

Borough Bites

NOVEMBER 2022



Council is exploring a proposal to simplify the Borough's 'dogs on beaches' laws.

BOROUGH TO REVIEW 'DOGS ON BEACHES' LAWS

The Borough of Queenscliffe has started a review of its 'dogs on beaches' laws to investigate a potential change ahead of the holiday season. Through the initial part of the review, a proposal has emerged to remove the restrictions preventing dogs on beaches during the summer period, simplifying Council's dog laws and making it easier for people to spend quality time with their pets in the Borough.

"We know how valued our furry friends are in the Borough – I love walking our dog Pippa along the beach in Point Lonsdale," said Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels. "This proposal aims to reduce confusion and reward the good behaviour of pet owners by allowing dogs to be walked on leash throughout the Borough all year round."

Currently, dogs are prohibited from almost all beaches in the Borough for most of summer. From 15 December until the last day of February, from 9:00am until 8:00pm each day, dogs are not permitted on any beach in the Borough of Queenscliffe, excluding Narrows Beach (which is reserved specifically for dog use).

The proposed laws suggest removing these restrictions,

allowing dogs to be walked on-leash in most areas year-round, in addition to the existing off-leash area at Narrows Beach. Our residents already demonstrate an extremely high compliance rate with local dog laws, and this change would further promote the area to dog owners.

However, we also understand that we have a responsibility to protect our fragile local wildlife, as well as those in the community that may wish to enjoy the beach without dogs present. Therefore, Council is also asking the community to consider and nominate an appropriate stretch of coastline where we could provide a year-round designated dog-free area for beachgoers.

"I encourage both residents and visitors to the area to complete the online survey to let us know your thoughts on the proposed change, and make sure to ask your friends and family to take part too," continued Mayor Ebbels.

More information, including maps of the current and proposed dog laws, are available on Council's website. The online survey is open now and is scheduled to close at 11:59pm on Wednesday 16 November 2022. To take part, visit boq.news/dogsonbeaches.

Download the Borough Bins app

Join the 880+ strong crowd of residents who have already downloaded the Borough Bins app to receive personalised reminders on your bin collection dates. This Christmas/New Year period, we're conducting an additional collection of general waste. That means that in the collection week beginning 26 December, you can place all three bins out on the kerb for pick-up. 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.



Borough of Queenscliffe
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Delighted dozen share in Community Grants win

Twelve local community groups and organisations from across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale have been awarded a combined \$18,611 in grant funding as part of the Borough of Queenscliffe's 2022–23 community grants program.

The grant recommendations were announced at a presentation evening held at the Queenscliff Town Hall in September, where Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels and Cr Donnie Grigau delivered the good news to a grateful crowd of attendees.

The full list of successful grant recipients is as follows:

- Queenscliffe Coast Guard – \$1,091 for handheld spotlights for their rescue vessel
- Combined Probus Club of Queenscliffe – \$500 for their 'Rugmakers' craft group
- Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club – \$2,000 for sailing dinghy equipment
- Queenscliff Football Netball Club – \$2,000 for a cricket pitch cover
- Queenscliffe Maritime Museum – \$1,369 for the safety and protection of artifacts
- Uniting Queenscliff – \$650 for the men's cooking night monthly community meal
- Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House – \$2,000 for the gallery 10-year celebrations
- Swan Bay Environment Association – \$1,512 for plant propagation tables
- Queenscliffe Climate Action Group – \$2,000 for an energy efficiency audit program
- Point Lonsdale Primary School – \$1,989 for the 'Nippers in School' program
- Queenscliff Lighthouse Theatre Group – \$2,000 for their 21st birthday celebrations
- Queenscliffe Historical Museum – \$1,500 for a touch-screen display

Congratulations to all the recipients, and we look forward to seeing the funds put to great use.



Michelle Conlan and Rowan Martin of the Queenscliff Football Netball Club receiving their grant from Mayor Ross Ebbels and Cr Donnie Grigau.



QPS First Nations Studies Teacher Kelly Caldwell leads a chorus of band members and students in Wadawurrung song.

LOCAL STUDENTS PERFORM IN WADAWURRUNG LANGUAGE

Students at a Queenscliff school have performed a series of songs in traditional language as part of a collaboration with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to increase knowledge of Wadawurrung language and culture. The 'Songtimes' project was officially launched at the New Hall in Point Lonsdale in October, with eight children taking part in the performance of five songs that teach the Wadawurrung names of plants, birds, colours, body parts and phrases.

Queenscliff Primary School (QPS) First Nations Studies teacher Kelly Caldwell devised the initiative in collaboration with Kamilaroi woman Associate Professor Melitta Hogarth – one of the Project Leads of the University of Melbourne's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curricula Project – and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. Caldwell then recruited close friend Ben Shaw and musician Ben Talbot-Dunn to record the songs professionally so they could be taught to her classes of 158 students.

"We've written these songs together with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to teach children the language of the land on which they live, and to respect the beauty of that language," Caldwell said. "It also helps start conversations around the true history of the settlement of Australia and history of the Wadawurrung people, and the importance of keeping language alive in the voices of both First Nations people and non-First Nations people."

The project, which forms part of a First Nations Studies subject embedded into the school's core curriculum, began as a self-

funded exercise but soon gained the support of the Borough of Queenscliffe. Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels praised the efforts of Kelly and the QPS students for their dedication to learning important Aboriginal history in a fun and engaging way. "These songs aren't just a teaching tool, they're a joyful source of family and community music," Cr Ebbels said. "I'm so pleased that a project as culturally significant as 'Songtimes' originated in Queenscliff."

The 'Songtimes' recordings and stories are sold as part of a songbook illustrated by Wadawurrung artist Billy-Jay O'Toole and can be purchased via songtimes.au.

Lighting of the Tree returns this Xmas

Point Lonsdale's famous 'Lighting of the Tree' Christmas celebration returns to its traditional home in Volunteers Park this year, and we're looking forward to having a big festive crowd at the site for the first time since 2019. Saturday 3 December is the date to put in your calendars, with festivities kicking off from 7:00pm. Further information will be shared on Council's Facebook page closer to the date.



Santa Claus with a couple of local elves at last year's Lighting of the Tree event in the Point Lonsdale main street.



The façade of the Hub reflects nearby historical architecture onto its surface, while proudly displaying the 'Wirng Wirng' name at its edge.

Queenscliffe Hub opens to the public

The Queenscliffe Hub is now open to the public after services resumed in late September. Also known as 'Wirng Wirng', a Wadawurrung phrase meaning "to listen with both ears", the Hub is open seven days a week for listening, learning and understanding.

The Queenscliffe Visitor Information Centre greets you as you enter the stunning architecturally designed building, with Wadawurrung artwork and promotional

flyers adorning the walls of the space. The team is there to help with any tourism or accommodation queries from 9:00am–5:00pm each day, 364 days of the year.

Go north and you'll find the Queenscliffe Historical Museum, a proud tenant and an organisation fast approaching its fiftieth year of operation. Their new exhibition 'Queenscliffe Revealed: Hidden Histories – New Narratives' takes place inside a meticulously crafted setting of historical artifacts, written words, films and oral histories. It's available to view seven days a week.

You can also spend an afternoon at the Queenscliffe Library, which retains its recognisable historical façade but features some high-tech improvements inside the building. With plenty of new spaces to sit with a laptop and hook in to the provided Wi-Fi, the library is a place for work, study, reading and relaxation six days a week.

The Hub's planned official opening with key stakeholders and funding partners was unfortunately delayed, but a rescheduled opening was planned to take place during the week of publication.



The Queenscliff Boat Ramp is officially open for use.

Queenscliff Boat Ramp upgrade completed

Like most other Councils in Victoria, the Boaters and fishers in Queenscliff and across the wider Bellarine will have a smoother summer on the water with the boat ramp upgrade officially completed in late August. The upgrade project, conducted by Better Boating Victoria in partnership with Council, brings a new third lane to the ramp alongside a new concrete surface, new central pontoons and upgraded outer pontoons. A 24/7 ramp camera is available to view on the boating.vic.gov.au website so you can check the traffic before deciding whether to launch. Happy boating!



Borough residents are again invited to have their say as part of an expanded budget consultation.

HELP US CREATE THE 2023–24 COUNCIL BUDGET

The Borough of Queenscliffe is again turning to the community and inviting you to have your say on how Council funds should be prioritised as part of this year's budget consultation.

The success of the 2020–21 budget exercise, plus an increased certainty in financial planning in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, are the catalysts behind Council's decision to reprise the detailed online survey for the 2023–24 draft budget.

"Our community knows Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale better than anyone, which is why we're so pleased to be calling on their deep local knowledge and expertise as part of this engagement," said Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels.

"More than 240 people took part in the 2020–21 budget consultation, and we're hoping to boost those numbers even higher this time around. The greater the amount of people that take part, the better representation we have of what the community truly values and expects from Council in the coming year," continued Mayor Ebbels.

Everyone, from permanent residents to seasonal stayers and short-trip visitors, is encouraged to take part. Survey participants will again be asked their suggestions on new project ideas in five key budget categories, as well as the level of funds that should be directed towards certain areas of the budget.

"The suggestions made by participants help guide the future direction of Council, and that level of granular detail provided has been the kickstart required to complete some really popular projects over the last few years," said Borough CEO Martin Gill.

"The top ideas in the last extended budget consultation were footpaths, tree planting and recycling, and Council have taken great strides in each of those areas since. Council is looking forward to again receiving that comprehensive level of feedback from our passionate community," continued Mr Gill.

Residents will soon receive a flyer in their letterbox detailing the consultation, but to find out more now, you can visit boq.news/budget23-24. The survey is scheduled to close at 11:59pm on Sunday 20 November.



Wrap up the year with our annual report

The annual report is presented as part of Council's commitment to open, transparent and accountable governance. This year's report is the first to highlight our performance against the new Council Plan, and thus has had a complete structural and visual redesign by the team at Martlette Graphic Design in conjunction with Council officers.

Council is proud to present this report as a comprehensive display of its achievements, challenges and future outlook. Visit boq.news/annual-report to read this year's edition.

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COUNCIL REDUCES EMISSIONS BY 80% IN SINGLE YEAR

The Borough of Queenscliffe has reduced its emissions by 80% in the past financial year, significantly accelerating its transition towards carbon neutrality. The substantial reduction in emissions comes off the back of Council adopting its Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) in May 2021. The plan contains 49 actions designed to reduce the Borough's carbon output to zero by 2031, and includes interim targets for both Council and the community to achieve.

The Borough has implemented a number of policy changes to achieve this emissions reduction. Council's decision to purchase 100% renewable electricity through the Victorian Energy Collaboration for all of its operations, including council buildings, tourist parks, street

lights and public facilities, had the largest impact on the reduction in emissions. Other changes, such as the rollout of a kerbside food waste collection service, are also contributing to Council's falling emissions output.

In total, Council has reduced its scope 1 and 2 emissions from 1,038 tonnes in 2014–15 to just 106 tonnes in 2021–22. The reduction is equivalent to taking more than 200 petrol cars off the road every year. Council is already exploring ways to further reduce its emissions profile by swapping its vehicle fleet for electric vehicles, disconnecting remaining gas services, and investing in more sustainable building and construction methods.

More information about the CERP is available at boq.news/cerp.



Three new timber log bench seats have been installed at Point Lonsdale Foreshore.

A NEW SPOT TO SIT AT LONNIE FORESHORE

Visitors to the Point Lonsdale Foreshore can take in the sea and sky on the three new timber log bench seats that were installed in September. The timber has been specifically selected to help blend into the area's natural landscape while helping to protect

planned revegetation of the area. It also doubles as additional seating to enjoy your takeaway coffee. Council gives thanks to the Victorian Government's COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund for providing the funding for this installation.

