

Borough Bites

SEPTEMBER 2023



Cr Rob Minty was elected to Council after a VEC countback in June.

NEW COUNCILLOR APPOINTED

Rob Minty was elected as Councillor for the Borough of Queenscliff after the Victorian Electoral Commission held a virtual countback in June.

The vacancy on the Borough's five-person Council occurred following Cr Fleur Hewitt's resignation in May. In an online presentation which Council broadcast in the Queenscliff Town Hall, the VEC ran the election and advised that the redistribution of Cr Hewitt's preferences would see Cr Minty elected.

The VEC confirmed Cr Minty's eligibility for the role and he was invested in a ceremony held by the Borough of Queenscliff. This is Cr Minty's second term with the Borough after he previously served as Councillor in 2019 through until the end of term in October 2020.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Mayor Tolhurst said "Council welcomes Rob Minty back to the Borough of Queenscliff Council. We look forward to his contributions in the chamber and wish him well for the remainder of the term."



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

LISTENING POST

Got a question or suggestion for any of our Councillors?

Pop these dates 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 differing locations over the coming months.

- Sunday 24 September 11–12 pm (School holidays) Queenscliff Market
- Sunday 29 October 11–12 pm Queenscliff Market
- Sunday 12 November 11–12 pm Point Lonsdale Market
- Sunday 10 December 11–12 pm Point Lonsdale Market

Check our Facebook for future dates and locations

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Borough of Queenscliff
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

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Mat McRae Principal QPS, Cr Ross Ebbels, Fay Agterhuis Principal PLPS, Miriam Leahy Principal St Aloysius PS, Angela Ritchie St A's, Mayor Isabelle Tolhurst

2023–24 Community Grants

Twelve local community groups and organisations from across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale have been awarded a combined \$18,682 in grant funding as part of the Borough of Queenscliff's 2023–24 community grants program.

The community grants were announced at a presentation evening held at the Wirng Wirng (Queenscliff Hub) in August, where Queenscliff Mayor Isabelle Tolhurst, along with Cr Ebbels, delivered the good news to a delighted crowd of attendees.

The full list of successful grant recipients is as follows:

- Boomerang Bags – \$1129 for servicing machines and materials
- Combined Probus Club of Queenscliff – \$1000 for the purchase of wool for beanies/blankets
- Point Lonsdale Boardriders – \$1500 Groms off the Wall program
- Point Lonsdale Basketball Association – \$1864 for equipment and training
- Point Lonsdale Primary School – \$664 for Nippers in schools
- Point Lonsdale Surf Lifesaving Club – \$2000 for their Silver Salties Over 55s Active Participation Program
- Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club – \$1300 for a Safety ladder/platform
- Queenscliff and District Neighbourhood House inc – \$1800 for their community support and inclusion – Chatty Café
- Queenscliff Indigenous Nursery – \$2000 to purchase a fridge for seeds
- Shedding the Blues – \$999 to support The Bright Side of Life: Optimism Rules
- St Aloysius Primary School in conjunction with PLPS and QPS – \$2400 Embracing our Kids
- Tides of Welcome Community Choir – 20th Anniversary Celebration – \$2026

Congratulations to all recipients, we look forward to seeing the funds put to excellent use.

Non-resident property owners now required to apply for placement on voter roll

Changes have been made to voter entitlements in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The most significant change for the 2024 Local Government elections is that all property owners not enrolled on the State roll will need to apply to be enrolled if they wish to vote. This means non-resident owners of residential properties will now be required to apply to be placed on the voter role ahead of the 2024 elections.

Council will send a notice to voters who were enrolled on the last voters' roll under section 243 of the Act, advising that their enrolment expires before the next general election. We will invite affected ratepayers to renew their enrolment by the close of the roll if still entitled.

If you have any questions, you can direct your inquiry to the Victorian Electoral Commission at this email address: rollsupport@vec.vic.gov.au.



Wadawurrung woman Corinna Eccles joined with Councillors and the community to mark Reconciliation Week.

Reconciliation Week at Wirng Wirng

The Borough of Queenscliff marked National Reconciliation Week with a community event held at Wirng Wirng (Queenscliff Hub).

This year's theme 'Be a Voice for Generations', encouraged all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in our everyday lives – where we live, work, and socialise. Mayor Tolhurst and Cr Ebbels, along with Council officers, local school children, and interested community members, came together to recognise our shared histories and to reflect on listening, learning, and walking together with First Nations Communities.

The Smoking Ceremony was conducted by proud Wadawurrung woman Corinna Eccles who spoke beautifully of the rich Indigenous history in the Borough and led the children in a First Nations song.



EV charging stations at Council Offices in Learmonth St. are now ready to charge.

Electric Vehicle Fast Chargers Now Charging!

The wait is over, our new electric vehicle chargers have been installed at 50 Learmonth St and are now ready for public use.

These fast chargers can fully charge a car in approximately 40 to 90 minutes – nearly 10 times faster than traditional EV chargers. This is a great service for electric vehicle drivers as they can charge their car while enjoying all Queenscliff has to offer.

Our EV fast chargers operate on a user-pay arrangement at a rate of 45¢ per kilowatt, paid through the Chargefox app. The chargers supply renewable energy sourced from wind through a power purchase agreement with the Victorian Energy Collaboration.

Promoting the use of electric vehicles ties in closely with 'Pillar 4: Sustainable Transport' in our Climate Emergency Response Plan. The Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) supported the installation of the chargers through the Destination Charging Across Victoria Program and the EV Charging for Council Fleets Program.

Putting Queenscliff on the EV map makes the Borough a convenient stop for electric car owners, not only benefitting businesses and tourists but our community and planet as well.

These chargers can be found on PlugShare or Chargefox websites.

Expressions of Interest – Audit and Risk Committee members

The Borough of Queenscliff is seeking to appoint four suitably qualified and experienced independent persons to join its Audit & Risk Committee.

Independent members of the Committee must collectively have:

- expertise in financial management;
- expertise in risk; and
- experience in public sector management

The Audit & Risk Committee, comprising three

Councillors and four independent members, meets four times per year with additional meetings as required. A sitting allowance will be paid.

Expressions of Interest close at 4:00 pm on Friday 22 September 2023. Email EOI to: recruitment@queenscliff.vic.gov.au

Interviews are proposed to be held in the week of Mon 2 to Fri 6 October 2023. The Borough of Queenscliff values diversity and particularly encourages First Nations people and women to apply for these positions.

For further details and the EOI form, head to: boq.news/auditrisk

Greenlight Online Permit Manager

The Greenlight Online Permit Manager allows you to process your planning and building-related activities online and at a single point.

Greenlight is now active via our website. Create an account, and you will be able to use your email address and password to log in, select the planning or building department, and lodge your enquiry or application.

The online portal also makes it easier to search the publicly available planning permit register.

Call Council for guidance (03) 5258 1377.



Coast Guard Queenscliff – Graham Douglas, Mayor Isabelle Tolhurst and Flotilla Commander Michael Donohue

Red Cross Volunteers – Jenny Maishman, Denise Proven, Val Lawrence, Lynnette Houldcroft – Citizen of the Year and Marylou Gilbert

Outstanding locals recognised at Borough's Community Service Awards Volunteer Celebration

At an event held during National Volunteers' Week, Council announced the finalists of the prestigious Community Service Awards, in addition to recognising each of this year's nominees and the contributions of the Borough's volunteers.

In her opening address, Mayor Isabelle Tolhurst shared how proud she was to share the space with so many outstanding nominees. "This event is the first time we are combining the Community Service Awards with the Volunteers Recognition Celebration during National Volunteer's Week; this is about bringing people together who make our community better." Cr Tolhurst said. "It is about a meaningful and dignified celebration of your collective and in many cases, long-term contributions. It is a chance to celebrate, recognise and connect. Our community is defined by its connection and care for one another, so it is fitting we acknowledge that at an event like this."

Citizen of the Year was awarded to Lyn Houldcroft for her volunteering roles across the Borough, which include contributions

to the Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff RSL Red Cross unit for some 20 years. Lyn has organised numerous fundraising events in her time, including various adventures as part of the Emergency Red Cross Unit. Congratulations Lyn on this well-deserved acknowledgment.

Community Group of the Year was awarded to Coast Guard Queenscliff. These volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and are frequently called to assist people who are in trouble on the water. Taking on deployments that are often in dark and dangerous conditions, this organisation is committed to the safety and well-being of our community. Council deeply appreciates this vital service and thanks all those who volunteer with Coast Guard Queenscliff and congratulates them on this deserving award.

Council is grateful to those on the Community Service Awards reference group who generously provided their time, effort, and recommendations for these awards, and congratulates our finalists, and outstanding nominees.

Community Satisfaction Survey calls have begun

The Borough of Queenscliff takes part in the annual Community Satisfaction Survey, as do most councils across Victoria.

The feedback we receive allows councils to track performance every year across key services. To collect this data, Council uses 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, with the next round of calls occurring between mid-August and September 17.

Team members 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 or any personal details, and will always say how long they expect the survey to take.

Calls will likely come from a number with the prefix (03) 9977 xxxx, and never from a mobile number – so you can trust that who you are talking to is legitimate. On occasion, interviewers may discontinue the call once knowing your age bracket if they have already filled the quota of interviews they require for that bracket.

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

NEW Bill Reference Numbers – BPAY & Australia Post

Please note that Bill Reference numbers on all property assessments have been updated. Please check your rates notice for the new Bill Reference Number and ensure automatic payments set up in online banking are updated accordingly.

Energy Efficient Home Audits

Are you interested in having an energy efficiency audit of your home?

The Queenscliffe Energy Efficient Homes Program is an initiative of Queenscliffe Climate Action Now (QCAN) delivered by Geelong Sustainability and supported by the Borough of Queenscliffe.

This program offers residents of the Borough expert advice on how to improve the energy efficiency of their homes to reduce their energy consumption and emissions.

This program offers the first 90 applicants residing in the Borough a detailed energy efficiency audit at a subsidised rate. Audits are conducted by a professional, accredited energy assessor and will help you:

- make informed, cost-effective improvements to your home to reduce energy consumption and save money on your energy bills
- make your home more comfortable, especially during the winter and summer months
- make your home more economically and environmentally sustainable
- contribute to the goals of our Borough's Climate Emergency Response Plan

For more information, and to book in head to boq.news/EnergyAudit

Councillor contacts

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Cr Rob Minty
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Speakers – Corrina Eccles, Prof. Cheryl Saunders and Kerry O'Brien



Mayor Tolhurst welcomed all to the conversation

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON THE VOICE

At the March 2023 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to facilitate a community conversation on the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament.

The Borough of Queenscliffe, in conjunction with Point Lonsdale Civic Association, and the Queenscliffe Reconciliation Mob, hosted the community conversation event at the Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall on August 13.

After a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles, Mayor Tolhurst opened the event.

'Today we seek to explore and understand what the proposed Voice to Parliament means for First Nations people and Australian society as a whole. This is a community conversation, not a debate, featuring the perspectives of people close to the process, knowledgeable about its design, and deeply affected by the proposal.' said Mayor Tolhurst, who went on to say 'Local government has the privilege

of being the closest arm of government to people. As a result, we have a duty to talk with our community about issues of significance.'

The speaker line-up included Corrina Eccles, who spoke of the profound importance The Voice to Parliament represents not only for Wadawurrung people but First Nations people across the country. Constitutional lawyer Professor Cheryl Saunders AO shared with the audience details concerning how the proposed alterations will be implemented into the constitution, and journalist Kerry O'Brien spoke of his journey in coming to understand why a First Nations voice in parliament is so critical, now more than ever.

Approximately 140 people attended the event which was live-streamed for those unable to make it in person.



Cr's Tolhurst and Crout raise the Rainbow Flag

IDAHOBIT – May 17

Councillors Grout and Tolhurst raised the rainbow flag at Council offices on May 17 to observe IDAHOBIT – the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia, and Transphobia.

IDAHOBIT aims to raise awareness and unite people against inequality and discrimination.

Cr Tolhurst said: "On IDAHOBIT, we stand with members of the LGBTQIA+ community to promote equality and inclusion and to reject discrimination and violence. Raising the rainbow flag signifies that the Borough welcomes everyone, regardless of their sexuality, gender identity, or who they love. We are committed to equality and inclusion year-round for all in our community".

Dog-poo bag usage

Interesting Fact:

Can you guess how many dog-poo bags were supplied across the Borough in the last financial year? 334,800 – that's a lot! Thirty-five dog-poo bag dispensers are stocked up several times a week by our Local Laws enforcement officers. We are pleased to see the bags well used by both local and visitor dog owners, helping to keep our environment clean, and setting a great example for all! Thank you.

