

Borough Bites

SEPTEMBER 2022



Queenscliff Mayor Ross Ebbels rides along in one of the first trucks to collect kerbside food waste in the Borough.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS IN THE BOROUGH

Borough of Queenscliff Mayor Ross Ebbels joined one of the first trucks making collections as part of Council's new kerbside food waste collection service, which began on 1 August.

Food waste and scraps now go in your green-lidded bin, which is now called your Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin. The contents of this FOGO bin, which also collects garden waste, is collected every week and taken to a composting facility.

Mayor Ebbels said it was gratifying to ride along in one of the first trucks collecting residents' bins and to see the system in action.

"These new collections are the culmination of years of work by Council and our community to manage our food waste in more sustainable way," Cr Ebbels said. "Food waste you put in your green-lidded bin will be turned into high-quality compost, instead of high-polluting methane. It's a fantastic outcome for the Borough."

Food waste collected by the program includes everything on your dinner plate, with vegetables,

meat, dairy, bones and even oyster shells able to be placed in FOGO bins. Borough residents have also been provided with a portable kitchen caddy to help collect food waste, and some compostable liners. Residents have also been given an information pack to help them navigate the new system.

Mayor Ebbels said the change would empower residents to actively reduce their environmental impact.

"Every time you put your food waste in your green-lidded bin instead of sending it to landfill, you're helping to protect our environment and our planet," Cr Ebbels said. "It's a small change with a big impact, and I know our residents are looking forward to leading the way to a more sustainable future."

You will have now received a kitchen caddy containing an info pack about the kerbside food waste collection service, which includes a waste sorting guide and 12-month calendar that you can stick on your fridge with the provided magnet, as well as a detailed brochure about the changes. We've also provided some sample liners for the inside of the caddy. To learn more about food waste collection, visit queenscliff.vic.gov.au/bins.

Download the Borough Bins app

You'll never forget bin night when you download Council's new free Borough Bins app for iPhone and Android. The app features a personalised collection calendar and a searchable A-Z list to help sort waste and recycling. Residents and visitors can also report missed or damaged bins, sign up to receive push notifications for kerbside collections and be notified about service disruptions, such as truck breakdowns. Scan the QR code or visit boq.news/bbi.



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OUTSTANDING LOCALS RECOGNISED AT AWARDS

Two residents and three organisations have been recognised for the contribution to the community in the Borough of Queenscliffe's annual Community Service Awards ceremony.

In an event held just after National Volunteers' Week in May, Council announced the winners of the prestigious awards, as well as recognising the contribution of each of the 17 nominees. In his opening address to the audience, Mayor Ross Ebbels shared how proud he was to be sharing the stage with so many outstanding nominees.

"I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the relentless energy this community puts into making the Borough a caring, connected and welcome place to live," Cr Ebbels said. "Congratulations and thank you to all of our nominees. It takes a special kind of contribution to be nominated for such a prestigious award, and I am honoured to be

able to call you all members of our community."

Citizen of the Year was awarded to Liam Petrie-Allbutt for his many volunteering and leadership roles across the Borough, which include contributions to the Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club, Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, Queenscliffe Historical Museum and the Point Lonsdale Christmas Tree Lighting Committee.

Petrie-Allbutt, who was awarded the Borough's Young Citizen of the Year honour in 2016, is also event director of the Rip View Swim Classic and founder of the Q180 Family Swim. Other worthy nominees for the award included restaurateur Barry Iddles and disability consultant Jacqui Pierce.

In other awards: Eleanor Macleod took out the Young Citizen of the Year award for her various aquatic and surf life saving volunteer work. The popular Queenscliffe Literary Festival was awarded Community Event of the Year on the same weekend its 2022 program concluded.



(L-R) 2022 Young Citizen of the Year Eleanor Macleod, Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels, 2022 Citizen of the Year Liam Petrie-Allbutt.

Point Lonsdale Primary School received the Community Organisation of the Year award for its 'Nippers in School' program, which teaches local children an understanding of the specific risks of beaches. Boomerang Bags and Queenscliffe Climate Action Group were joint recipients of the Community Environment Project of the Year award.

"This year's nominations were again of a very high standard, and I look forward to seeing more of the same next year," Cr Ebbels said. "Congratulations to all our awardees, as well as all our outstanding nominees."



Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles conducted the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony in front of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, which were raised together alongside the Australian flag outside Council offices for the first time this year.

NAIDOC WEEK COMMEMORATED AT TOWN HALL

The Borough of Queenscliffe has continued its reconciliation journey with the Wadawurrung when it hosted a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to commemorate NAIDOC Week in July.

Dozens of community members, Councillors and staff gathered out the front of the Queenscliff Town Hall as Wadawurrung woman and Traditional Owner Corrina Eccles conducted the ceremony, where she spoke of the rich Aboriginal history across the Bellarine region, including right here in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

"I acknowledge for thousands of generations, we had thousands of people living across this beautiful saltwater Country . . . that provided an abundance of resources for Wadawurrung people," Corrina said.

At the end of the ceremony, Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels and Corrina both spoke of the importance of the work that Council and the Wadawurrung have completed in collaboration and how they look forward to continuing that partnership, particularly as Council develops its Reconciliation Action Plan.



The reflective façade of the Queenscliffe Hub as seen in June, prior to landscaping works.

Queenscliffe Hub doors soon to open

The long-awaited opening of the Queenscliffe Hub is almost upon us, with only a few final details and official formalities to come before the state-of-the-art building opens for community use. Landscaping completed across July put a bookend on the major construction works that had taken place in Hesse Street for over twelve months, with the

restoration of Field Park a visible highlight of the Hub's position in the streetscape.

Inaugural Hub tenants the Queenscliff Library, Queenscliffe Visitor Information Centre and Queenscliffe Historical Museum have been eagerly anticipating the opening, having shifted in most of their operations in the weeks prior. More information about the new building is available via our website at queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/hub



Point Lonsdale resident Frankie test drives the new play equipment at Ganes Reserve.

REFURBISHED PLAYGROUND OPENS AT GANES RESERVE

Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels has formally reopened the playground at Ganes Reserve in Point Lonsdale after Council completed extensive refurbishment works.

The colourful \$55,000 playground renewal project includes replacement towers and slides, as well as a nest swing, track rider, climbing nets and other exciting features. The diversity of play equipment is designed

to ensure kids can play safely, build essential motor skills and have plenty of fun.

Mayor Ross Ebbels said he was excited to welcome some of the Borough's youngest residents back to the much-loved playground.

"Just like roads and footpaths, the Borough's playgrounds are part of the essential infrastructure that makes our community such a special place to live," Cr Ebbels said. "Renewing playgrounds like this one at

Community Satisfaction Survey calls have begun

Like most other Councils in Victoria, the Borough of Queenscliffe takes part in the annual Community Satisfaction Survey, which tracks our performance every year across key services.

To gather this data, Council commissions an independent market research company to call residents in the Borough and conduct a short survey about the work Council is doing. These calls now take place year-round.

Employees from National Field Services (NFS) will be calling residents to ask for your feedback. Callers always identify themselves at the start of the call, will never ask for your name (as they don't have it!) and will always say how long they expect the survey to take, so that you can fit it in around your day. Calls will likely come from a number with the prefix (03) 9977 . . . , and never from a mobile number – so you can trust that who you are talking to is legitimate.

Council uses the data from this research to help improve the standard of its services to the community, and so we genuinely appreciate every resident that takes the time to complete the survey, and ask that you strongly consider doing so.

Ganes Reserve keeps them attractive, entertaining, and great places to play."

While local families will benefit from the new equipment, Council is making sure the old equipment doesn't go to waste. The Borough of Queenscliffe has donated components of the old playground that can be salvaged to Rotary Australia, who will restore the equipment to serviceable condition and use it to create new playgrounds in disadvantaged communities overseas.

Mayor Ebbels said repurposing the old equipment was a great way to ensure nothing was wasted during the upgrade.

"The next time you visit the brand new Ganes Reserve playground, you can have twice as much fun knowing that old equipment is giving children elsewhere in the world something great to play on too," Cr Ebbels said.



A Council worker plants a street tree on a nature strip in Ann Street, Point Lonsdale.

Street tree planting turns the Borough green

Hundreds of street trees have been planted by Council as part of our annual tree planting program. Workers began by planting 100 brand new street trees across the Borough, just like the one pictured in Ann Street, Point Lonsdale. A further 200 trees are being planted to replace those damaged in last year's storms. Best of all, the trees are all natives. If you'd like to request a tree planting in your street, simply complete our online form at boq.news/treeplanting.

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The construction site – with views of the water! – at the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve in late June.

NEW AMENITIES BLOCK TAKING SHAPE

Campers at the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve caravan park are getting ever closer to having a brand-new amenities block, with more key construction milestones ticked off as we enter spring. The end of the financial year saw the structural steel erected on site, with the timber frame then

constructed throughout July. The building, which features dual access from inside the caravan park and via Hesse Street, is set to contain a full suite of toilets, laundries and family rooms. We're looking forward to opening the new facilities in time to welcome visitors this summer.

Understanding your new property valuation

Every year, the Victorian Government assesses your property's value, which 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.

2022 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 28 September 2022
- Wednesday 26 October 2022
- Wednesday 23 November 2022
- Wednesday 14 December 2022

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 Queenscliff website.

