

Borough Bites

AUGUST 2024



Mayor Ebbels congratulates joint Citizen of the Year Rodney Nicholson.

Catherine Foreman and Drew Aras were amongst the nominees for Citizen of the Year

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK CELEBRATION

Lots of smiles and congratulations were shared at the Borough's Community Service Awards and Volunteer function.

It was a pleasure for Council to celebrate the impressive efforts of our local volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

Hosted at the Point Lonsdale Bowls Club, over one hundred of the local volunteers (affectionately known as vollies) were celebrated at Council's Community Service Awards and Volunteer function. Mayor Ross Ebbels spoke at the event, saying "Tonight, we can celebrate together, in the knowledge our community is made stronger by the care we have for one another. How incredibly lucky we are to be among so many people who give so generously to great causes, to each other, and to our community."

With guidance and recommendations provided by the community reference group, which includes three community members, Council awarded two citizens with the joint Citizen of the Year award with one group receiving the Community Group of the Year honour. These remarkable people were nominated by residents and rate payers,

recognising outstanding contributions to our community.

Ric Lasslett and Rodney Nicholson are the two Citizen of the Year recipients. Ric has been instrumental in fund raising and promoting water safety and the services of the Coast Guard. Over the past 13 years he has personally completed 146 rescue missions. Joint finalist Rodney Nicholson is a passionate local photographer capturing and promoting the Borough at every opportunity. He is a founding member of the reformation of the Point Lonsdale Board Riders in 1975 and remains an active volunteer in the club. He is the longest serving volunteer at the Queenscliff Music Festival and is also involved with the Queenscliff Maritime Museum.

Other nominees for the Citizen of the Year were:

- Catherine Foreman
- Drew Aras
- Geoff Mutton
- Ian Royce
- Jane Rodwell

- Ken Smith
- Lisa Golightly
- Maxwell Lazarus

Community Group of the Year was awarded to the Queenscliff Historical Museum (QHM) for their impressive museum facility and exhibitions such as Queenscliff Revealed, their extensive research into local history, and overseeing a large volunteer base. The QHM was acknowledged as an outstanding visitor attraction that showcases Queenscliff's history and now reflects a more diverse and inclusive approach. Key innovations have ensured that First Nations stories are told in the exhibitions.

The other nominees for Community Group of the Year were:

- Cycling without Age at Arcare
- Queenscliff and District Men's Shed

Council congratulates not only our finalists, but everyone who was nominated, and thanks them for their valuable contributions.



Borough of Queenscliffe
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Electronic waste collection a great success

Council's e-waste collection day provided residents with an opportunity to dispose of their unwanted electronic items. We were encouraged by the level of participation with over 5000 kg of e-waste dropped off and diverted from landfill.

On the day, 288 cars stopped at the Ocean View car park to drop off 5,075 kg of electrical waste, including televisions, computers, IT equipment, irons, toasters, kettles, and vacuums. The great news is that these products will now be recycled.

Since introducing e-waste collection in 2012, Council has diverted 80,000 kg of e-waste from landfill. This process prevents hazardous substances affecting our soil and water and breathes new life into resources that are recycled into new products.

Council is committed to ensuring waste gets disposed of in the right way. We are currently reviewing the processes associated with the collection of hard waste. Our goal is to provide residents with greater flexibility and reliability regarding collection days and times, as part of an improved collection service. Exploring the options available to us will take some time, consequently, hard waste collection will be delayed this year. Council thanks for your patience, watch this space for updates.



Deputy Mayor Cr Rob Minty joined local traders for an evening of networking.

AFTER 5 – BOROUGH TRADER EVENT

It was a terrific group of local business owners and operators who came together for the Borough of Queenscliffe's After 5 event.

The Shelter Shed hosted over 70 local business operators for a night of networking and delicious nibbles. Cr Minty opened the event with a warm welcome that included an Acknowledgement of Country and thanked the local traders for their attendance. In

his opening address, Deputy Mayor Rob Minty said "It is wonderful to see our local business owners come together this evening. The retailers and businesses of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale are a large part of the personality of our Borough, and gathering to share tips, tricks, resources, and laughs is an invaluable use of time."

The Borough of Queenscliffe hosts After 5 events for our business community twice a year, at different venues across the Borough.



Cr Ross Ebbels re-elected as Mayor.



Cr Rob Minty has accepted the Deputy Mayor role.

Cr Ross Ebbels re-elected as Mayor

Cr Ebbels was re-elected into the mayoral role for his fourth term, after Cr Tolhurst stepped down from the position.

At the April Ordinary Meeting of Council, Councillor Tolhurst announced her resignation as Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, and has remained on as Councillor for the rest of the term. At the meeting Cr Tolhurst said, "I have made the difficult decision to resign as Mayor to accommodate the arrival of my second child". Cr Tolhurst went on to say, "I

look forward to serving the community for the remainder of the term."

Thanking Cr Tolhurst for her service to both the community and Council, Cr Ebbels said "I'm honoured to have the support of my fellow Councillors in electing me as Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliffe, I'm looking forward to working with Councillors, officers and our community, and I thank Cr Tolhurst for her time and dedication in this role."

Cr Rob Minty was elected Deputy Mayor. Cr Minty said he was looking forward to working with Mayor Ebbels and his fellow councillors over the final months of this term.

2024 Council Meetings

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

- Wednesday 18 September 2024
- Wednesday 23 October 2024

- Wednesday 27 November 2024

All meetings will be live-streamed via Zoom and recordings made available on Council's website. For up-to-date information on attending or viewing Council meetings, visit the Borough of Queenscliffe website.





Queenscliff Recreation Reserve Oval shines bright – at night!

There is lots of excitement across our sporting community for the bright times ahead at the Queenscliff Football and Netball Club, with the installation of new LED lights at their home ground.

Federal Member for Corangamite, Libby Coker, the Borough of Queenscliffe and the Queenscliff Football Netball Club came together to contribute the much-needed funds required for the lighting upgrade,

resulting in the installation of a 200lux lighting system at the oval.

The upgraded lighting installation is a real win for the Couta's, their many members, and the community, with the football ground now available for use day and night.

On the 8th of July, the lights were officially switched on. Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor Ross Ebbels, Council CEO Martin Gill, and Federal Member for Corangamite, Libby Coker joined club and community members at the reserve to officially flick on the new light towers.

Borough of Queenscliffe, Mayor Ross Ebbels said "These impressive LED lights are a fantastic addition to the major redevelopment of the QFNC facilities over recent years. The upgraded lighting makes way for safer and improved experiences for players and spectators alike. Council is delighted to have contributed to this project, one that will benefit the Couta's and the community for many years yet. Congratulations to the club and well done to all who contributed to the project."

MAYOR & CEO ATTEND THE 2024 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr Ross Ebbels and CEO Martin Gill visited Canberra in July for the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (NGA).

Over 1200 delegates attended the Assembly including Mayors, CEO'S, Councilors and Council officers from across the nation. The theme of the 2024 NGA was "Building Community Trust", recognising the critical importance of trust across our democracy's varying levels of government, its institutions, and amongst its citizens.

Of the many highlights, Mayor Ebbels commented that he enjoyed being in attendance for the maiden speech from the new Governor General, Her Excellency, the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC. While in Canberra, Mayor Ebbels took the opportunity to join other Mayors to advocate to Federal Politicians including the Member for Corangamite Libby Coker.

Of the presentations, Local government delegates were presented with new research

about financial sustainability. Interestingly, the findings of the study showed that increased, sustainable federal government funding for councils could increase Australia's economy by \$7 billion over the next decade. Key findings about financial sustainability across the sector included issues that the Borough has been dealing with through the 2024–25 budget process, including the struggle faced by many councils to properly maintain assets due to revenue restraints.

Highlighting the importance of local community advocacy, the final day of the assembly included the Australian Council of Local Government Forum. Delegates heard from a selection of Ministers, including Hon Kristy McBain Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Hon Catherine King Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, and the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese.



Fire Services Property Levy

Did you know that the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) is used to fund Victoria's fire and emergency services?

The levy is collected by Council on behalf of the Victorian Government and the amount you pay is clearly displayed on your rate notice.

Prior to 1 July 2013, a fire services levy charge was added onto insurance premiums to recover the cost of insurers' contributions to the Country Fire Authority and Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Following a recommendation from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, the collection method was changed. From 1 July 2013, the levy was removed from insurance premiums, with property owners contributing via their council rates. All land and property owners must pay the FSPL, this includes non-rateable and small or low-value properties. Council itself must also pay the FSPL on Council-owned property.

The levy is collected in accordance with the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012.

If you would like to know more, please head to the State Revenue Office website (sro.vic.gov.au).



NAIDOC Ceremony

During NAIDOC Week, Mayor Ebbels, along with Councillors, Council officers, Libby Coker MP, Alison Marchant – Member for Bellarine, and members of the Borough community gathered at Wirng Wirng for a smoking ceremony to celebrate NAIDOC week, hosted by proud Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles.

The theme for 2024's NAIDOC week was – 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud'. The theme honoured the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Corrina was joined by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, who generously shared their stories and culture with all those who attended. Community members were invited to walk through the smoke before the children were invited to partake in a traditional dance.

Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve update

Planning and preliminary works for stage 2 continue for the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve (PLLHR).

Following the receipt of the State Government funding, the Project Control Group has now met on 15 occasions, commissioned engineering studies, held meetings with Heritage Victoria and the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, prepared a landscape plan, which was shared with the community, engaged with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and commenced a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

This is important preparation work that helps understand the history of the site and needs to occur before we start works on a site of significant cultural heritage, that also contains examples of post-colonial maritime and defence history.

If you are interested in keeping abreast of the progress at the PLLHR, we provide the community with an update each month in the Council Meeting agenda and updates on our website.

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MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

There are lots of ways you can manage your food waste. Did you know composting at home can make a big difference?

Here in the Borough, our community has been composting food scraps in our Food and Garden Organics bin for over two years, diverting over 1000 tonnes of food and garden scraps each year. A great outcome of this is that our food and garden scraps are turned into high quality compost that is used on farms and community gardens across Victoria to help grow food and improve soils.

Many households in the Borough use a green waste bin, or compost bin, to keep food waste out of landfill and to help the environment. Our recent bin survey results have shown that since introducing our weekly food and garden organics bin there has been a huge reduction of food scraps in the general rubbish bin. In fact, our diversion from landfill rate has increased from 55% in 2018 to 78% in 2024.

Well done, we are encouraged by what our community has accomplished so far.

Interestingly, our recent bin survey results show that 32% of food scraps in our kerbside

bin system are still going into our general rubbish bins, this is all food that could be going into the FOGO bin. Don't forget that food scraps including leftovers from meals, bakery goods, fresh vegetables, bones, pips, corn cobs and eggshells belong in your green bin. Food thrown into your general rubbish bin ends up in landfill. When food breaks down in landfill it can create greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Putting food waste in your green bin or compost bin can be simple, here's some tips.

- Collect your food scraps: Use a kitchen caddy or a container or scrap bucket to collect your food scraps while you cook. Keep it somewhere easy to access, like on the bench, in the fridge or under the sink.
- Empty your food scraps into your green bin: Food scraps can be put into the bin loose or in an accepted certified compostable caddy liner.
- Rinse or wash your kitchen caddy or tub each time you empty it. You can even put it in the dishwasher.

For more information – boq.news/FOGO

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



Borough of Queenscliffe
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

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