

# BOROUGH BITES



Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels at the new pedestrian crossing on Ocean Road.

## Safer roads for pedestrians

**Locals and visitors to the Borough of Queenscliffe are set for a safer transport experience with Council recently completing a pedestrian safety blitz across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.**

Increasing pedestrian safety and reducing driver confusion along Hesse Street, Queenscliff were common concerns raised by residents during a Borough of Queenscliffe road safety consultation last year. We've responded by installing two new pedestrian-priority crossings in Hesse Street and reducing the speed limit to 40km/h, making it easier and safer for those on foot to navigate the street.

Other road safety improvements undertaken in the Borough include new pedestrian crossings on Point Lonsdale Road and Ocean Road in Point Lonsdale, a new pedestrian crossing on Gellibrand Street in Queenscliff, and traffic refuges on King Street and Flinders Street in Queenscliff. Each of those improvements is a direct response to the feedback we've heard about how we could make it safer to get around the Borough on foot.

Council's recent improvements are supported by various funding programs, including the Transport Accident Commission and the Australian Government.

## Borough looks ahead with new Community Vision adopted

**Volunteer community representatives from Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale have worked hand-in-hand with Councillors to develop a new ten-year vision for the Borough of Queenscliffe, which was formally adopted by at August's Ordinary Council Meeting.**

A requirement of the Victorian Government's recently introduced Local Government Act 2020, the Community Vision describes our community's aspirations for the future of the Borough. The document was developed in partnership with the community, and will be used to guide strategic

decisions and the four year Council Plan.

The initial round of consultation, which generated thousands of ideas and pieces of feedback, was turned into a draft Community Vision by a 25-member community panel over five workshops. The central statement of the final Vision is:

*The Borough is a special and restorative place, renowned for its distinctive coast, rich living heritage and vibrant culture.*

*Our community is caring, and welcoming to visitors.*

*We have a deep respect for the Wadawurrung People and are taking action to protect Country.*

This statement is supported by five pillars: Enhancing health and wellbeing, Protecting Country and our

natural environment, Supporting business and community prosperity, Encouraging an inclusive and engaged community, and Protecting and celebrating Wadawurrung and Borough heritage. The five-pillar format was chosen by the panel for its ability to both highlight areas of specific importance and to synthesise these values into a central vision.

A full copy of the Community Vision, including more information about how it was developed, is available on Council's website at [queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/plan](http://queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/plan).

## In this edition

- Community Vision adopted
- Pedestrian project update
- Vaccination challenge
- COVID Business Support Officer
- Renewable Organics Network
- Tourist park review underway
- Foghorn shed restored
- Annual report complete
- Hardship policy extended

## 2021 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 24 November 2021
- Wednesday 15 December 2021

*The 2022 meeting calendar is yet to be confirmed. Dates will be available on Council's website from 1 December.*

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.





(L-R) Buloke Mayor Cr Daryl Warren and Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels conduct a virtual catch-up on Zoom after the conclusion of their vaccination challenge.

## Borough takes the honours in Mayoral vaccination challenge with Buloke Shire

The Borough of Queenscliffe and Buloke Shire's respective Mayors took part in a good-natured challenge across September as part of a vaccination blitz to see which Council area could be first to reach the 80% fully vaccinated milestone.

At the time of announcing the challenge, the two local government areas were first and second respectively in two-dose vaccination rates across the state. Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels and Buloke Mayor Cr Daryl Warren,

old friends themselves, decided that the losing Mayor would agree to host the winning Mayor for dinner and a night's accommodation in their home town when restrictions allow.

The challenge officially concluded in late September when Queenscliffe became the first LGA in Victoria, and indeed Australia, to pass the 80% fully vaccinated mark. The two Mayors caught up virtually to thank their communities and make good on the terms of their bet – Mayor Warren of Buloke Shire will be treating

Mayor Ebbels of Queenscliff to a meal and a night's accommodation in the coming months.

Since then, both LGAs have continued their outstanding vaccination rates with each Council reaching a >95% first dose rate in October. Thank you to all of our residents who have made our community safer by getting vaccinated. If you haven't already booked your vaccination, you can do so by visiting portal. [cvms.vic.gov.au](http://cvms.vic.gov.au) or calling the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

### Our COVID Business Support Officer is here to help

The Borough of Queenscliffe's newest officer is in a position that couldn't have existed 18 months ago. It's the unpredictability of the pandemic and its impacts on 2021 that have inspired Council to establish a new role – COVID Business Support Officer – and Borough resident Melissa Taylor is on the job.

Having grown up on the Bellarine Peninsula and forming strong ties to the local community, Melissa is ready to help businesses in the Borough navigate the ever-changing and evolving COVID-safe practices and restrictions in place. "Now that I'm here in this role, my main aim while I get to know the ins and outs of Council, is to let everyone know that I exist!" Melissa said.

"I'm ready to point you and your business in the right direction, whether it's showing you where to find the latest restrictions on the government websites, alerting you of

potential grant funding opportunities, or even just a friendly hello. It's really about continuing to build on those Council-trader relationships that our Economic Development Team have worked so hard on over the past 18 months and beyond."

Melissa's appointment was made possible thanks to funding provided by the Victorian Government to each of the 79 councils across the state, as part of its recently established Local Government Business Concierge and Hospitality Support program. Melissa has a background in business support and she is passionate about providing clarity, consistency and dedicated COVID business support to local traders.

"I've already spoken to a lot of businesses across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, but I really want to reach out to those who I mightn't have been in contact with just yet. Perhaps you're a sole trader, or you're working from home, or you could be taking some time off currently. No matter how big or small your

business is, I'd love to speak with you and learn how Council can assist."

We're continuing to shine a light on the varied range of restaurants, retail outlets, cafés, galleries and more via our 3225 Love Local Shop Local Facebook page, which now has more than 930 followers. Melissa can be reached via phone on 0480 360 416 or by emailing [melissa.taylor@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](mailto:melissa.taylor@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au).



Council's new COVID Business Support Officer Melissa Taylor with Asher Hermann from Grow Café in Point Lonsdale.





Kaylene Jarvis and Susan Cooper from Queenscliff Tourist Parks are looking forward to a busy summer season of visitors.

## Tourist park operations review underway

**A draft tourist parks management strategy is just weeks away from release following extensive consultation from Council on how to make the Borough's suite of caravan parks more financially sustainable and competitive into the future.**

Some of the changes being investigated by Council include operational improvements, new services and facilities, and opportunities to increase visitation in the winter months.

## Share your ideas for a new sustainable waste facility

The Borough of Queenscliffe is partnering with Barwon Water and five other regional councils to develop an innovative new waste facility that turns food and garden waste into useable products.

The Renewable Organics Network Facility project, developed in response to rising waste costs and capacity constraints, is expected to process 40,000 tonnes of organic waste each year. Using a combination of bacterial digestion and heat treatment, this processing would turn the waste into renewable energy and high-quality compost and fertiliser products which can then be sold to offset rising waste costs. The facility is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from our region's waste processes by up to 15,000 tonnes every a year, while generating

This is in addition to the existing benefits of Council's tourist parks, including affordable visitor accommodation, generation of income, and attracting new customers and clients to support local businesses.

Consultation took place throughout August 2021, with a draft strategy and second round of consultation planned for release in the coming weeks before the final strategy is considered for adoption by Council in the months following.

enough electricity to power 500 homes.

While the benefits of the project are clear, the Borough of Queenscliffe and Barwon Water are seeking community input to further develop the concept and ensure residents play a role in shaping the future of the region's waste management. Consultation is now open for the project, and residents can learn more and share their ideas at [yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/ron](https://yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/ron), with feedback closing on 26 November 2021.

While the project is innovative in both scale and scope, the Renewable Organics Network would be built using proven technology. Barwon Water has successfully demonstrated the concept on a smaller scale at its Colac Water Reclamation Plant, which takes organic waste from local industry and converts it into enough renewable energy to take the plant entirely off the grid. More information about the project and its benefits is available on Barwon Water's website.



Point Lonsdale's historic 93-year-old foghorn shed has been restored by Council.

## Foghorn shed restored

Point Lonsdale's heritage-listed foghorn shed is looking better than ever after it received a refurbishment and restoration during late September. The project restored old and yellowing weatherboards to give the historically significant shed a crisp coat of white and grey ahead of the summer months.

Council invested \$50,000 in refurbishment works to restore the shed to its former glory, which required replacement of rotten and damaged weatherboards, internal and external paint removal and repainting, and other upgrades.

The shed, first built in 1928 to replace the previous foghorn shed at the same location, was listed in the Victorian Heritage Register in December 2019 as part of a larger operation to protect the entire Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct.

## Pandemic hardship policy extended

Council has recently extended the availability of its COVID-19 Financial Hardship policy. In recognising that the pandemic has and will continue to cause significant financial hardship for some members of the community, we're continuing to help the residents, ratepayers and businesses which need that assistance. The policy was introduced in April 2020 and has helped numerous recipients with financial certainty in what are uncertain times.

To learn more about Council's rates assistance policies, or to contact the Rates Coordinator, visit [boq.news/rates-assistance](https://boq.news/rates-assistance)

## Keep up to date with COVID-19 restrictions

As vaccination rates continue to rise around the state and our path out of the pandemic becomes clearer, Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale are looking forward to welcoming back our non-resident ratepayers, visitors and tourists from metropolitan Melbourne when possible. Queenscliffe Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels would like to thank everyone from both inside and out of the Borough for protecting our population over the last 20 months. To keep up with the latest details on restrictions in our state, visit [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

For information on Council's services, visit [boq.news/covid19](https://boq.news/covid19).

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## Queenscliff Town Hall to see major upgrades

Queenscliff Music Festival (QMF) and the Borough of Queenscliffe have announced a new partnership to upgrade the Queenscliff Town Hall to become a high-quality creative space.

QMF has secured two grants to undertake the first stage of an upgrade to the Hall that will include new sound and lighting systems, a screen and projector, and better marketing for the venue. Combined, these upgrades will allow the Town Hall to support a broader range of performances. The project is being managed under a governance structure that includes

Council officers and QMF representatives working together and meeting regularly for several months.

The project will provide extensive benefits for existing and new users of the Hall including community groups, schools, local creatives, and community events like the Bellarine Lighthouse Film Festival and Queenscliffe Literary Festival. Improved facilities are part of Council's ongoing focus on enhancing the Borough of Queenscliffe's reputation as a regional arts and culture destination, and will assist in securing new events that could attract hundreds of visitors.



Hilary from the Queenscliff Library shares one of her favourite new releases.

## Annual report ready to read

At 212 pages long, the 2020–21 Annual Report might just be the Borough of Queenscliffe's heftiest tome yet. While that might seem strange given the year we've had – where travel restrictions and lockdowns prevented us from taking part in many of the festivals and functions usually seen on the annual events calendar – there was still plenty occurring at Council behind the scenes.

This year's annual report, lovingly assembled once again by Martlette Graphic Design, features a bevy of stunning local photography and a thorough overview of the year's project and program activities, statutory functions reporting and financial statements.

Having won seven consecutive Gold Awards in the Australasian Reporting Awards for producing high-quality annual reports, Council will be hoping that this latest edition can make it eight straight. You can read this year's report on the Borough of Queenscliffe website.

