

BOROUGH BITES



Mayor Cr Bob Merriman plants a herb alongside Queenscliff General Store owner Garreth Jones.

Local traders go green with Borough community garden project

As part of an innovative approach to supporting local traders and the environment, Council has converted a nature strip on King Street into a kitchen garden.

The garden, containing citrus trees and a variety of herbs, will provide ingredients for use in the Queenscliff General Store restaurant. Borough officers and local traders worked together to design and implement the project, which is now open for use.

The benefit of the garden is twofold – not only will the project reduce the cost and carbon emissions of importing food, but its inclusion will also support local traders who utilize the produce.

The installation arrives alongside upgraded parking and line markings at the intersection of Stevens and King streets, allowing for safer pedestrian access to the garden and café.

Major improvements on Bowen Road assist local school

Council has recently completed major works on Bowen Road in Point Lonsdale, making the road safer and more accessible for the whole community.

Finished in just a few months and with minimal disruption, Council's works have added car parking and a safer crossing to Bowen Road. Upgrades to drainage have also

ensured the road will remain accessible in inclement weather.

Point Lonsdale Primary School, which is located on Bowen Road, will particularly benefit from these upgrades. The entire community will also find value in improved drainage and clearly marked parking, both during school hours and when events are held in the Hall.

In addition to improving safety and accessibility, Council's upgrade works have also benefitted local jobs, with a Bellarine-based supplier being appointed to undertake the works on Council's behalf.

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Diary dates

Sunday 29 September 2019
Queenscliff Community Market

Sunday 6 October 2019
Around the Bay

Sunday 27 October 2019
Queenscliff Community Market

Monday 11 November 2019
Remembrance Day service

Sunday 17 November 2019
HMAS Goorangai commemorative service

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 November 2019
Queenscliff Music Festival

Saturday 23 to Sunday 24 November 2019
Queenscliff Community Market

2019 Council Meetings

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

- Thursday 22 August 2019
- Thursday 19 September 2019
- Thursday 24 October 2019
- Thursday 28 November 2019
- Thursday 19 December 2019

Members of the public are welcome to attend.





Burning sculptures were a feature of the Low Light Festival.

Low Light Festival delights and impresses

The 2019 Low Light Festival has been hailed as a major success, with a number of events completely selling out.

More than 100 events and exhibitions took part in the festival over May and June, bringing the finest artists and talents to our community in a celebration of all the senses. From packed concerts to busy food and wine events, this year's Low Light offered something for everyone, and the festival is fast becoming a must-see event for residents and visitors to our community.

Council acknowledges the cooperation of local businesses, the Queenscliff Music Festival team, and volunteers that took part in making this event a success.

In the coming months, work will begin on planning to make next year's Low Light Festival bigger than ever. Businesses and community groups that would like to take part in future festivals are encouraged to contact the Borough of Queenscliffe for more information.

Hesse Street South project gets the green light

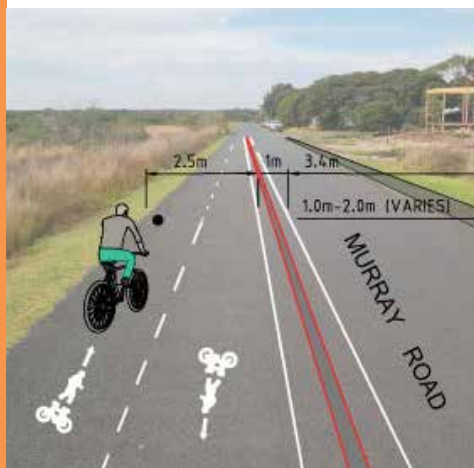
The southern end of Hesse Street between King Street and the Ocean View car park will soon be upgraded with additional parking, landscaping and safety features after the announcement that Rural Roads Victoria will be contributing \$904,558 of funding. This funding is in addition to Council's contribution of \$299,564 and the Borough four-year allocation of \$152,715 under the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program.

The initial concept plan proposes the following:

- Provision of angled parking on the west side of Hesse St, which provides an additional 16 parking spaces
- Provision of landscaping/ trees along the street
- Provision of an outfall drain all the way to the moat, which means a gravity solution to the current flooding problem in King St
- Proposed speed reduction to 40kph and introduction of "wombat crossings" to provide good pedestrian flow and keep traffic speeds down
- Improvements to the caravan park access to ensure safer pedestrian access and easy caravan access
- Provision of a new shared path on the east side of Hesse Street to connect to Citizens Park trail
- Provision of public lighting upgrade along this section of Hesse St.

Council endorses plan for safety upgrades on Murray Road

Recent consultation between Council and community members has led to the Borough endorsing a design concept plan for the upgrade of Murray Road.



Part of the Murray Road upgrade design includes a designated shared path, as illustrated above.

Following fruitful discussions with local residents and the broader community around the three draft designs proposed, Council took on board their feedback and developed a plan which combines the two most preferred designs.

The proposed design consists of building a boardwalk north of Murray Road from Ward Road to the Bellarine Highway, and redesigning Murray Road west of Ward Road to incorporate a one-way road and separated shared path.

This addresses ideas raised about protecting the environment, improving road safety and maintaining access for residents with driveways facing Murray Road.

As Murray Road is the only section of the Bellarine Rail Trail where cyclists and pedestrians have to share the road with cars and trucks, Council is ensuring families and children can cycle the rail trail in safety by proactively planning road improvements.

Now that Council has endorsed the design, officers will seek funding opportunities to complete detailed planning and commence construction. Council thanks all members of the community who helped develop the design for this project.

Pensioners win out in Rating Strategy

This year's Rating Strategy contains particularly good news for pensioners, with the Borough's pensioner rebate increasing to \$120 this year, making it one of the highest pensioner rebates in Victoria. This is in addition to the \$235.15 rates rebate offered by the State Government and the \$50 Fire Services Levy rebate.

Every year, the Victorian Government assesses your property's value. This valuation determines the rates you pay to Council. These rates provide Council with the ability to invest funds into local infrastructure and services.

Your rates can fluctuate depending on the value placed on your property, but also on the value placed on other properties in the Borough. For example, if your neighbour's property value goes up, but yours doesn't, the amount of rates you pay may actually decrease. This is because the total amount of rates Council collects each year only increases by a small amount – in line with or below the rate cap.

Funds generated from Council rates are invested back into our community in a variety of ways. Upgrades and repairs to buildings, town beautification, environmental and waste management, and aged care are just some of the projects that draw their funds directly from your contributions.

For more information on this year's rates updates, visit queenscliffe.vic.gov.au.

Message from the Mayor



The last few months have demonstrated the importance of hard-working community organisations and volunteers to a thriving and harmonious Borough.

Our little pocket of the world has always punched above its weight when it comes to helping out for no financial gain. In fact, many people who do not even consider themselves volunteers actually volunteer monthly, weekly or even daily.

The sharing, generous nature of our townspeople was officially recognised in May during National Volunteer Week when we hosted the 2019

Volunteers' Celebration. The Borough has more than 60 community organisations, and the impact from the volunteers involved is generated far beyond their own backyard.

Pleasingly, Council was able to reinforce its commitment to local community groups when the winners of our 2019-20 Community Grants Program were announced in August. All twelve recipients were extremely grateful for the shared allocation of over \$16,000 from Council funds.

The overarching theme for these grant requests was compassion, safety and sustainability. These are all values reflective of the Borough and its residents. A warm congratulations to the beneficiaries of these grants.

On the topic of sustainability, it is encouraging to see so many residents continuing their green habits throughout the winter. Our environment's natural beauty is one of the jewels in the Borough's crown. We have to act now to preserve its future – that's why

Council's budget this year includes \$180,000 Queenscliffe towards developing a coastal management plan. This funding will allow Council to prepare our community for climate change and inundation events.

Finally, it was wonderful to see so many people take part in the second edition of Low Light Festival. This fantastic initiative has transformed the usually quiet colder months into a bustling hive of activity throughout the Borough. The flaming sculptures being lit across town on the final night of the festival really was a sight to behold.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Borough Bites newsletter.

*Cr Bob Merriman
Mayor, Borough of Queenscliffe*



Mayor Cr Bob Merriman and Cr Susan Salter present Queenscliff Kindergarten's Jessica Miller and Guy LePage with their grant.

Community groups the winner from Council grants program

Council has allocated more than \$16,000 to local community groups as part of Council's 2019-20 Community Grants Program.

Mayor Cr Bob Merriman announced the twelve recipients from across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale during a presentation at Queenscliff Town Hall on Tuesday 6 August.

The allocations include a \$2,814 grant to Queenscliff Kindergarten for the purchase of new outdoor play equipment as part of its 'Active Healthy Kids' program.

Two-thousand dollars has also been provided to the Queenscliff Community Sports Club for an on-site defibrillator that could help save lives.

The Borough of Queenscliffe's grants program aims

to assist local community groups and organisations to increase involvement and provide opportunities for Council and the community to work together.

It assists common interest groups to take an active involvement in the life of their community and helps them to become stronger and more economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable.

A full list of grant recipients can be accessed at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au.

Consultation continues for Hesse Street Revitalisation project

As part of Council's ongoing Hesse Street Revitalisation project, draft plans are now being developed that incorporate feedback from the initial round of community consultation completed earlier this year.

Council asked consultation participants what they valued most about Hesse Street, and found that the community placed the most importance on:

- Local history, heritage buildings and features
- The natural environment of Hesse St, such as views and topography
- The overall look and visual character of the area
- Vegetation and natural elements, such as street trees
- Cleanliness of the space.

Council also undertook a separate workshop with Hesse Street traders, who provided further feedback and ideas for the street, including detailed suggestions about specific areas of improvement.

These responses will be utilised in the development of a draft plan, and we'll seek further feedback from the community about the design. This consultation period is expected to occur later this year, and will be advertised in council publications.

E-waste recycling success

Our annual e-waste drop-off day on 18 May provided the perfect lead in to 1 July 2019, when the Victorian Government banned e-waste from being disposed in bins of any type or size. E-waste can be disposed all year round at the resource recovery centres in Drysdale and Geelong or once a year at our annual drop-off day. For more information about year-round drop-off, visit geelongaustralia.com.au/recycling.

In the meantime, well done to everyone who participated in this year's drop-off day. Thanks to you, we collected 5,170kg of e-waste, taking the total collected since 2012 to 61,599kg. What a fantastic effort by our community and a tremendous outcome for our environment.

Make the switch to **eNotices** and enjoy the freedom of Council's new ratepayer notification system. More than 23% of Borough residents are already using eNotices to receive their rates notices, which saves both time and paper, and ultimately reduces costs for all ratepayers.

The **eNotices** system allows you account management with the ability to change your email address and contact number at any time, and you can add up to five additional email addresses to receive notifications too. It also provides your rates history for up to the last seven years at the click of a button!

Sign up today at queenscliffe.enotices.com.au



The Swan Bay Environment Association's Gardens for Wildlife program received one of Council's environmental grants.

Celebrating our latest environmental funding recipients

Council is delighted to have provided nearly \$3,500 in funding towards three local groups who form part of our Community Environment Alliance program. Each application was assessed by council offers and a selection panel against a range of environmental, community and safety

criteria. We were so impressed that we decided to award three winners:

- Point Lonsdale Primary School, who will roll out reusable coffee mugs at community markets
- Queenscliff Uniting Church, who will run household waste minimisation workshops
- Swan Bay Environment Association, who is extending its Gardens for Wildlife program.

Congratulations to these passionate community groups.

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Library

Queenscliff Library, 55 Hesse Street, Queenscliff

Open Mon-Tue 1:30pm to 5:00pm
Wed-Fri 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sat 9:30am to 12:00pm

Preschool Story Time helps your child discover the magic of stories and develop a lifelong love of reading. Sessions run on Thursday mornings from 10:30am to 11:15am during school terms.

Local markets

Point Lonsdale Market
Second Sunday of the month,
9:00am to 2:00pm
Point Lonsdale Primary School

Queenscliff Community Market
Last Sunday of the month
(September to May), 9:00am to 2:00pm
Lower Princess Park

List your event on Council's website. Visit www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/events to upload your details or contact the Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre on 5258 4843 or 1300 884 843 for assistance.

Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre

Stay up to date with the latest news and event information



Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre

Open 9:00am to 2:00pm every day except Christmas Day
55 Hesse Street, Queenscliff
T: 5258 4843 or 1300 884 843



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