian Government to plan new outdoor dining features, and is already evaluating quotes and considering options to ensure these facilities are ready in time for summer. We're looking forward to sharing more information with local traders, residents and visitors as this project progresses.

If you're a local business owner and would like to share your ideas for expanding outdoor dining at your business, please contact Council's Economic Development team on 5258 1377.

## Borough joins other Councils to secure cleaner power

In addition to the work it is doing in preparing a Climate Emergency Response Plan, the Borough of Queenscliffe has now joined forces with more than a hundred councils around Australia by joining a national climate program for local government.

The Cities Power Partnership, established by the Climate Council in 2017, provides a platform for local governments to share resources and solutions towards the cooperative fight against climate change.

Council's taking part in the Cities Power Partnership pledge five actions to tackle climate change locally, from ramping up renewable energy through to planning sustainable transport systems. Some of the innovative projects councils are taking part in include transitioning council fleets to electric vehicles, installing solar battery systems in thousands of homes and businesses, and spearheading Australia's first carbon-neutral kindergarten. The Borough of Queenscliffe will use its community-led Climate Emergency Response Plan to guide its choice of commitments.

Since the program's inception, Cities Power Partnership councils have launched over 525 climate projects.