

BOROUGH BITES

Message from the Mayor



As we move into the third month since COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation, we continue to take stock and assess what we have done as a community so far to help 'flatten the curve', and how we can continue to put in place measures that will best protect our special, unique Borough.

These decisions are governed by the advice and restrictions practiced by the Victorian Government's Department of Health & Human Services. It's there where you'll find the latest information and statistics, updated daily, at doh.vic.gov.au/coronavirus. I urge you to keep up to date with that website as well as the regular addresses from the Premier and Prime Minister for the latest coronavirus information.

On a local business front, it's been encouraging to see how our traders in the Borough – particularly the hospitality and retail sectors – have been adapting to the enforced restrictions with the support of our loyal residents. Many of your favourite restaurants and

cafes are offering extended takeaway menus with a large number of them also offering free delivery within the Borough. This pandemic has asked a lot of our businesses, it has required them to adapt quickly and remain agile throughout what is an unknown situation for all of us. We ask that, for as long as possible and within your means, that you please support our locals.

It is pleasing to see the overwhelming majority of Borough residents following the social distancing guidelines across our shops, streets, parks and beaches. It will take a cooperative effort for us to get through this as a community. On a personal note, although my family is in lockdown, it's lovely to have our two daughters home from university. Pippa, our dog, is very happy for the attention! To help reduce non-essential travel, I've been having lots of mayoral forums using Zoom. I think the new ways in which people have embraced technology, finding things to do during isolation, and keeping themselves entertained could mean we may never go back to the way life was before COVID-19.

To everyone in the Borough and beyond, please stay safe and well. Call your family, call your friends. Check in and make sure they are doing okay. This will be long and difficult, but we'll come out the other side together.

Cr Ross Ebbels
Mayor, Borough of Queenscliffe

More to sea at Point Lonsdale front beach

Beach lovers at Point Lonsdale have reason to smile after the Borough of Queenscliffe rebuilt a section of the front beach's ageing bluestone seawall in late March.

The wall, which had been continually battered by high tides and large waves over the decades, was identified to have structurally failed, thus requiring a restoration from Council contractors. A brand new concrete ramp and railing provides safe and easy access from street level down to the sand.

The ramp is a key access point to Point Lonsdale Front Beach, and by completing these works, people of all ages can enjoy the water for many years to come.

Construction took around four weeks to complete, as all works were dictated by the movements of the tide.

Council thanks the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning for funding the project, which we anticipate our community will get the most enjoyment out of this summer when we hopefully start to see a bit of normality.

The Borough of Queenscliffe continues to follow advice from the Department of Health & Human Services regarding the opening status of beaches, parks and other public areas during the coronavirus pandemic.

[RIGHT] *The main access ramp at Point Lonsdale front beach will provide a safe thoroughfare to the shore for Borough residents for many years to come.*

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2020 Council Meetings

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

- Thursday 21 May 2020
- Thursday 18 June 2020
- Thursday 23 July 2020
- Thursday 27 August 2020

Unless otherwise stated, these meetings will be closed to for 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.



New facilities ready for use at Point Lonsdale Tennis Club

Keen tennis players will have something to look forward to when sports facilities reopen, with major improvements to the Point Lonsdale Tennis Club now complete. The upgrade includes the resurfacing of two Plexipave courts to carpet, new LED lights, and clubroom refurbishments. Council has provided \$30,000 towards the program, in addition to funding from the Victorian Government, Point Lonsdale Tennis Club and Tennis Australia. For more information on the project, visit: bit.ly/BoQPLTC

[RIGHT] *New court surfaces are just one of the major improvements recently completed at the Point Lonsdale Tennis Club.*



Borough Facebook page continues to grow

To keep up abreast of the latest news and service updates from Council, why not join the more than 2,000 residents and visitors who have followed the Borough of Queenscliffe official page on Facebook? Hear directly from Council about all the latest happenings in our twin towns.

To give us a 'like' and stay informed, visit facebook.com/queenscliffe

Take part in an interactive presentation of Council's budget

If you're staying at home and itching to take part in some community building, why not tune in and ask a question during Council's live-streamed budget presentation?

From 6:00pm on Monday 4 May, the

Mayor and Council staff will be outlining our budget for next year. This is a great opportunity to understand some of the financial impacts of the coronavirus, and which project ideas submitted by residents have made it into the budget.

You can watch the broadcast at facebook.com/queenscliffe, and read further information at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/budget



Pool registration reminder

In December 2019, the Victorian Government introduced a new mandatory registration scheme requiring all property owners, including landlords, with a pool or spa to register their pool/spa with Council. Property owners are required to have their swimming pool and spa barriers inspected by a registered private building surveyor or registered private building inspector. If the barrier is found to be compliant with the applicable requirements, the registered building surveyor/inspector will issue a certificate of compliance to the owner. The owner must then submit a current certificate of compliance for their pool or spa safety barrier to Council. Fees apply.

The deadline is soon approaching. If you have a pool or spa on your property, you need to register before 1 June 2020.

For more information or to register your pool or spa, visit queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/pools



Mayor Ross Ebbels was part of the pre-match ceremony with Wotjobaluk Elder Richard Kennedy and representatives from the Mullagh Wills Foundation. [PHOTO: Michael Chambers, Times News Group]

Queenscliff celebrates Australia's first Indigenous cricketers

Queenscliff's significance in the 154-year-old story of the Australian Aboriginal cricket team was officially recognised in late February when the Borough of Queenscliffe was presented with a leather-bound commemorative message book.

The B Grade cricket fixture between Queenscliff and Anglesea at Queenscliff Recreation Reserve took on added meaning, as the teams competed for the Mullagh Wills Foundation Trophy. In a thrilling finish, the Coutas fell just three runs short of their target at the end of play, with one wicket in hand.

A ceremony took place prior to the match, where the message book was presented to Mayor Ross Ebbels alongside Wotjobaluk Elder Richard Kennedy. Mr Kennedy, whose great-great-grandfather Yangendinyanyuk (Dik-a-Dik) was of a member of the original Aboriginal cricket team, penned a bilingual

Welcome to Country in English and Wergaia that is inscribed in the book. The book itself has journeyed to England and then across Australia over the last four years, making its final stop at Queenscliff before it finds a home at the Johnny Mullagh Cricket Museum in Harrow, Victoria.

The Queenscliff township's role in the story of the Indigenous team is pivotal, as it was from there where the squad departed in October 1867 for its 1868 tour of England. Having been prevented by the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines to leave Victoria, the trip from Geelong to Queenscliff was disguised as a day's fishing. The team then boarded the Rangatira at Queenscliff, Sydney-bound, before then travelling to England where they played a mammoth 47-match tour over six months.

The Mullagh Wills Foundation is named after the Aboriginal side's star player Johnny Mullagh (born Unaarrimin) and coach Tom Wills, and was formed to promote and recognise the tremendous achievements of the team in the late 1860s.

New trees to be planted in Avenue of Honour

New trees will be planted in Queenscliff's historic Avenue of Honour for the first time in more than half a century, following a Council decision to plant new Monterey cypress trees.

Maintaining and replacing the stretch of more than 80 Monterey cypresses has been a long-term project for Council, and the most significant step yet in this process occurred at the November 2019 Ordinary Meeting, when a recommendation for planting in two of the Avenue's existing gaps was endorsed.

This recommendation was proposed by the Avenue of Honour Reference Group, a small pool of local citizens tasked with much of the decision-making around the Avenue's future. Following the advice of an independent arborist who provided the group with several options to replace the dying and diseased trees, the group opted to replace them with the same species: Monterey cypress.

Council's next step is to conduct an initial round of plantings in two of the Avenue's existing gaps to ensure they grow well next to mature trees and are resistant to disease. If these sample trees perform well over a trial period, Council will begin replacing the existing trees with the poorest health.



Construction begins at Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club

A new clubhouse for a much-loved local club is now under construction after more than 100 members and dignitaries joined Mayor Ross Ebbels for a commemorative turning of the sod in March.

Council is proud to have played a major role in the project getting to this point, having donated this piece of prime real estate to the Club back in 2015. We look forward to seeing this finished product, which is estimated to be completed by December 2020.

Council payments

As some of Council's services have changed in response to the developing coronavirus situation, 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 for a fast and easy way to pay.



Mayor Ross Ebbels joined volunteers from the Rotary Club of Queenscliffe to help beautify the Borough's beaches on Clean Up Australia Day.

Library

While the Queenscliffe Library has temporarily closed to visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic, library staff are 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

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Bringing the beauty back to Borough beaches

The beaches of the Borough are looking better than ever after members of the Rotary Club of Queenscliffe embarked upon their annual Clean Up Australia Day event in February.

Focusing on the beach and foreshore paths between Queenscliff Harbour and Fort Queenscliff, Rotary members joined forces with Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale locals to tidy the town.

The event has gained momentum over the last few years, with a strong contingent of passionate local volunteers turning out to lend a hand. The Borough of Queenscliffe also continued to lend its support by picking up and disposing of litter collected by volunteers, as well as providing gloves and collection bags to participants.

Council encourages any community efforts that protect and preserve the unique environmental landscape we have here in the Borough.

Clean Up Australia Day celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2020, with the Queenscliff clean-up just one of hundreds of coordinated events that happened across the country. Since 1990, more than 35 million volunteer hours have been donated nationally towards Clean Up events to benefit the environment.

Changes to Council services

Here at the Borough of Queenscliffe, the health and safety of our community is our first priority. Because of the developing coronavirus situation, some of the services and events we deliver will be changing to protect our community. Some of 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 to make payments, ask questions, or handle any other Council business. Council's business hours remain 9:00am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.
- **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.
- **Playgrounds and skate park**
The Victorian Government has ordered the closure of public playgrounds and skate parks. All playgrounds in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale are now closed.

For a full list of service changes, visit queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/covid19

