

BOROUGH BITES



Hard at work – Henry and Cassidy join the volunteers at the 10th annual Community Planting Day.

Volunteers turn out for 10 years of community planting

Despite overnight rain and a cold and windy morning, a loyal band of community members rugged up to volunteer their services at the 10th annual Community Planting Day in The Narrows car park, held on Sunday 29 July 2018.

The 40 community planters included members of the Swan Bay Environment Association and the full membership of the Queenscliffe Rotary Club, and there were so many hands on deck that more plants were required to make work for them.

Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr Susan Salter, represented Council at the event and was full of praise for the efforts of the volunteers, some of whom have attended every Community Planting Day held at The Narrows site.

“Please take a few moments to reflect on 10 years of community planting, your contribution and the difference you all make. It is significant in so many ways, both now and into the future,” said Cr Salter.

“Your generosity contributes to a community culture of giving. It conserves the health of our local environment, which contributes to the health of the nation. So please, give yourselves a big pat on the back.”

Cr Salter also thanked the Bellarine Catchment Network and the Swan Bay Environment Association

for their ongoing support of the event, with special congratulations to Matt Crawley, Program Manager, Bellarine Catchment Network and Caring for our Bays.

“Matt has made a massive contribution to land care and management across our region over a long period of time,” said Cr Salter.

“We are deeply appreciative of his work.”

At the anniversary event, volunteers planted 350 plants from 20 different species of groundcover, mid-level shrubs and overstorey plants, and removed weeds and litter from The Narrows car park and surrounding coastal moonah woodland.

Cr Salter unveiled a commemorative sign provided by Council to acknowledge the 10-year anniversary of community involvement in the maintenance of The Narrows site.

The 10th annual Community Planting Day was hosted in celebration of National Tree Day by the Bellarine Catchment Network and the Swan Bay Environment Association, supported by the Borough of Queenscliffe. Indigenous plants were provided by the Queenscliff Community Indigenous Nursery.



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Diary dates

Friday 28 September 2018
Council offices closed for AFL Grand Final public holiday

Sunday 30 September 2018
First rates instalment due

Tuesday 23 October 2018
Community Listening Post, Queenscliff

Tuesday 6 November 2018
Council offices closed for Melbourne Cup Day public holiday

Thursday 22 November 2018
Community Listening Post, Point Lonsdale

Thursday 13 December 2018
Community Listening Post, Queenscliff

2018 Council Meetings

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

- Thursday 20 September 2018
- Thursday 25 October 2018
- Thursday 22 November 2018
- Thursday 13 December 2018

Members of the public are welcome to attend.



2018 Community Environment Alliance grants

Council has approved grant funding for three local organisations that applied for support through the Borough of Queenscliffe Community Environment Association (CEA) grants program.

Grant funding of \$6,800 in total will be provided to the Queenscliffe and District Neighbourhood House, St Aloysius Catholic Primary School and the Swan Bay Environment Association.

“Council is delighted to award the first round of our CEA grants,” said Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr Susan Salter.

“We are so pleased to be able to provide funding for our local organisations to deliver these important projects, which will support everyone in our community to make change and deliver long term benefits for the wider Borough.”

The Queenscliffe and District Neighbourhood House’s ‘Boomerang Bags’ project aims to reduce the use of plastic bags in the community by providing the option of reusable fabric bags

Your guide to battery storage for solar power

As interest in home batteries to store energy from solar systems continues to grow, the Borough of Queenscliff Council has joined forces with Indigo Shire Council and Towong Shire Council to develop a special guide to answer some frequently asked questions about battery storage for solar power.

Head over to the Sustainability Projects page of Council’s website, www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au, to download the Home Battery Storage Systems: Frequently Asked Questions guide and read about how battery storage works and what’s needed to be ‘battery ready’. The guide also contains links to further reading and useful websites.

Development of the guide follows the delivery of two successful community solar initiatives in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale in 2015 and 2017 that resulted in installation of 83 solar systems on homes, businesses and community buildings.

The Home Battery Storage Systems: Frequently Asked Questions guide was written by the Alternative Technology Association. The ATA is a not-for-profit organisation that provides expert, independent advice on solar power and a range of other sustainability issues. The project received funding assistance from the Victorian Government’s Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The councils also acknowledge the assistance of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Reposit Power and Solar Quotes for information and images used in this publication.

through local businesses. Members of the community are invited to support the project by donating fabric and participating in sewing and stencilling workshops at the Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House on Friday 7 and 21 September and Friday 5 and 12 October from 9:00am to 12:00 midday.

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School applied to the CEA grants program to fund their contribution to the ‘Kids Teaching Kids Local Conference 2018’, a one-day conference to be held in Queenscliff in September 2018 in which students from local and Geelong-based schools will teach each other about sustainability initiatives and environmental issues such as waste management, litter, water conservation and coastal vegetation.

The Swan Bay Environment Association will use their CEA grant funding to extend the successful Gardens for Wildlife program, which provides residents with advice on improving the ecological value of their garden. This phase of the project will target private properties adjacent to three public sites where weeding and planting of indigenous species has taken place. The project aims to ensure work at these public sites is not compromised by the spread of weeds from nearby gardens.

The three successful projects will involve participation from a wide cross-section of the community, build knowledge, awareness and understanding of environmental issues, support individuals to connect with our environment, promote environmental leadership by Council and the Borough community, and support the ‘think globally, act locally’ approach to climate change.

Council’s CEA grants program was introduced to enhance and improve environmental sustainability in the local community. The program aims to support local not-for-profit organisations and groups to reduce carbon emissions and preserve the Borough’s natural environment.



BALANCING OUR BOROUGH TOGETHER

The Community Environment Alliance is a group of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale residents, community organisations and businesses who are working together to reduce carbon emissions. For more information on the Community Environment Alliance and the CEA grants program, head over to www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/cea.

Council’s e-waste drop-off day continues to build

Council’s annual e-waste drop-off day continues to build year on year, with Borough ratepayers bringing 9,758 kilograms of old, broken and unwanted electronic waste items to the 2018 event.

The total weight of e-waste items received at Council’s 2018 drop-off day is an increase of almost 18 per cent compared to last year’s event. This builds on the increase of 11.5% from the 2016 to 2017 events.

The e-waste received at the 2018 drop-off day was made up of:

- 5,741 kilograms of televisions and computer monitors
- 484 kilograms of hard drives, laptops and keyboards
- 1,681 kilograms of printers
- 70 kilograms of electrical cords/keyboards
- 1,782 kilograms of household appliances such as radios, telephones and power tools

2019 Green Waste Calendar

Ratepayers may have noticed that Council has not yet issued an updated Green Waste Calendar for your fridge.

Council is preparing a new Green Waste Calendar that will cover the period from January 2019 to December 2019. These will be available to ratepayers later in 2018. In the meantime, Council’s fortnightly green waste collection will continue on Fridays.

A temporary Green Waste Calendar is available on the ‘Recycling and Waste’ page of Council’s website, www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au. Copies can also be collected from Council’s offices at 50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff.

If you have any other questions about green waste collection in the Borough of Queenscliffe, please contact our Customer Service Team on info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au or 5258 1377.

Kerbside waste collection changes – Christmas and New Year period

Please note the following changes to kerbside waste collection dates over the 2018–19 Christmas and New Year period:

Public Holiday	Collection impacted	New collection date
Christmas Day 2018	Waste / recycling	Monday 24 December 2018
New Year’s Day 2019	Waste / recycling	Monday 31 December 2018

Message from the Mayor



Council was delighted to partner with the Queenscliff Music Festival and the State Government to present our first Low Light Winter Festival in June and July 2018.

Our goal was to increase visitation during a time of year that is typically quieter for our business operators, and we were thrilled to see events

booking up quickly and even booking out well in advance. In just one weekend, four Low Light events in Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff were sold out. While the boost to the businesses staging these events is obvious, the flow on benefits of positive word of mouth, increased sales and heightened profile, are less easy to quantify but no less valuable.

The success of the first Low Light Festival shows how the first three pillars of Council's Economic Development Strategy – increase sustainable yield in the visitor economy, connect and partner, and achieve experiential excellence – contribute to the Strategy's overall goal of a diverse, vibrant local economy. The level of enthusiasm for Low Light demonstrated by the participation of our local business owners and members of the community was marvellous, and Council looks forward to building on everything we learned during the planning and

implementation of Low Light to continue this collaborative approach and further support our local businesses to achieve a sustainable, year-round economy. When we work together, we are unstoppable.

It has also been a wonderful winter for whale-watching, and I know many of you have been as overjoyed as I have to be able to see these beautiful giants from our own beaches. There are few sights quite so thrilling.

I hope you enjoy this spring edition of our Borough Bites newsletter. If you have any questions or feedback about the newsletter or any of Council's activities, please feel free to contact me or one of my fellow Councillors.

Susan Salter

Cr Susan Salter

Community Development Grants support community involvement

Council has awarded a total of \$19,091 to 11 local organisations to support community, art and cultural projects and activities that enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of people living in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

The recipients of Council's 2018–19 Community Development Grants program were announced by Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr Susan Salter, at a presentation evening held in the Queenscliff Town Hall on Thursday 2 August.

"Council is delighted to provide financial support so that local groups and organisations can continue to give back, and give more, to support

the Borough of Queenscliffe community and provide opportunities for people to feel involved, needed and connected," said Cr Salter.

"The theme of community involvement and support in the Borough is a constant one, and Council is thrilled and honoured to play a part in this cycle."

This year's recipients included the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre, Point Lonsdale Board Riders Club, Point Lonsdale Tennis Club, Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club and Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House.

To read about the 2018–19 grants recipients and projects, or to find out more about Council's Community Development Grants program, visit the Grants and Funding page on Council's website, www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au.

Sign up for eNotices and save

Now that you've received the First Instalment of your 2018–19 Valuation and Rate Notice, it's time to sign up for Council's new and improved eNotices system. Nearly 18% of Borough of Queenscliffe ratepayers are already signed up for eNotices, saving time for themselves and supporting Council to save on distribution costs and paper usage.

The online eNotices system delivers easy sign up, login and account management, enabling you to change your mailing address and contact details online rather than having to contact Council directly. You can request to have your rates notices delivered to more than one email address (for example, a work email and a home email), and you can view rates notices for properties under your ownership for up to seven years.

Sign up now at queenscliffe.enotices.com.au using the unique eNotices Reference Number found on your rates notice.

If you have any questions about eNotices, please contact Council's Customer Service Team on 5258 1377 or info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au.



Jane Rodwell of the Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House with Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr Susan Salter, and Cr Boyce Pizzey.



Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr Susan Salter, and Cr Boyce Pizzey congratulate Geoffrey Matthews of the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club.

2018–19 Fire Services Property Levy

Ratepayers will receive a reduction in the Fire Services Property Levy for the 2018–19 financial year.

Contributions to the Fire Services Property Levy are based on a property's value and are made up of a fixed charge as well as a variable cost. The fixed charges for the 2018–19 financial year are

\$109 for residential and \$221 for non-residential properties. The variable cost is calculated depending on the type of property you own, its capital improved value (CIV) and the fire service classification that applies to your property.

Victorian councils have been required to

administer and collect the Fire Services Property Levy since 1 July 2013 at the direction of the State Government. For more information about the Fire Services Property Levy, visit the 'Rates and Property' section of Council's website, www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au.

What's on

Check out the event pages of Council's website for a comprehensive list of upcoming events and activities within the Borough, such as:

Stories of Point Lonsdale

7 October 2018. Speakers: Keith Quinton: "The Life of Captain Preston", the first Point Lonsdale resident who worked tirelessly for the benefit of fishermen and fellow mariners. Martin Warneke: "The Point Lonsdale Lighthouse", an icon which took so many years to come about. Bill Brown: "The Guest House Experience", one of steamers, horse drawn carriages, beaches and guests often providing the musical nightly entertainment. Point Lonsdale Guesthouse, 3:00pm. Tickets \$15. Afternoon tea included (drinks at bar prices).

Guided Tour of Queenscliff Historical Museum

9 October 2018. The early beginnings of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale provide the perfect backdrop for understanding the relevance of the many items on display at the Queenscliff Historical Museum. Join Maureen O'Neill as she brings these items to life through the stories of our early pioneers with the help of photos and film footage. Queenscliff Historical Museum, 2:00pm. Museum entry fee \$5, concession \$4.

Music of the Borough, Part 2

13 October 2018. Gil Allbutt will talk about "The Cayzer Twins", a force not only in boat building but also in the local music scene, Eddie Loughnan will present "Music in the Genes" – four generations of musical performance, and Bruce Priddle will discuss "Music at the Espy", a popular music venue in the 1950s & '60s, being revived again today. Queenscliff Brewhouse, 3:00pm. Tickets \$10. Drinks at bar prices.

Book Launch:

Queenscliff: The Harbour Story

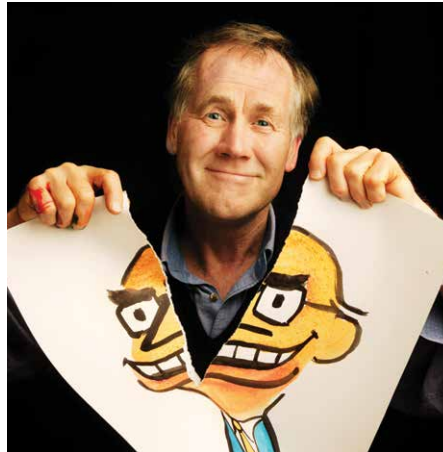
14 October 2018. Research Leader Diana Sawyer has delved deep into the archives and interviewed over 30 people to unveil the story of the harbour from ancient times well before 'The Cut' to our modern day marina and boat maintenance facility. The launch will be conducted by Cr Susan Salter, Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliff. 360Q Restaurant, 3:00pm. Free.

Honouring Ron Tandberg

On Sunday 21 October Council will present a public launch of an Artist Board to honour the work and celebrate the life of much-loved cartoonist and illustrator Ron Tandberg. Everyone in the community is invited to the launch, which will be held on the boardwalk between the Queenscliff Harbour and the Queenscliff Pier and followed up with refreshments at the Queenscliff Pavilion.

An exhibition of Ron's work, including a series of short videos of Ron discussing the creation of his famous caricatures, will be on display in the Queenscliff Library from Friday 5 October until Saturday 27 October. Keep your eye on Council's website and the Mayor's Columns in local newspapers for more information about the launch and the exhibition.

The Ron Tandberg Artist Board will become part of the Arts Trail that runs through Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff highlighting the works of celebrated artists and photographers who have visited the region and captured the local landscape.



An Artist Board celebrating the life and work of Ron Tandberg will become part of the Arts Trail that runs through the Borough of Queenscliff.

2018 Victorian Seniors Festival

The 36th Victorian Seniors Festival is coming up in October with the theme 'Get Social'. Council has prepared an enticing program of events to suit the theme, including:

Local markets

Point Lonsdale Market

2nd 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.queenscliff.vic.gov.au/events to upload your details or contact the Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre for assistance.

- A bus trip and luncheon to a National Trust property
- The Mayor's Over 80s Luncheon
- Come and try sessions for golf, croquet and tennis
- A musical comedy by the Queenscliff Lighthouse Theatre Group
- Book launches, guest speakers, movies and more

Victorian
Seniors
Festival
October
2018

Seniors Festival events in the Borough of Queenscliff will run throughout October. Details for each event, including any associated cost, will be listed in the program, which will soon be available from Council's offices at 50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff, the Visitor Information Centre and the Queenscliff Library.

Public transport will be free for Victorian Seniors Card holders from Sunday 7 October to Sunday 14 October 2018. Visit the Seniors Online Victoria website, www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au, for further details on free travel and Victorian Seniors Festival 2018 events and activities across Victoria.

The Visitor Information Centre needs you!

Heritage Guides

Do you have a passion for history and heritage? The Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre is currently looking for Volunteer Heritage Guides to conduct weekly tours of the Borough's stately homes, majestic hotels, quaint shops and beautiful churches, with afternoon tea at one of these grand venues included at the end of the walk.

If you have what it takes to present the best of the Borough, apply now to join the award-winning team of volunteers at the Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre.

Customer Service Volunteers

The Visitor Information Centre is also on the hunt for Customer Service Volunteers to promote tourism in the region.

If you have four spare hours available each week to show off your bright, professional and friendly personality and fantastic customer service skills welcoming and assisting visitors to our region, the Visitor Information Centre wants to hear from you.

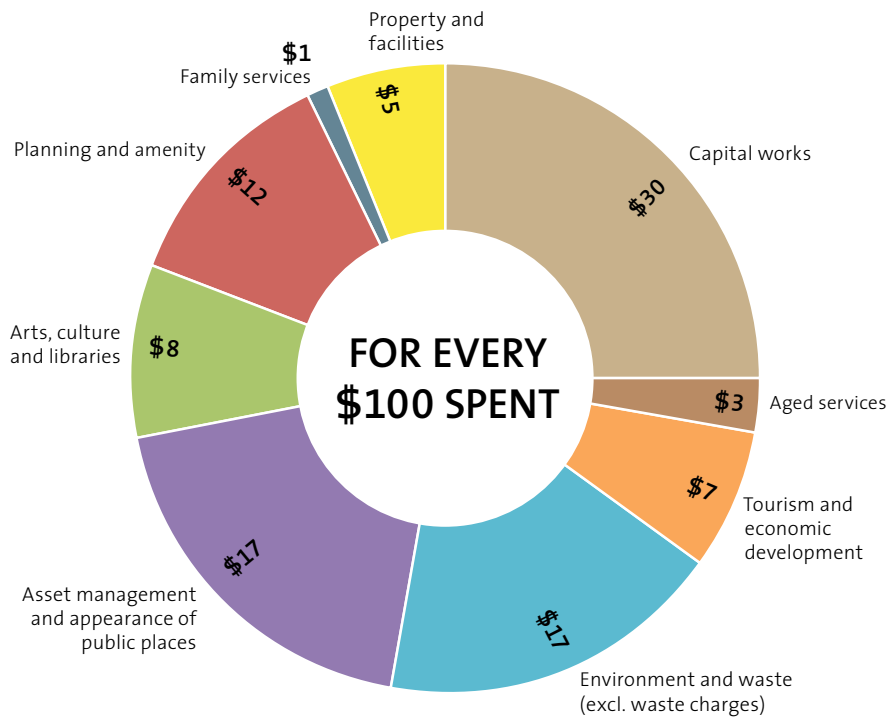
Your new role as a Visitor Information Centre Volunteer will provide you with opportunities to enjoy day trips to local attractions and monthly social get-togethers with other volunteers. Training and uniforms are provided.

Contact Maree Greenwood, Visitor Information Centre Coordinator, on 5258 4843 or info.centre@queenscliff.vic.gov.au, for position descriptions and application forms.



Your 2018–19 Valuation and Rate Notice

How are my rates spent?



How do my rates contribute to Council's annual Budget?

As part of its annual Budget process, Council determines the amount of total revenue that will need to be raised from rates.

Council is allowed to increase rates up to the rate cap set by the State Government each year. The rate cap for 2018–19 has been set at 2.25%. Rate capping does not mean that Council increases all individual rates by up to 2.25%. It means that, in 2018–19, Council's overall rate revenue must not be more than 2.25% higher than last year.

Individual rates may increase by more than 2.25% due to one or more of the following reasons: property valuations, the application of differential rates and other charges. The rate cap does not apply to waste charges or the Fire Services Property Levy.

Your property's contribution to the overall rate revenue determined in the annual Budget process is dependent on the capital improved value (CIV) of your property. The CIV of your property is assessed by professional valuers during the property revaluation process. Victorian councils previously conducted revaluations biannually. From 1 January 2019 the revaluation process will be conducted annually by the Valuer-General Victoria.

How does the annual property valuation affect my rates?

Your current property valuation was assessed on market value as at 1 January 2018. This valuation

has been used to calculate the rates on your 2018–19 Valuation and Rate Notice.

The value of each property is assessed in line with guidelines laid down by the Valuer-General Victoria. Valuers must assess the value of a property in three ways:

- Capital Improved Value (CIV);
- Site Value; and
- Net Annual Value

Like most Victorian councils, the Borough of Queenscliffe uses CIV to levy general rates. The CIV of your property is equal to the total market value of the land plus any improvements (for example, a dwelling).

The revaluation process simply redistributes the total revenue raised from rates according to each property's individual valuation. There is no windfall gain for Council. Individual ratepayers will pay more or less if the movement in the value of their property is above or below the average.

Does Council make more money when property values increase?

No. Council does not collect extra revenue as a result of the revaluation process. The revaluation process simply redistributes total revenue from rates according to each property's individual valuation.

How are general rates calculated?

General rates in the Borough of Queenscliffe, excluding any additional charges or arrears, are

calculated by multiplying your property's CIV by the differential rate applied to your property.

For a general residential property in the Borough of Queenscliffe valued at \$700,000 as at 1 January 2018, the general rate calculation for the 2018–19 financial year would be:

$\$700,000$ (property CIV) \times 0.00222737 (rate for general residential properties) = $\$1,559.15$

Please note that this figure excludes Council's waste charges that will apply in 2018–19.

The CIV and rate for your property will be shown on your 2018–19 Valuation and Rate Notice, and any other charges, such as waste or Fire Services Property Levy, will also be itemised.

What are Council's Differential Rates for 2018–19?

Council will apply the following differential rates in the 2018–19 financial year:

- General residential rate 0.00222737
- Tourist accommodation rate 0.00245011
- Commercial rate 0.00289558
- Residential vacant land rate 0.00278421

I don't agree with my valuation – what can I do?

Property owners and/or property occupiers may object to a valuation shown on the 2018–19 Valuation and Rate Notice for their property by completing an Objection to Valuation Form, available from the 'Valuations' page in the 'Rates and Property' section of Council's website, <http://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/council/rates-and-property/valuations>.

All objections must be lodged within two months of the issue date printed on your 2018–19 Valuation and Rate Notice (First Instalment).

What are the key changes in Council's updated Rating Strategy?

The 2018–19 Rating Strategy includes the following key changes:

- An increase in Council's additional pension rebate from \$40 to \$70 (in addition to the State Government rebate);
- Application of differential rate for residential vacant land properties (125% of the general residential property rate); and
- Application of a fixed charge for kerbside waste collection, rather than a charge based on the CIV of a property.

Please refer to Council's 2018–19 Rating Strategy and the Rates and Property section of Council's website for more information. If you have further questions about your 2018–19 Valuation and Rate Notice, please contact Council at info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au or on 03 5258 1377.



Pick My Project – vote now for your top three

PICK MY PROJECT

Voting is now open for the Victorian Government's 'Pick My Project' initiative.

Check out the project ideas for the Borough of Queenscliffe at www.pickmyproject.vic.gov.au and vote for your top three. Which one will you choose?

Conserve the Lonsdale Rocket Shed as an interactive heritage site

The Queenscliffe Maritime Museum and Geelong Amateur Radio Club propose to create a staffed interactive educational operating display of original lifesaving and radio equipment.

Point Lonsdale: Born to Rock!

Bring music education to our vibrant beachside village with a community musical garden, musical instrument library available for hire by the wider community, and a music education program, including a choir and group instrument lessons.

Outdoor gym equipment stations

Install 10 outdoor fitness equipment units at four stations along the foreshore area of Point Lonsdale in Princess Park, Queenscliff. Open 24/7, free to

use, inclusive and accessible.

Create a non-seasonal heritage-driven economy for Queenscliffe.

Establish integration and cooperation of current historical organisations including the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, Queenscliff Historical Museum, Fort Queenscliff, the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre and the Bellarine Heritage Railway.

Club rooms for Point Lonsdale Tennis Club

Extend existing club rooms to create a shaded outdoor social space with a BBQ area and enable viewing of the tennis courts from

inside the club rooms.

Preserving nationally important Australian heritage

Support the urgent conservation of four deteriorating, nationally important heritage structures on Crown land around the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse – the 1889 Rocket Shed, WW1 Searchlight Emplacement, WW1 / WW2 Light Direction Station and WW2 Infra-Red 'Magic Eye'.

Queenscliff180 Family Swim

Ensure this successful, family-friendly, not-for-profit community event in the Borough of Queenscliffe continues to be feasible and sustainable, and maintain the rich history of the Blue Water Challenge open water swim in the Borough and wider Bellarine community.

Geelong and Bellarine Business Clinic

Walk in, walk out, on demand support at the Business Hub at Queenscliffe Marina for small business owners to identify, access and fund expert assistance, achieve their goals and encourage employment, visitation and investment growth in our communities.

Voting closes at 5:00pm on Monday 17 September 2018. Pick your three favourite project ideas for the Borough of Queenscliffe and help make them happen.

Call 1800 797 818 or email contact@pickmyproject.vic.gov.au for assistance with voting.