

# Borough Bites

MAY 2023



*Libby Coker MP and Crs Tolhurst, Ebbels, Grout, and Hewitt officially welcomed two new Australians citizens to the Borough.*

## THE BOROUGH WELCOMES NEW CITIZENS

February brought a first for the mayor, when as presiding officer, Cr Tolhurst conducted a citizenship ceremony at Wirrng Wirrng/Queenscliff Hub.

In front of their family and friends, two new citizens, Juan Pablo, and Fred were welcomed to the Borough as they were inducted in a moving citizenship ceremony.

A sincere Welcome to Country was delivered by Wadawurrung man Ash Skinner who opened the formalities before Federal Member for Corangamite Libby Coker MP read aloud the Minister's welcome message.

Council holds one or two citizenship ceremonies in Queenscliff each year. New citizens are presented with a native plant and a signed certificate before taking a photo with the mayor, capturing the importance of the occasion. Citizenship ceremonies are a significant day for those who choose to become Australian citizens.

In welcoming our newest citizens, Mayor Tolhurst commented 'Both men are already active members of our community, and we look forward to their ongoing participation in civic and community life.'



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## LISTENING POST

**Got a question or suggestion for any of our Councillors?**

Pop this date in your calendar so you can be sure to have a chat, share your thoughts, and ask any questions you might have. Listening Posts will be held at changing locations over the coming months.

- Queenscliff Market – Sunday 28 May 11 am – 12 pm

Check our Facebook for future dates and locations

*Chat with councillors at Listening Posts across the Borough over the coming months.*



**Borough of Queenscliff**  
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

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Groms off the Wall.

## Borough of Queenscliffe Sponsorship Grants

The 2023 Events Sponsorship funding was allocated at the February 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council. Council was delighted to receive significant interest from a range of local events. A lot of effort went into all applications, however, with limited funds available, we can only support a selected few. Here are this year's successful candidates.

### Bellarine Arts Trail \$1,000

The Bellarine Arts Trail is an open studio event enabling Bellarine artists to open their studios and collective venues to the public over a two-day weekend in November 2023. This event will attract visitors and promote well-known artists through local galleries and provides a space for emerging artists to exhibit.

### Shedding the Blues Queenscliff

#### Tune up #3 EXPO \$2,000

Tune-Up#3 EXPO is an all-ages community event that integrates health and well-being with music. Community-based organisations and local businesses involved in well-being and/or music will be offered the opportunity to display and discuss their programs or products across the day with local musical groups and professional performers such as Jimi Hocking and The Bash Big Band entertaining the audience from the Town Hall stage.

### Point Lonsdale Board Riders Club

#### Groms off the Wall \$2,000

Groms off the Wall introduces children to the joys of surfing in a safe environment, with water safety and tuition taught in the morning and then surfing with the experienced team in the afternoon. A celebration follows on the Promenade with a Certification presentation, prizes, food, dancing, and lots of fun.

This community-driven event is designed to create surf awareness and is particularly timely with recent water safety incidents over the summer.

## DOGS ON BEACHES – LOCAL LAWS REVIEW

The Borough of Queenscliffe has concluded its 'dogs on beaches' laws review, which explored the idea of removing dogs on beaches restrictions during the summer holiday period.

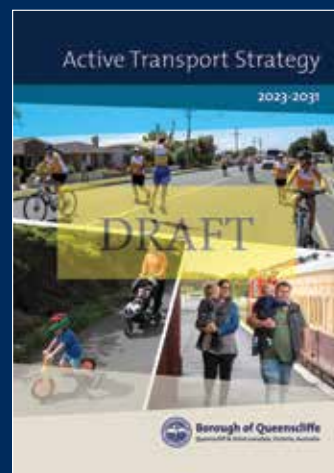
The review process included unpacking the many survey responses, undertaking productive discussions with key stakeholders, including Parks Victoria who manage the Marine National Park, and considering the broader effects of changes to our 'dogs on beaches' laws. Concerns involving local law enforcement and compliance, the safety of children and the elderly, and the protection of wildlife were also considered.

The review determined that changes to the dog restriction dates in December are required, as conflicting dog regulations between Council Local Laws and Parks Victoria are impractical. Council adopted a recommendation at the March Ordinary Meeting of Council that the summer dog restrictions be brought forward from the 15th of December to the 1st of December through until the last day of February in any year.

*'Dogs are not permitted on any beach in the municipal district between the hours of 9 am and 8 pm each day from the period of the first day of December until the last day of February in any year.'*

Dogs remain welcome on the designated dog beach at Narrows Beach 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Visit [boq.news/review](http://boq.news/review) to learn more



## Active Transport Strategy

**Community engagement assists us to plan and make better decisions.**

Jumping in the car isn't the only way to get around – walking, wheeling, and cycling are healthier options, they make our community safer and reduce our impact on the environment.

The Draft Active Transport Strategy (ATS) was put on public exhibition in April to provide the community with an opportunity to share their opinions of the strategy and offer any suggestions they'd like to make.

All strategies in the ATS are ideas for community consideration. We understand residents feel strongly about potential changes, which is evident by the many submissions that were received. Council is currently reviewing the feedback which will assist in identifying key community issues, concerns, and priorities. The feedback will inform any changes that may be made to the ATS, and any ideas or initiatives that might require further consultation.

Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr Isabelle Tolhurst expressed, 'Feedback ensures the strategy will reflect the wants and needs of our community. This is precisely what community consultation is about.'

## Download the Borough Bins app

Join the growing crowd of residents who have already downloaded the Borough Bins app to receive personalised reminders on your bin collection dates. 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](http://boq.news/bbi)





## Coastal and Marine Management Plan update

**Consultation has continued as Council officers caught up with representatives from local community groups as part of the preparation of the revised draft CMMP.**

Council facilitated two sessions on March 17, meeting with members from the Point Lonsdale Civic Association and the Queenscliffe Community Association and from key environmental groups including the Swan Bay Environment

Association, Queenscliffe Climate Action Network, Queenscliff Environment Forum, Friends of Hooded Plover, and Bellarine & Birdlife Australia.

These sessions provided a space for representatives to offer up their local and technical expertise, raise constructive questions, and identify potential areas of improvement for the Coastal and Marine Management Plan. Safeguarding our coast, its biodiversity and environmental values are critically important to all contributors.

The next iteration of the CMMP is expected in the second half of 2023.



*That's better! New strong and sturdy handrails have been installed.*

## NEW HANDRAILS

### What an improvement!

Council contractors recently installed brand new handrails at the entrance to Maytone Beach in Queenscliff and at the Royal Park beach access point in Point Lonsdale.

The new handrails are comprised of fabricated galvanised steel railings and are

installed with galvanised fixings. They've also been fabricated in sections, which means they can be changed independently of each other – meaning fewer fatigue points and less chance of corrosion.

Head down to our local beaches and check them out for yourself!



## Winter is coming

Winter is almost here, and with the cold weather comes the sniffles. Make sure you have COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) on hand as early detection of COVID-19 helps protect people from serious illness by ensuring earlier diagnosis and treatment.

Borough residents can access two free packs of 5 x COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) from Council – no questions asked.

In the Borough, you can collect your free RATs from either the new Wirring Wirring (Queenscliffe Hub) building on Hesse Street, or the Town Hall at 50 Learmonth Street.

Remember, make sure to stock up on RATs before you are sick or showing any signs of symptoms – that way, you can be prepared while keeping everyone else safe.

You can pick up some free masks while you are there too.

For more info, visit: [boq.news/RATs](https://boq.news/RATs)

## Electric line clearance tree trimming

The Borough of Queenscliffe is undertaking its annual electric line clearance tree trimming program. The works commenced in mid-April and are expected to be completed by the end of May. We aim to both minimise the potential for contact between powerlines and vegetation and to reduce the adverse effect of pruning trees near electric lines on the appearance of trees in the Borough. The tree trimming is required under the Electricity Safety Regulations 2020.



*Installation is underway for two electrical chargers.*

## Electric vehicle chargers at Council

You might have noticed some changes outside the Council offices in Learmonth Street lately, with the installation of two dual-port 50kW electric vehicle (EV) fast chargers underway.

Powered by 100% renewable energy, the EV chargers will make way for greater access to fast chargers and consequently reduce gaps in the Victorian charger network, providing EV drivers greater confidence travelling in our region. Given the Borough of Queenscliffe grows to over 20,000 people during peak holiday periods, and over 250,000 vehicles from the Queenscliff/Sorrento ferry pass through Queenscliff every year, this new infrastructure will allow more users – locals, and visitors alike to access fast chargers.

This installation brings Council closer to delivering on Action 4 of our Sustainable Transport pillar of the Climate Emergency Response Plan – 'Council to lead the installation of public electric vehicle charging stations, powered by renewables.'

This project has been developed in partnership with other councils in the Barwon South West region.

## Council-led community conversation on The Voice

This year, Australians will have their say in a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

At the March Ordinary Meeting of Council, a Motion on Notice was put forward to provide an opportunity for community members to develop knowledge on the referendum. The Borough of Queenscliffe will facilitate a community conversation about what The Voice will mean for First Nations people and Australian society as a whole. This community conversation will explore how The Voice to Parliament will work, what it will achieve, how constitutional change is affected and implemented, and the role of local government and communities in the process.

More information will be available in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on the Council website and social media for details about how to be involved.

This community conversation will take place before July 31.

## Councillor contacts

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## MURRAY ROAD LAND SALE

The Borough of Queenscliffe has completed the sale of Council-owned land at 61–75 Murray Road, Queenscliff.

The 9,509m<sup>2</sup> parcel was sold for \$3.5 million and included an approved development plan to allow subdivision into 13 individual lots ranging in size from 445m<sup>2</sup> to 908m<sup>2</sup>. These lots are now being marketed by the developer as 'The Cove, Queenscliff'.

Queenscliffe Mayor Isabelle Tolhurst said the sale of the land is positive for Council.



'This sale improves the financial position of Council in a time of rising inflation and increases to the cost of doing business. The sale will help us deliver more for our community and make investments that serve us for the long term,' Mayor Tolhurst said.

More information is available at [boq.news/61-75murrayrd](http://boq.news/61-75murrayrd)

## 2023 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 24 May 2023
- Wednesday 28 June 2023
- Wednesday 26 July 2023

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.



## Go green! Go electronic! Go eNotices!

Have you considered receiving and paying your Rates and Animal Registration electronically?

It's easy to sign up, benefits include fast and reliable delivery, online payment options and up to 7 years of rate history for multiple email addresses.

See your most recent Rates or Animal Registration Notice for instructions on how to register with your unique eNotices registration code, or contact Council for assistance.



Mayor Tolhurst together with representatives from City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire, Colac Otways Shire Council and Golden Plains Shire Council.

## G21 leader's trip to Canberra

In March, Mayor Tolhurst joined leaders from the G21 (Geelong Region Alliance) on a trip to the nation's capital. The purpose of the trip was to advocate about social and physical infrastructure priorities in our region.

The visit to Canberra included 18 meetings at Parliament House, involving productive conversations regarding our region with senior ministers and advisers from the government and opposition. Mayor Tolhurst noted 'There was a genuine desire to support our growing regional community and the almost 200 businesses, community organisations and First Nations members the G21 represent.'



**Borough of Queenscliffe**  
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

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