

Borough Bites

NOVEMBER 2023



Plaque unveiling at the Queenscliff Sport and Recreation Precinct with BoQ Mayor Isabelle Tolhurst, The Honourable Ros Spence MP, and Member for Bellarine Alison Marchant.

QUEENSCLIFF SPORT AND RECREATION PRECINCT IS COMPLETE

The Borough of Queenscliff had the pleasure of hosting The Honourable Ros Spence MP, Minister for Community Sport as she unveiled the plaque officially commemorating the conclusion of works at the Queenscliff Sport and Recreation Precinct.

Also in attendance was Member for Bellarine Alison Marchant, Mayor Tolhurst and Councillors Ebbels, Minty and Grout along with many local leaders from Queenscliff's sports clubs.

The 'Queenscliff Sport and Recreation Precinct Development Project' is an expansive project that builds on the Monahan Centre redevelopment. The precinct has transformed into a modern, accessible multi-sport and recreation hub that accommodates resident clubs and attracts locals to participate in outdoor activities. Boasting two Netball Australia-standard courts with female friendly accessible change rooms, a four-wicket cricket training facility, and a covered deck for spectators, the precinct is ready for all players young and old. Lighting upgrades have made the oval AFL training standard, while netting behind the goals was

installed to ensure safety of precinct users.

Inside the precinct, the Monahan Centre provides sports players and community members access to club rooms, a community gym, social spaces, improved bathrooms, a first aid room and kitchenette.

In addition, the Hesse Street caravan park amenities block provides renewed toilets and shower facilities as well as boasting two family rooms that are accessible for all abilities. Open to both the public and park users, these facilities are a great addition to the precinct.

On the day, Mayor Tolhurst commented 'We are delighted to have The Honourable Ros Spence MP, Minister for Community Sport here in the Borough to officiate the completion of this project. Investment in community sports infrastructure increases participation and improves community health and wellbeing, contributing to a culture where sport is more accessible.'

Mayor Tolhurst went on to say, 'The plaque unveiling marks the successful conclusion of a five-year project that locals and visitors alike will benefit from for many years to come.'

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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?

Why not note these dates in your calendar and come along to our Listening Posts, where you can have a chat and share your thoughts with our Councillors.

- Sunday 12 November 11–12 noon
Point Lonsdale Market
- Sunday 10 December 11–12 noon
Point Lonsdale Market



Borough of Queenscliff
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

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www.queenscliff.vic.gov.au | www.facebook.com/queenscliff



New face at the Borough

Senior Local laws Officer appointed – Pedro Lopez

We have welcomed a new member of staff to the Borough. Pedro Lopez has been appointed as the new Senior Local Laws Officer. You'll see Pedro out and about across the Borough, so don't hesitate to say hello.

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

A reminder that changes have been made to voter entitlements resulting from the Local Government Act of 2020.

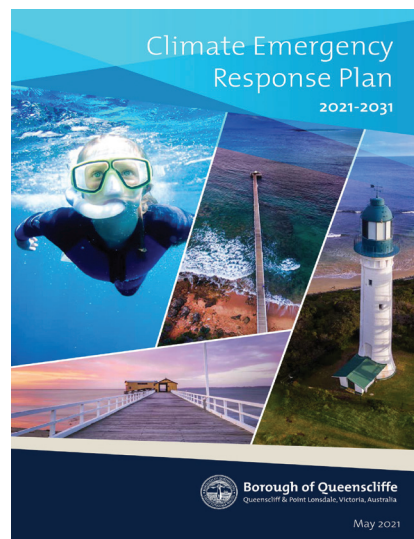
The most significant change for the 2024 Local Government elections is that all owners not enrolled on the State roll will need to apply to be enrolled if they wish to vote. This means non-resident owners of residential properties will now be required to apply to be placed on the voter role ahead of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

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. The BPAY and AusPost Biller Codes are unchanged.



Two-year review – Climate Emergency Response Plan

Council officers are currently finalising the formal two-year review of the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) which was adopted by Council in May 2021.

Council undertook consultation earlier this year which included workshops with the CERP Community Panel, community leaders representing local organisations who had previously committed to taking action, and representatives from Queenscliffe Climate Action Now (QCAN). Importantly, this process reviewed all eight pillars and forty-nine actions in the CERP. The workshops thoroughly explored the actions and considered progress and possible improvements – this included reflecting on the changed environment since the CERP's development and adoption in 2021. The proposed updated CERP will reflect actions delivered from the original CERP, as well as changes in state and federal politics pertaining to climate action. Officers plan to present an updated version of the CERP for formal consideration at the October Council meeting.

More information about the CERP is available at boq.news/cerp

Fire safety awareness

Following a hotter and drier start to spring, and forecasts for warmer conditions ahead, we are being reminded to be bushfire aware.

Some things you can do now to be prepared include clearing your gutters – removing leaves and twigs, keep grassed areas trimmed and watered, and rake and clear leaf litter. It's a good idea to trim tree branches overhanging your house too.

With almost 400 hectares of land in the Queenscliffe LGA deemed a Bushfire Prone Area by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning, it's important that as a community we are vigilant.

The CFA website provides a wealth of information including tips on how to develop a bushfire plan though to where to find out about warnings and updates. Head to cfa.vic.gov.au



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Lighting of the Tree

The lighting of the Point Lonsdale Christmas Tree is a local tradition that has marked the start of the festive season each year for almost seven decades – now that's impressive!

In 2023, Point Lonsdale's famous 'Lighting of the Tree' Christmas celebration will be on once again, and we are looking forward to having a big festive crowd at the site. Come along on Saturday December 2 to join in on the festivities which will be kicking off from 7:00 pm.

Further information will be shared on Council's Facebook page closer to the date.



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. Scan the QR code or visit boq.news/bbi

Mayor and CEO attend national climate summit

In September, Borough of Queenscliffe CEO Martin Gill, and Mayor Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst attended the Cities Power Partnership National Summit for Local Government in Melbourne.

All communities across Australia are affected by climate change. Extreme weather events are increasing in regularity, and the impacts are felt throughout our communities. As the level of government closest to community, Council play an integral role in responding – to maintain the safety of our communities and to strengthen their resilience in the future.

Mayors, CEOs and leadership executives from Councils across the country attended the summit as they seek to embed climate action into their planning. The summit included presentations on managing climate risks in Council operations, the effect of climate action on financial sustainability, and how all three levels of government can effectively work together for stronger climate action across the nation.

The role of local government in tackling climate change was summarised as:

- Regional planning
- Reducing our own emissions
- Helping households and businesses access programs and services
- A source of information

CEO Martin Gill said, 'While the Borough has more to do, it was pleasing to see the alignment between the work we are already doing, the objectives of the Climate Emergency Response Plan, and the G21 Regional Alliance advocacy.'



Mayor Tolhurst welcomed Shoal owners Marieke and Isaiah to the Borough business community.



Cr Minty and Nelly's new owners, Marion and Eddy who have renamed the café Salty Breeze.

BOROUGH 'AFTER 5' EVENT

The bringing together of our local business community was the purpose of the recent 'After 5' event hosted by the Borough of Queenscliffe.

This event was all about local business owners from across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale taking some time to relax, share tips, tricks, resources, and strengthen relationships across the business community.

The chosen venue was the newly opened Shoal Queenscliff, whose owners Marieke and

Isaiah provided delicious catering and a warm atmosphere for the function. Mayor Tolhurst welcomed existing and new business owners, acknowledging them as a 'resilient bunch, critical to our economy.' The Mayor went to inform the group of the exciting events we have in the pipeline that are sure to bring visitors to the area including the Holden Nationals November 10th – 13th and the Queenscliff Music Festival, saying 'events like these have a proven ability to attract many new people to our beautiful Borough'.



Ewa, a trained QCAN volunteer and Cal, an Energy Assessor from Geelong Sustainability are helping households across the Borough save money.



Go green! Go electronic! Go eNotices!

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

It is 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 for instructions on how to register with your unique eNotices registration code or contact Council for assistance.

Save money and the environment!

Great news! All homes in the Borough can now improve their home's energy efficiency through the Energy Efficient Homes program.

Launched in August 2023, the program helps residents reduce their energy consumption and emissions, make their homes more thermally comfortable and save money on their energy bills. This program directly aligns with the Sustainable Buildings pillar of our Climate Emergency Response Plan.

The program is an initiative of Queenscliffe Climate Action Now (QCAN), delivered by Geelong Sustainability and supported by the Borough of Queenscliffe. Residents can book an audit online and an expert energy assessor will conduct a one-hour onsite audit at the home, supported by a local QCAN volunteer. Following the audit, a detailed report is provided which contains recommendations including cost-effective ways to make the home more economically and environmentally sustainable, and information on government funding and rebates for home improvements such as draught-proofing, insulation, heating and cooling, and electric conversions.

So far, 28 audits have taken place across the Borough, with some very positive feedback from the participants.

"I cannot more highly recommend this service. Our audit gave us an action plan for quick-fix things we can do now, and at a low cost, through to big-picture decisions (like solar) down the track." — Joe

The cost of the audit is \$100, down from \$500, thanks to a subsidy provided by the Borough of Queenscliffe and volunteer support from QCAN.

To find out more and book your audit, go to: www.geelong sustainability.org.au/project/queenscliffe-energy-efficient-homes or call 1300 133 702 (Geelong Sustainability).

2023 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 22 November 2023
- Wednesday 13 December 2023

Greenlight Online Permit Manager update

The Greenlight Online Permit Manager has been live on our website for a couple of months now, allowing you to process your planning and building-related activities online and at a single point.

Early reports show that our regular applicants have adjusted to the new system and appreciate the improved experience for checking-in on how applications are progressing. From a council perspective, this system makes way for more efficient data capture and processing, which is promising. We continue to work with Greenlight to refine the software to ensure a positive experience.

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.

If required, call Council for guidance (03) 5258 1377.



Please be aware of boat ramp parking restrictions.

QUEENSLIFF BOAT RAMP

Boaters and fishers in Queenscliff and across the wider Bellarine will again have a smoother summer on the water with the upgraded boat ramp that was completed last year.

The upgrade project, conducted by Better Boating Victoria in partnership with Council, brings a new third lane to the ramp alongside a new concrete surface, new

central pontoons and upgraded outer pontoons.

A 24/7 ramp camera is available to view on the boating.vic.gov.au website so you can check the traffic before deciding whether to launch. What a time-saver!

A reminder that the parking area at the ramp is for boat trailers with vehicles, not vehicles only.

Please be careful on the water and happy boating!

Councillor contacts

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Summer timeshare dog restrictions

The holiday season is almost upon us and with that comes summer timeshare restrictions for dogs on beaches.

These restrictions are in force between December 1 and the last day of February each year, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. This means that dogs aren't permitted on any beach, excluding Narrows Beach – 'Dog Beach' during this time.

A reminder that all dogs are prohibited from entering fenced sand dune and coastal vegetation areas or disturbing wildlife such as nesting Hooded Plovers or resting seals, which frequently visit our coastline over summer.

Look out for signs placed along coastal pathways that confirm the dog restrictions in place and always clean up after your dogs. Our Local Laws officers regularly patrol local beaches to ensure beach users are respecting these regulations.



Borough of Queenscliff
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

Borough Bites is produced by the Borough of Queenscliff for the information of residents and ratepayers. Martin Gill, Chief Executive Officer. Printed on recycled paper stock.

