

# Queenscliffe Herald

THE QUEENSLIFF AND  
POINT LONSDALE NEWS

Published monthly on the first Wednesday and available in Queenscliff,  
Point Lonsdale and the Queenscliff/Sorrento Ferry.

SEPTEMBER, 2020 – Number 249  
FREE – Circulation 4000

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Website: www.queenscliffeherald.com.au



The toilet block destined for demolition to make way for the Hub.

## Letter to the Editor

### Public toilets to be demolished in Hesse Street

The plans for the new Queenscliff Hub, being rebuilt to house the Museum, Library and Visitor Centre, are on display on the council web page. To enable more space for the three tenants the building has been extended northwards up to the Post Office boundary.

Not mentioned is the fact that this will require the only public toilets in the town centre which are open 24 hours every day to be demolished. There is no plan for replacement.

Toilets inside the new building are situated in the back SE corner, and accessed through the front entrance. These will be available while the building is open.

I believe it is essential that after business hours and before the museum opens it is important for there to be easily accessible toilets in the town centre, available at all hours.

Tourists in the summer and holiday seasons and local residents are frequently out walking in the early mornings and evenings. These walkers and sightseers who stroll around the shops and the main street will not be catered for.

Council's suggestion is for people to use the toilets in the camping ground or walk to Citizens Park the other side of Gellibrand Street, where another toilet is situated. Both are between 300 and 500 metres away. Disabled people

will find it difficult to navigate a wheelchair across the park to both these toilets.

Queenscliff has an enviable reputation as a quality and caring town providing adequate facilities for residents and tourists to use and enjoy. Together with good food and the wide range of environmental and heritage values it is a fantastic destination.

But there is a need for a public toilet adjacent to the main shopping street accessible 24/7 every day.

Council must recognise that this is a non-negotiable social and public health requirement.

Joan Lindros  
Hesse Street Queenscliff

## Solar our schools campaign

Local parents have joined a nationwide push for solar and batteries to be installed on every school and early childhood centre in the Borough of Queenscliff.

The #SolarOurSchools initiative calls upon the government to provide full funding for solar and batteries for every public and non-profit school, kindergarten and childcare centre in

Australia, and means tested grants for privately-owned schools and early learning centres, as part of the nation's COVID-19 recovery plan.

As well as the clean energy advantages, installing solar and batteries at every school and early childhood centre would have significant impact on the economy. An estimated 7000 jobs in small and large solar businesses would be created across the country.

Schools and early childhood centres would also benefit due to huge savings on energy costs, with the money saved able to be put towards much-needed educational resources.

Following the Borough of Queenscliff's recent declaration of a climate emergency and commitment to developing a response plan in partnership with the community, a large number of parents with children attending schools, kindergartens and childcare centres in Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff have signed an open letter to the prime minister.

"Our school community is completely behind the Solar Our Schools campaign," said Richard Bucking-

ham, Principal of Queenscliff Primary School. "Solar panels and a battery would reduce power costs considerably - it's also a great way for us to contribute to reducing emissions - something students and parents feel passionately about."

Point Lonsdale parent Kitty Walker said: "We have three local primary schools in our borough, a childcare centre and a kindergarten - that's a lot of roof space and a lot of potential to save these community organisations tens of thousands of dollars a year in power bills, which could then be redirected back to our kids."

The #SolarOurSchools campaign was launched by Australian Parents for Climate Action, a group of concerned parents formed in 2019 with over 6000 members and supporters who are concerned about a safe climate future for our children.



Reuben Spencer with Kitty Walker

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# News from your local MP

**Protecting the Bellarine Peninsula**  
Readers may be aware that in 2019 the State Government declared the Bellarine Peninsula a Distinctive Area and Landscape (DAL) to protect the peninsulas towns from over development, its unique natural environment, rural land, waterways and tourist attractions.

Work is underway to establish township boundaries and develop a Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) that will document a long term vision for the peninsula and guide future land use and development.

The SPP is being informed by extensive community consultation, undertaken earlier this year, where over 350 submissions were received. Between April and June phase two engagement on the DAL was held online, seeking comment on the draft vision and directions for the area. Over 2,000 visits were made to the website, 307 online surveys completed, and an additional 44 written submissions received.

I thank everyone who has contributed, especially our local community associations and Bellarine Community Health, all of whom have put a lot of work into the document. A draft SPP will be released later this year for further comment before finalisation in 2021.

As a part of DAL process, I recently announced \$770,000 for projects right across the Bellarine that will enhance the region including trail upgrades, coastal erosion and seawall repairs, biodiversity improvements and other on ground projects.

Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale projects included further funding for Shortland's Bluff, restoration of Queenscliff cemetery, Point Lonsdale sand monitoring, Point Lonsdale

Moonah rehabilitation, spiny rush control in the area and Fellows Road revegetation

Funding has been provided for Stage 1 of Barwon Waters Bellarine recycled water project, aimed at supplying more recycled water for local agriculture and in doing so reducing the use of valuable drinking water.

These are great local projects that will deliver environmental benefits and improvement to beaches, parks and other much loved parts of the peninsula.

**Emergency Service Grants Open**

As Emergency Service Minister I am pleased to announce that State Government Grants are now open for emergency service organisations. These important grants have been established to fund more equipment, vehicles and to support our hard working volunteers in keeping local communities safe.

The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) provides the opportunity for the State Government to partner and support our local emergency organisations in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

Grants can be used to help purchase new vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft and trailers, other operational equipment and facility improvements. In announcing these grants, I would again like to thank all of our local emergency service organisations on the Bellarine for the great work they do.

Every Bellarine CFA brigade is highly respected within their community, and deservedly so. The Bellarine SES do a great job and again are very well respected here on the peninsula, as too the Red Cross. The

Queenscliff Coast Guard and Coast Watch Ocean Grove do magnificent work in keeping boaters safe.

And of course, the Point Lonsdale, Ocean Grove and 13th Beach Surf Life Saving clubs and all their members protect the lives of thousands of local and visitors alike every summer.

In addition, professional fire fighters, police and paramedics all work in closely with others in keeping us safe and I again I thank them all.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if there are any matters that I may be able to assist you with.

Hon Lisa Neville MP  
Member for Bellarine  
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lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au  
Twitter@Lisanevillemp  
Ph: 52 501 987

## Spoil Dad with a Blokey Hamper

Just because we will be stuck at home this Father's Day, it doesn't mean you can't spoil the 'old man' with beer, savouries and sweets.

Loaded with pork and apple sausage rolls, spicy pulled beef slider, bacon and gruyere cheese tarts and salami and pickled cucumber sandwiches, the hamper will cure any mansized hunger.

We haven't forgotten dad's sweet tooth - Portuguese tart, bounty macarons, pumpkin scones with whipped maple butter and chocolate rocky road washed down with a couple of local craft beers. All this for only \$30!!

\* Free delivery for Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale or pick up from RORO Café, Queenscliff wharf. Phone 5257 4599.

## Covid-19 in the Borough

We want you to be a Part of the Social History. Queenscliff Historical Museum's major new research project aims to archive the social, cultural, and economic impacts of Covid-19 on the wider Borough community.

We are seeking a diverse range of stories to create a detailed picture of the present that will be used to inform future generations.

Information gathered may be used as part of a podcast or short video to be displayed online. As the pandemic is ongoing, we will approach our

research with empathy and sensitivity, responses can remain anonymous if requested.

This research is being conducted by Monash University students Grace (Master of Cultural and Creative Industries) and Phillippa (Bachelor of Arts-Ancient Cultures) as part of a Work Integrated Learning Internship.

We would love to hear about your experience during these unprecedented times so please get in touch via email to either Grace on gjpac1@student.monash.edu or Phillippa on psim0003@student.monash.edu

### Dear Uniting Church Friends,

We are a prayerful community. We invite you to find a quiet moment to meditate with the reflections attached remembering you are part of a community who seek a deeper love and peace for these days.

#### Reflections

"Humans need stories - grand, compelling stories that help to orient us in our lives and in the cosmos." ~ Ursula Goodenough

Do you have a grand compelling story orientating you in these times? One that invites you to pause and name your fear, your grief, your blessing and gratitude. A story that invites you to wonder about the eyes you see the world with?

Glimmers of hope weave into our lives here in Victoria as 'the numbers' slowly plateau. But it still feels fragile and we are all still wondering what the future holds. While I don't believe for one moment that lockdown is the 'new normal', nonetheless, we are not too sure what next month or next year will look like. It's not an uncommon conversation point to be wondering about the 'what options and ways' will be open to us in the future!

The grand stories of the ancient spiritual traditions always invite us to love in the hard times of life, to welcome the stranger in the unjust times and to see our interconnectedness with all things and all people.

Reflections by Richard Rohr note the following: The call to love beyond our own flesh and blood is ancient. It echoes down to us on the lips of indigenous leaders, spiritual teachers, and social reformers through the centuries. The founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak called us to see no stranger, Buddha to practice unending compassion, Abraham to open our tent to all, Jesus to love our neighbours, Muhammad to take in the orphan, the Hindu mystic saint Mirabai to love without limit.

They all expanded the circle of who counts as one of us and therefore who is worthy of our care and concern. These teachings speak of a common vision of our interconnectedness and interdependence.

Blessings to you all - Charles Gallacher & Kerrie Lingham

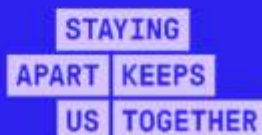


## "Think about who you love, then think about them in ICU."

For Sarah, who's been battling coronavirus for nearly 8 weeks, being separated from her two little boys, has been heartwrenching. On top of coronavirus attacking every one of her body systems, intense pain and acute breathing difficulty, she still has no idea when she will be well enough to see her boys. Sarah's hope is that by us all doing the right thing, no one else will have to experience the heartache her family has.

Please, play your part and help stop the spread of the virus. If you have symptoms - please get tested. Payments of \$450 are available to help you stay home and wait for your test result.

To learn more of Sarah's story  
go to [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](https://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)



Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# Cottage by the Sea News

The last few months at the Cottage have been a hive of activity. There have been trucks and workers everywhere; holes dug, walls knocked through and scaffolding growing taller. Under all this chaos, a remarkable transformation is taking place.

You will have noticed a large hole dug by the front gate recently, and earth works going on behind the fence. This has allowed for state-of-the-art fire fighting services to be installed. The system includes a 25,000 litre water tank and fire pump that provides water flow at a high pressure to the hose standpipes for fire hoses. In the unfortunate event of a fire, this system will ensure the safety of the children, volunteers and Cottage staff as well as the local surrounds.

Internally, a wide entrance, a lift, accessible bathrooms and beds will enable Cottage by the Sea to comfortably host a more diverse cohort of children. Space has also been created for better storage of equipment and new changerooms for the ever-important task of changing in and out of wetsuits.

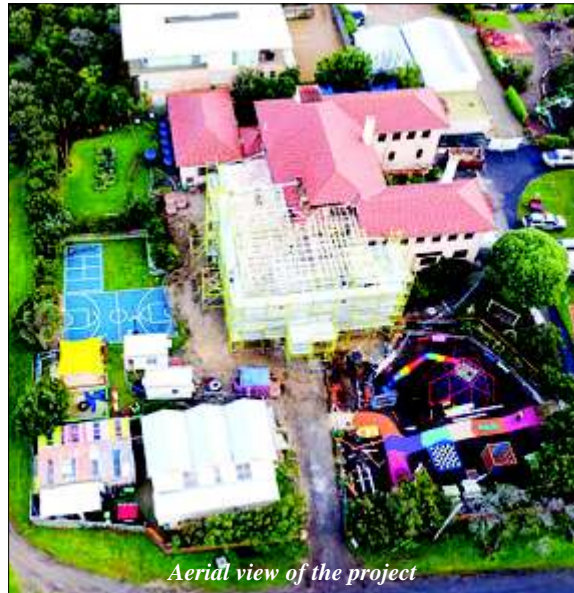
The Western Courtyard is being transformed into an edible garden with comfortable seating, BBQ area and space for the wood fired pizza oven. This project is being undertaken by landscaping students from The Gordon Institute as a practical adjunct to their studies.

At the back of the Main Cottage, scaffolding covers what will be the new glass enclosed dining and multi-purpose spaces. The top storey affords views from the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse, across the Heads, around to the Observation Tower at Queenscliff Harbour and beyond. This amazing space will allow the

children to stay connected to nature even on the coldest winter evenings.

Nevertheless, when all of these works are finished, the view of the Cottage will be relatively unchanged as you drive past on Flinders Street. You may notice the wider entry door and certainly a bright new paint job but current works to the old building will not impact the aesthetics of Queenscliff's beloved icon.

Cottage by the Sea and the Board of Management remain ever grateful to everyone who has donated to make this project happen, as well as grateful for the Australian Government's funding of this project through the Building Better Regions Fund. (This one-time grant will be directed to the Major Capital Works project only. It does not contribute to funding children's programs.)



Aerial view of the project

## Mentor Program and its impact on young lives into the future

The first co-designed and collaborative research project between Deakin University and Cottage by the Sea will lay the foundation for future research and academic engagement between the two organisations.

Deakin University researchers will work with Cottage by the Sea over the next five years to look closely at the effectiveness and impact of our camp program.

The research will initially focus on Cottage's Mentor program, designed for children aged 13-18 years old. It will build on findings from the Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis in 2019.

The SROI work established both the social and economic value of programs delivered by the Cottage demonstrating a significant positive and enduring impact of our programs on the lives of

children and young people experiencing vulnerability.

Deakin researchers will study how the Mentor Program provides opportunities for young people to build leadership abilities, develop employability attributes, foster mentoring skills and support social engagement with the community. It will also ask:

- In what ways are the outputs and outcomes of Cottage by the Sea community dependent on the interrelationships between people, programs, practices and places?

- What needs to be maintained and/or strengthened to continue to make a positive impact on the lives of young people into the future?

- How might the CBTS model (or component parts) be translated into different contexts?

## Word for Word National Non-Fiction Festival

The seventh annual Word for Word National Non-Fiction Festival takes on a new life this year changing to an online format as it continues to showcase the very best non-fiction from Australia's brightest writers and thinkers.

*Life, Changing* - the 2020 Online Program features a series of events encouraging connection interaction and participation, including live conversations, panel discussions, workshops, and special presentations.

Festival Advisory Committee Chair, Counsellor Margot Smith says, "The theme for this year's festival couldn't be more fitting. Life certainly is changing, and non-fiction has always provided analysis, research, ideas and reflection and that has never been more important than right now."

Festival Director Rochelle Smith says, "Engaging and intellectually stimulating sessions will explore a wide range of non-fiction topics on the theme of 'Life, Changing', including climate change, true crime, global politics, feminism, health and ageing, science, history and more. The program will explore non-fiction across a range of mediums, including memoir and biography, journalism, documentary making, playwriting and spoken word."

Moving the festival online for 2020 has opened the door to adding international guests to the line up of high calibre local Australian authors. Attending a live talk with your favourite author and buying their book is all part of the festival experience for an online audience this year. The full program will be announced on Thurs 1st October.

## Seaview Gallery

Spring at Seaview sees lots of new works in the gallery and still lots to see from last month as the gallery has been closed.

Great works from Zory McGrath, Di King, Carole Foster and Kate Smith.

Zory McGrath is a new artist to Seaview. Formerly from Bulgaria, Zory has exhibited across Europe and has now settled in Melbourne. Formally trained in classical art from photo-realism portraiture to religious abstraction she now focuses on abstract-expressionism.

Wonderful new ceramics from Ann-Maree Gentile and Eco boards have also arrived.

Hoping we will be open soon in September but happy to make appointments for clients to view. Please call Colleen 0428 998 863.

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# Janet Dawson - a celebrated artist

*Art is never still; it reflects the times in which it is produced, the individual who produces it and the past which has shaped it. Nor is it a linear progression - it can step sideways, backwards and forwards - but always it is a process of investigation.*

*Janet Dawson is an artist of intense curiosity. Her sources are extensive and, like many artists with a natural facility, she treads warily between using what is particularly her own and resisting what she already knows she can do. Stylistically recognisable, she has moved between abstraction and figurisation, formalism and realism, at times returning to problems that interested her many years before, as she persistently challenges her perceptions and the work in front of her.* (Extract from an essay on Janet Dawson by Deborah Edwards.)

Janet Dawson is one of Australia's most respected and celebrated artists. Her work has been the subject of numerous survey exhibitions including the National Gallery of Victoria in 1979, the National Gallery of Australia in 1996, and a nationally touring show in 2006. Dawson was one of the few women to be included in The Field exhibition at the NGV in 1968.

Janet was born in Melbourne in 1935. Aged 11 Janet attended Saturday art classes with H. Septimus Power, his only child student.

She studied from 1951-56 at the National Gallery School Melbourne; 1957-58 Slade School London (painting and lithography); Central School London (etching); 1960 Atelier Patris, Paris. "Printmaking forces one to think conceptually, one has to be economical, one has to consider various states of the print as being vital in themselves, with no possibility of erasure or alteration," said Janet.

In 1951 Janet began training at the National Gallery Art School under William Dargie where she learned techniques of tonal realism. On his retirement Alan Sumner took over and encouraged students to understand modernism as a continuation of the great classical traditions. His teaching broadened their knowledge of art history like medieval and tribal art.

In 1959 Dawson won a Boise Scholarship for lithography from the Slade School. With a small group of students she travelled through Europe then settled for 6 months in the magnificently sited hilltop town of Anticoli Corrado in the foothills of the Sabine mountains outside Rome. Overlooking the valley she produced fine drawings which suggest the scale and sensuality of the area. These drawings heralded the beginnings of a vocabulary of shapes that reappear in her paintings over the following decades.

She returned to Melbourne in 1960 and worked at Gallery A holding regular solo shows there from the 1960s through to the '80s. Her early work was predominantly abstract painting, and since the 1980s she focused on figurative subjects including the human figure and still life.

Since her student days Dawson has painted portraits of family and friends. She won the Archibald Prize in 1973, the third woman in the history of the event to do so, for her painting of her husband Michael Boddy, an English-Australian actor and writer. At 195 centimetres, a great girth and a full red beard, he was a giant of a man and his size and relaxed demeanour filled Janet's award-winning canvas.

Boddy was described as 'one of the most exuberant spirits in the new wave of Australian theatre in the 1970s and '80s'. His best known works include co-writing the play 'The Legend of King O'Malley' with Bob Ellis directed by John Bell in 1970; his play 'Cradle of Hercules' commissioned for the opening season of the Opera House in 1974 starred Jack Charles and David Gulpilil.

In 1974 Janet and Michael moved to Binalong New South Wales and in 1977 moved to a larger, more remote property they named Scribble Rock where they remained for 40 years. In that time Janet painted, drew trees, clouds, vegetables and animals. Janet and Michael's artistic lives thrived in this environment and their creative output is testament to their artistic achievements over many years.

Janet and Michael moved to Canberra in 1981 to help establish Theatre ACT, a professional theatre company, Janet as graphic and set designer and Michael as director, actor and dramaturg. They set up a youth theatre group in Canberra in the 1980s, established the Bugle Press and published a newsletter 'Kitchen Talk'. Michael was ahead of his time and became a regular newspaper columnist and author on food, natural history, small farming and sustainability.

"Tonal realism is a magnificent method of setting about the first stages of a picture," says Janet. "I often start a work that way, then other concerns take over. I no longer bother to separate the various styles in my mind. I sue what's useful when it's needed. But there's no need to stick to a programme."



*Self  
Portrait  
1953.  
Oil on  
canvas.  
Held in the  
National  
Portrait  
Gallery,  
Canberra,  
a gift of  
the artist  
2000.*

Clouds all the way - a bus trip Sydney to Canberra  
Nancy Severs Gallery June 2019

"Clouds inhabit the sky. They live in our languages: 'Her eyes were clouded' - 'lonely as a cloud' - 'his antics cast a cloud over the party' - 'a cloud of golden hair'.

My devotion to clouds had an early start. A four-year old child playing in the garden. Chooks pecking and scratching nearby. I saw, up in the intense blue sky, a huge white shape. It was the exact white image of the big black hen, scratching around by my feet. She was a Black Orpington, sturdy and bulky. Her name was Fattybottom.

This moment settled all notions of angels, gods and Heavenly Beings. We found them in the clouds and their interaction with Earth is constant.

The group of paintings, Cloud Comics and others is the product of a recent bus ride, Sydney to Canberra, in a Greyhound bus.

The sun was strong and bright, air clear, sky deep brilliant blue, clouds opulent and slow moving, changing shape, mingling and turning with magnificent deliberation.

The many images I took came out startlingly clear and vivid. I have made paintings and drawings from them. Here is a celebration - eighty years of cloud watching. To spend a long bus ride laughing at clouds is a grand reward for an Oldie." (Janet Dawson 2019.)

*Dawson is an artist who feels no need to compete against her peers. Her art-history and literary resources are extensive. She will return again and again to a painting of a piece of literature that interests her; then different energies will balance and convert to spark off a new direction in her work.* (Extract from an essay by Christine France 2006.)

Michael died in 2014 and since 2016 Janet has lived with three generations of her family on a rural property in Wallington where she continues to draw and paint in her purpose-built art studio where horses stroll in the sunshine under a clear blue sky and 3 chooks. Janet is planning another Canberra exhibition when the time is right.



*Janet Dawson won the Archibald Prize in 1973 for her 'Portrait of Michael'.*



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# Promises, promises, promises of past councillors!

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is disappointed by the announcement by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shaun Leane MP, of the Victorian Government's decision not to defer the state's council elections.

The MAV believes the October elections have been seriously compromised by COVID-19. With the ongoing restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria, we face the very real proposed that many exceptional candidates will not nominate.

MAV President Cr Coral Ross said it is incredibly frustrating that the State Government has not listened and taken the common-sense decision to delay elections.

"We have been calling for a deferral of local government elections for months now due to the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on free and fair elections.

"We know that not all councils were in favour of postponing council elections until 2021, but in the current environment and State of Disaster, it would have been a sensible and practical decision, for communities, candidates and councils", said Councillor Ross.

MAV have had their say but the Minister for Local Government has declared the elections are happening, resident enrolments closed August 28 and nominations have opened for starters in the four-yearly contest to become a councillor in the 2020 Borough of Queenscliffe postal vote election.

The *Queenscliffe Herald* looks back at previous elections to review councillors' promises and performance to help you decide what should happen with your rate revenue over the next four years.

The baton was handed over to potential candidates for the 2008 election after the opening of the new council offices by retiring Mayor Pat Semmens in October 2008. It was a proud day for the borough and it boasted having 26 desks that would eventually accommodate 30 full and part-time staff (currently 50+ servicing 3000 or so residents).

The 2008 election was the first time councillors were to be paid for their time with mayors receiving a more generous allowance. (Total councillor remuneration estimated to cost well in excess of \$100,000 per annum.) We saw eager contestants nominating for five positions. The successful candidates were:

John Burgess had been a councillor since 2001 and proudly offered his services as a well qualified CPA and contributor to the governance and financial viability of the borough. His grab bag of promises included: past experience as a councillor, adapting to change with a new CEO, supporting the tourism industry which is the lifeblood of the community. John saw his main contribution being the only sitting councillor providing a smooth transition to new CEO, Lenny Jenner.

Bob Merriman stood for a council that works together as a team to deliver projects and provide quality services. Bob nominated as a non-resident but qualified as chair of Queenscliff Bowling, Tennis & Croquet Association. His manifesto boasted a long list of past and current achievements and awards as president, chair, manager, director, trustee in business and sport. His promises included reviewing the borough's expenditure, freezing rates, extending the boundary to Heggies Lane, upgrading sporting facilities, encouraging

tourism, arts and supporting local business as well as undertaking to represent all ratepayers. *Bob was mayor for the four year term and certainly achieved his goal of upgrading sporting facilities for his support base.*

Helene Butler nominated as a mother of four whose ambition was to be a voice at council that represents all life stages of family. She offered a fresh and enthusiastic approach setting out that important council issues should be addressed in a timely and effective manner. Her promises were to upgrade new recreational and sporting facilities for all ages, encourage tourism and support local business, promote sensitive environmental development and minimise the borough's use of consultants (*still a major cost for council projects*).

Lloyd Davies, a declared Green candidate hoped to achieve efficient and responsible financial management as well as ensuring planning is consistent and development appropriate but does not change the character of the towns. He looked to the community to provide ideas for improvements and involvement. He pledged to improve services and planning as well as extending the boundary to include properties to the west of Fellows Road.

David Mitchell was the fly in the ointment of this council. He had been an active opponent of the Stockland Development (now The Point), a critic of the harbour development, involved in the fight for the High School site, a voice against unnecessary change and a supporter of green initiatives. His term in council was controversial and his opposition to the CEO resulted in mediation and a confidential settlement. (*A passionate councillor for his causes.*)

The 2012 election opened with candidate Peter Russell claiming Bob Merriman made false accusations against him in The Independent newspaper quoting Merriman's defamatory statements about Mr Russell's past 10 years of service claiming 'I was kicked off Moorabool Council for refusing to sign a code of conduct document'. Thus the stage was set for another round of elections. Elected were:

Bob Merriman promised more of the same including completing Hesse Street, The Hub, the Monahan Centre, relocating the netball courts and boasting receiving grants in excess of \$17 million to develop TocH and Shortlands Bluff, extending the boundary, as well as minimum rate increases and reducing commercial rates. (*Still no progress on boundary changes.*)

Helene Butler sought re-election claiming to having managed a local business, president of Queenscliffe Historical Museum, chair of St Aloysius school board and creator of the 3225 calendar. She welcomed working with a team that addressed the challenges faced promising to support The Point Lonsdale Foreshore Development, the Museum Hub, Senior Citizen and Scout Hall upgrade, Monahan Centre upgrade, netball courts relocation, completing the recreation reserve masterplan, tourism, etc, etc. She was elected Mayor for this 4 year term.

Sue Wasterval, a newcomer with a background as a mental health professional sought to work as a team with fellow councillors promising responsible financial management, maintenance of community infrastructure, initiatives that promote health and happiness of families, support of local

tourism and sports clubs plus facilitating simple planning while stopping inappropriate development and ensuring protection of heritage and environmental features.

Susan Salter, a 30 year resident and former teacher at Bellarine Secondary College had been involved as Neighbourhood House president, Vegetation and Botanical Sub-Committee and Save the Borough committee which preserved the Borough of Queenscliffe. Susan thought that everyone's voice should be considered, promote sensitive environmental development and encourage recreational and sporting facilities that benefit all residents.

Graham Christie thought it was time for a new council asking ratepayers to reflect on the non-performance of the current council. He believed in a council working as a cohesive team making considered decisions on all matters not just responding to vocal minority groups.

He believed that the town has become shabby and tired. Use history to attract visitors and the towns need to grow socially and financially from well planned business and tourism initiatives such as opening the fort to cultural events. Graham's term was controversial seeing him *winky popped* out of a planning decision allowing the mayor Helene Butler to have the deciding extra vote along with Cr Merriman approving a housing development in a Heritage Overlay in Mercer Street. (*The project was initially rejected but approved by council on the second application but overturned on appeal at VCAT on heritage grounds.*)

Greg Jones replaced Graham Christie who retired ill from council. Greg had a vision for the future of the borough. He saw opportunities with Maritime heritage, relocating the tourism office, eco friendly pathway to Ocean Grove, disability respite accommodation at TocH. He wanted a council that acted for the common good and had concerns about the narrow mindedness of self interest driving out business and affecting tourism, a unified council that had its eyes firmly fixed on the future and committed to achievement. (*Greg resigned after six weeks following an accusation by the Queenscliff Community Association of conflict of interest citing his Bongo Vans venture as the reason for the conflict.*)

Peter Russell replaced Greg Jones for the remainder of the term. Peter stood for Good Governance being the glue between councillors and the community. He bought a wealth of experience and cited discord, breaches of code of conduct, eight council officers resigning, accusations of bullying and the CEO placing a lockdown on councillors having access to staff, huge VCAT legal costs and lack of transparent decision making in his election manifesto. (*Must have been an interesting time in the locked down council meetings.*)

The 2016 election saw eleven candidates vie for the five positions. A spirited 'meet the candidates event' was held by the Point Lonsdale Community Association where candidates were given five minutes to impart what they could contribute to the community. The latest batch consisted of:

Helene Cameron was elected but resigned immediately afterwards handing the baton to team mate, the unelected Bob Merriman, to fill the void. Bob continued on his merry way citing his many achievements as his badge of honour. (*All election promises fulfilled and believed to not be seeking re-election in 2020.*)

Tony Francis, a long term resident who briefly had political ambitions, policeman for 26 years and former Golden Plains councillor who saw himself as a leader with integrity, ensuring council delivers on health, aged care and engaging youth. He stated that he didn't need a consultant to tell him about toilets and beaches which are a disgrace as is the TocH area.

Tony was a non resident elected on his ownership of Harry's Kiosk in the park and membership of the newly formed Chamber of Commerce (*now defunct with surplus funds being distributed to local businesses*). Mayor for a year and was forced to resign as a councillor after the sale of Harry's Kiosk. (*Tony disappeared into the sunset, badge and gun intact with a fist full of dollars.*)

Rob Minty replaced Tony Francis citing 20 years on community committees. He is passionate about transparency, avoiding bad press, residents' amenities, holding onto assets and open to discussion. Rob has performed honestly in his fill in role. (*He believes that two terms are enough for councillors.*)

Boyce Pizzey campaigned as having lots of time to devote to council and locals views. He claimed having been a consultant on heritage projects, a member of VCAT and Planning Vic, was integral in the development of Scienceworks as well as involvement with the Commonwealth's Western Front war memorial. Boyce was optimistic about what can be achieved to recharge the spirit of visitors. (*An impressive CV not backed up by performance.*)

Susan Salter campaigned again on her passionate commitment to the preservation of the Borough of Queenscliffe highlighting the need for positive financial outcomes for the community. Responsible for the green waste bins and looking for further green commitments she pledged to include everyone in the 3225 community. (*Has served her two terms, time could be up!*)

Ross Ebbels, a Geelong local who worked at Mietta's in Queenscliff where he learned that business and history can work hand in hand. He had experience on Geelong Otway Tourism in finance and Marketing and has operated businesses in Queenscliff.

He cited being enthusiastic about community engagement, listening posts, transparency and making informed decisions. Ross was an advocate for more cabins at Shortland's Bluff and works along south Hesse Street. Ross is the current mayor. (*Picture perfect candidate.*)

CEO Lenny Jenner resigned soon after being reappointed by the current councillors for a further term ending a controversial tenure of 12 years. An extensive executive search saw Martin Gill appointed as the replacement CEO.

Past problems have cost ratepayers \$\$\$\$

At a conservative estimate five councillors costing \$100,000 per annum over the past twelve years is well in excess of a million dollars. Add to that the costs for replacing resigning councillors believed to be tens of thousands each time there is a resignation, a huge cost to ratepayers.

Make your vote count in the 2020 Borough of Queenscliffe Council Elections, vote for candidates who have the communities' interests at the core of their promises, not single issue candidates who may be focused on political division, or their own and their supporters interests.



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Want to run for Council? Nominations to stand as a candidate for the Borough of Queenscliffe Council election open on Thursday 17 September. The election will be held entirely by post.

The eligibility requirements for candidates have recently changed. Make sure to confirm your eligibility and complete the mandatory online candidate training before lodging your nomination. This includes candidates who are currently or have previously been a councillor. Due to COVID-19 a recorded candidate information session will be streamed online from Thursday 3 September and complemented by state-wide interactive candidate seminars based on the information session video.

To watch the information session and join an online interactive seminar visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) The *Candidate Handbook* is also available on the website.

Candidates must make an appointment with the Election Manager to lodge their nomination forms and pay their \$250 nomination fee. They must have completed the online candidate training, as this is required by law and will be shown on each candidate's nomination form.

Call the Election Manager 1300 108 803 from Wednesday 16 September. Candidates can pre-fill a nomination form using the online Candidate Helper at [candidatehelper.vec.vic.gov.au](http://candidatehelper.vec.vic.gov.au) available from 3 September. Nominations must be lodged by 12 noon on Tuesday 22 September.

## Geoffrey Mathews seeks your vote

I moved from South Australia to Queenscliff in 2000 as a lifestyle change deciding to stay and form a strong link with a community that is incredibly rich historically, environmentally, socially and economically, a true winner for a great life.



I am actively involved in the community with the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club on the management committee and enthusiastic sailing member with a passion to show the benefits of outdoor water activities to young and old.

Professionally held senior roles in furniture manufacturing industry, committees within TAFE SA and the South Australian Guild of Furniture Manufacturers.

With a later career change moved to the restructuring and sale of commercial business's and properties within the Licensed Premises industry in South Australia.

Since 2000 I have renovated many houses and commercial properties within the Borough, enjoying the many components of restoration of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale's diverse architecture in the manner that houses were painted and decorated during the 19th century onwards by identifying and conserving that heritage.

With such strong links to the community and great life I enjoy, I wish to give time to the Borough of Queenscliff community, working as a councillor.

Geoffrey Mathews

70 Hesse Street Queenscliff VIC 3225

## VOTE 1 ROSS EBBELS

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Councillor of The Borough of Queenscliffe

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residents of The Borough

Providing stability, open and consultative  
leadership during these difficult times

I am seeking your vote.



AUTHORISED BY:  
ROSS EBBELS 0481 094875  
3 NOMA COURT QUEENSCLIFF 3225

## VOTE 1 Zelda (Rozelda) Walters

I have been a permanent resident of Queenscliff for six years but have been coming down to stay in both Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff for around 30 years. My background is in public relations, marketing and communication and I have a qualification in business administration.

WHY I'M STANDING FOR COUNCIL:

Since living here I have become concerned at the Council's lack of relevant community consultation. I do not believe residents issues have been listened to or addressed well.

For example, over the last few years Council has undertaken numerous costly and repetitive surveys (eg improvements to Hesse Street) to gain insight into residents and visitors thoughts on the Borough. These surveys don't seem to have led to relevant changes or improvements – a lack of follow through action by Council and a waste of ratepayer money.

As a result I believe many residents have become disillusioned with the Council and Councillors – the Borough has stagnated. Residents require action, not just talk.

There are some very serious challenges ahead of us, which Council needs to address.

It's time for Council to look to the future, address these challenges (such as climate change, beach erosion, financial management, state of dune and foreshore management) and put in place measures to make the Borough a safe, viable and vibrant place. It's time for a change.

WHAT I STAND FOR:

I want to see:

- A Council that is efficiently and cost effectively run;
- A Council that listens and acts more with the community on issues;
- A Council and Councillors who communicate well and regularly with the community;
- Our rates used on things that are relevant to our community's requirements;
- The ability for residents to discuss issues at Council Meetings.

*Authorised by Zelda Walters, PO Box 147 Queenscliff VIC 3225.*



## VOTE 1: Rob Minty

Hi, I am Rob Minty, a permanent resident and candidate for Councillor of The Borough of Queenscliffe.

I have been a Councillor for the last nine months winning the seat vacated by Cr Tony Francis.

I support

- An open and consultative Council.
- The move to zero emissions and a commitment to tackle the impact of climate change.
- An independent Borough working for the benefit of its residents and businesses.
- A financially strong Council that maintains its assets in good order.
- A vibrant community based around strong arts and cultural programs alongside sporting clubs, volunteer groups and active community groups.



The appointment of the new CEO has been a game changer in the way Council deals with community consultation in the Borough.

We have progressed the Climate Emergency Response Plan that sits in my portfolio of Environmental Sustainability. We are working on ways to consult with the community at large during Covid 19.

I actively support the "get it done" agenda of 2020. The Avenue of Honour action plan to replant this important memorial is happening. The Hub, a substantial project that will improve resident and visitor experience in Hesse Street is progressing without cost or timing issues. South Hesse Street work to underground the power lines is also proceeding at good pace. A much lighter touch in the work at Shortland's Bluff will see an upgrade more in tune with the community response and the budget. The plan for the clearing of bush fire fuel along Ocean Road is almost ready for release.

I have advocated for years as a member and president of the PLCA for improvements at The Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve (PLLHR). Prior to the community response to climate action the PLLHR was without doubt the most important issue in the Borough. The community wanted real action which is finally underway.

I will continue to advocate for works at our caravan parks to improve the visitor amenities. This important income source helps keep the Borough financially strong and independent and helps fund our natural and coastal assets. Our businesses need these visitors now more than ever.

I stand in support of a financially strong and independent Borough and a consultative Council focused on residents and supporting local business.

I ask for your vote. Cheers Rob Minty

Authorised by: Rob Minty Ph: 0409023652 - 90 Ocean Road, Point Lonsdale 3225 VIC



*Cr Rob Minty*

### Bunny Wood - What a fantastic job

Bunny wood is situated opposite the Point Lonsdale cemetery and is a beautiful area of old style coastal vegetation in which to walk. I and other Councillors had been contacted as the area was damaged and in need of help. Now nature has been given a hand and the area has been replanted.

The Council officers have done a terrific job on remediation works and removing rubbish and introduced material. Real action before the growing season.

If you would like to give a suggestion or feedback on these or any other Council initiative please use the email: [rob.minty@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](mailto:rob.minty@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au) or phone 0418931508.

*This is a paid insert into your local newspaper by Cr Rob Minty*

### Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve - A major clean up

I am very grateful to Council officers who have been trying for some time to get approval for a clean up of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve site. It must also be a great relief to the residents who have had to live with or view the area and the huts covered in objectionable graffiti.

A big shout out to all those who have worked on the plan and added their voice to have the work done. (Including local member Lisa Neville MP.)

I know its only one small step for Council not a giant leap, but for locals the impact on their amenity is significant. Good job, well done.



John O'Keefe's first job as a journo was writing part-time for the 'Queenscliff Pilot' filing news on surf carnivals, local events and just about anything for 3 pence a line in the late 1950s. "This led to a working lifetime in the media, marketing and advertising - I'm forever grateful to the Queenscliff Pilot," said John.

His link with Point Lonsdale goes back even further when his parents owned a holiday house in the town.

His borough-based articles and titbits have been a hit with readers.



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LONNIE SNAPS PHOTOGRAPHY

Down through the ages (continued)

# Holidaying at the Point

I have enjoyed holidays off and on at Point Lonsdale for the past 60 years. The memories are endless yet certain events, people and places are firmly etched in my mind. I have catalogued a few of those memories that may rekindle your recollections of the best holiday spot on earth.

Getting there

As a six-year old our family set off for our first holiday at a dot on the Broadbent's map - Point Lonsdale.

Melbourne faded in the dust as Werribee loomed and our first stop was for fish and chips. Many years later I thought Werribee was half way to this mythical place, Point Lonsdale.

We finally made it to our rental in Buckley Road - a timber house imaginatively constructed from containers left over from World War 2. Very accommodating with most mod-cons of the time and a thunderbox down the track.

Exploring the Point

As kids the front beach was our go-to meet and greet place. It had adventures around every corner.

Just prior to Toc H and the Lighthouse area was a Tea House which was a den of iniquity for kids my age - it had a slot machine where you played soccer with moveable players. We played for hours for the cost of a penny a game and winner took all - safety matches. Fast forward to today and those same slot machines have made a comeback to adorn foyers of bars and creative hotspots. How kitsch can one go?

Fly away

In the paddock next to the Tea Rooms was, no kidding, a small, full size passenger aeroplane. It just sat there - historical information was scant other than it may have been used in WW2. This fair dinkum plane made reading Air Adventures of Biggles all the more relatable.

The endless queues

Keeping the lines of communications open with family and friends was a major exercise during peak holiday time. Only posh people had phones in their house, so parents had to form a queue outside the Post Office while the telephonist dialled up your Aunt, boss, or whoever. Phone calls were made after 7pm and the queues snaked down Main Street.

Queenscliff Race Club

I was fascinated with the remains of what had been a local horse racing course. The wooden remains of the track and finishing box were in their final stages of life and located on the corner where Fellows Road intersects with the bitumen to Ocean Grove. I'm told the Club had two meetings per year and were popular amongst members of Bellarine society.

Glen Miller and his music

As time went by we had visitors who ventured the trip from Melbourne. First stop to show off Lonsdale's finer points was a trip to the Lighthouse. A favourite story my Mum always trotted out was 'In the still of night you can hear the band playing on board the liners as they sail through the Heads'. Mum always was the imaginative one.

The Fog Horn

It may well be an urban myth but it has worn well over time. When visibility was a danger at sea the lighthouse blew its fog horn. One foggy night it blew and blew and almost all residents at the Point, and beyond, copped an earful. Next morning one seasoned resident was quizzed if he had heard the fog horn. 'Oh, is that what it was. I thought it was Nancy (his wife) snoring'. Boom, boom.

As youngsters we had our share of the lighthouse sounding off when ships had run off course. We rode our bikes down to Rip View to see boats facing the wrong way or wedged on rocks.

Picture Show People

As teenage years kicked in, we, as a group (because that's the way we travelled at the Point) went to the flicks at the Lonsdale Picture Theatre located in Main Street where the concrete toilets stand today. The wooden structure had seating for about 40 people.

Films were far from blockbuster movies, the projector was a bit dodgy and broke down at the most inappropriate times. The theatre burnt down and that spelt THE END to regular films.

Your memories

Please email me your memories of people, places and happy snaps that happened at the Point over the 1950 to 1970s era. Or, elaborate on any further funny facts of my memories listed in this article. My email is okc@okc.com.au.

Thanks in advance, John O'Keefe

## 'And we all had a wonderful time'

There's safety in numbers. In the case of Point Lonsdale it all began with escaped convict William Buckley. Prior to signing on with the local Indigenous tribe known as the Wadawawarung, William made his Man Cave etched into the cliff in the area underneath the Lonsdale Lighthouse. The cave is still there and last time I visited it was on the nose (read smelly) and partly boarded up. No doubt in earlier days William had a few dinners in the cave enjoying freshly caught fish from the Rip. Now I know how Fred Flintstone developed his culinary skills.

Travelling in groups is something William passed on to generations of Lonsdale holiday makers in the 1950s and 60s. No caves for these holiday revellers celebrating finishing school and in no hurry to go to Uni or jobs to start. They travelled in packs and when it came for a bit of shut-eye they had a variety of options.

There was a stately old house that the boys renamed The National Trust. This rental was Party Central and at any time of the day or night there was a card game going on. It was all boy accommodation and guests came and went - similar to Fly in, Fly out workers.



Artists sketch of William Buckley

On arrival at The National Trust there was a note attached to the front door describing the illustrious history of the house. The note chronicled how shipwrecked passengers had built the house, brought up families and all sorts of things you read about in Boys Own Almanac - all fictitious. Scribe may have been 'Doc' Livingstone who worked for 'The Sun News Pictorial'.

Many of the inmates of The National Trust moved on to be Captains of Industry, others would prefer to forget how they lost all their holiday budget on card games.

Alternative accommodation of the same group was an army tent pitched on a block of land just across the road from the Back Beach. It was heaven on a surf board for convenience to the beach provided you could scale Old Baldie, the ageist name given to a rather large sand dune. Provided you had a sleeping bag and knew the other inmates you were allowed to catch some shut-eye in The Tent. Sadly The Tent burnt down when some interloper left a cig alight.

Even before The National Trust and The Tent a group of lifesavers used to travel by train, bus and shanks' pony to surf the waves and call it a night by staying at TOC H.

Great days, a laugh a second and in different ways being re-lived by today's generation complete with Uber, credit cards, fast cars, Facebook and AirBnB.

We all have William Buckley to thank. Good one, Will.

By John O'Keefe

Email John if you have memories to share okc@okc.com.au

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# Point Lonsdale Camp - Toc H

Known locally as Toc H, the crumbling site which surrounds the entrance to the Point Lonsdale lighthouse has sat idle and in a state of decay for some years since its closure as a children's camp. Passersby would be forgiven for presuming that this eerie, foreboding eyesore was utterly insignificant in a historical sense. However, this unassuming patch of prime local real estate actually holds countless stories which offer a fascinating insight into Victorian history.

For centuries prior to European colonisation, the untamed coastal scrub around the windswept Lonsdale headland was traversed by generations of Wadawurrung clans who combed this side of the coast for shellfish and wild game. These First Nation's people knew Point Lonsdale as Balla-duik and prior to British colonialism their collective existence would have been comparatively idyllic. Perhaps the first European feet to set foot on the Toc H reserve belonged to escaped convict William Buckley who was said to have briefly occupied the

narrow cave that sits just under the nearby lighthouse. For 32 remarkable years this veteran of the Napoleonic Wars lived with the Wadawurrung and adopted their way of life while quickly forgetting his own.

Buckley's presence on the Bellarine effectively signalled that the world was about to dramatically change for the Wadawurrung as migrants flocked to the Port Phillip District in search of fortune. Soon Balla-duik became Point Lonsdale and formal buildings gradually began appearing in the area as Victoria hurtled toward modernity. British colonisation altered the landscape around Point Lonsdale as a fear of foreign invasion prompted the Toc H camp to begin sprouting defence structures around the commencement of the First World War. The site housed future soldiers preparing for expeditions overseas and many of the young cadets who trained and lived on the reserve went on to fight at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

During WWII, the camp was completely surrounded by a formidable barbed wire fence manned

constantly by armed soldiers. Beyond the imposing perimeter, the army huts housed Royal Australian Engineers and Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) members whose job it was to operate the gun emplacements and searchlights which litter the Lonsdale dunes.

As the threat of Japanese invasion subsided the camp became the home of Italian Prisoners of War who had been captured in North Africa. These former Italian soldiers fought alongside Nazi Germans and were led by the famous 'Desert Fox' Erwin Rommel during their desert campaigns against the eventually victorious Allies. As fate would have it, these POWs found themselves interned at Point Lonsdale in old army huts under the shadows of the towering white lighthouse.

As hostilities overseas ceased, the Italians awaited their return home while adapting to life in Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff. They quickly became part of the local community. Their nightly soccer games became a spectacle for the local



children and harmonious singing of foreign operas could be heard floating from over the barbed wire. The Italian's were popular around town and were noted for their hard work as they became local handymen, fixing minor carpentry issues and tending to gardens. Eventually these men returned to Italy and the camp was signed over to the Toc H organisation.

So from a site which was once home to Wadawurrung clans, soldiers and POWs, it then became a children's camp which was enjoyed by

various school groups for many decades until its closure.

While the present abandoned Toc H site may appear uninspiring and decrepit there is a great deal of Australian history which has occurred in this tiny pocket. The overgrown tree and graffitied camp huts have borne witness to defining moments of Australian history, certainly adding weight to the old adage that looks can be deceiving.

By Charlie Wilson  
QHM Research Student



## Working smoke alarms save lives

After a very busy fire season for the Brigade, winter means switching to fire safety in the home. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of having working smoke alarms in your home.

Our world has changed and become a lot more housebound as we all stay home to stay safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. Many families have children at home doing online school learning and parents are working from home where feasible. Combined with these colder days, it also means heating appliances are being used more often and the smell of wood burners is wafting across the air around the borough.

Over the last 10 years most fatal fires have started in the lounge room or bedroom. Without a working smoke alarm in all living areas of your house, you may not wake if there is a fire in your house. The best way to keep your family safe is to install interconnected smoke alarms, which you should test monthly and replace when they're approaching their end of life span (10 years). Make sure you do this from the date of installation, not the date you moved into the home.

CFA recommends installing smoke alarms powered by a 10 year long-life lithium battery in a tamper proof chamber. Homes constructed after 1 August 1997 must have smoke alarms connected to 240v mains power and have a backup battery. Homes constructed before 1 August 1997 may have smoke alarms powered by a battery.

It's important to test and clean your smoke alarms regularly; you should clean them with a vacuum cleaner at least once a year to remove particles that will affect smoke alarm performance.

It's also a good time to check your home for any potential hazards. If you have recently set up a makeshift home office, ensure it is done safely:

- Check you're not overloading powerboards or have loose cables
- Ensure monitors, laptops, televisions and other equipment have good air flow around them and are not in confined spaces or covered
- Don't leave electronic equipment like laptops and phones sitting or charging on beds
- Turn off all electrical appliances at the power point when not in use
- Check heating and cooling systems
- Check any home fire extinguishers or fire blankets to make sure they're not out of date.

Importantly, every family needs to develop a home fire escape plan and practise it. Your plan should include two ways to escape each room of the house, and a designated safe meeting point, such as the letterbox.

And always remember to call 000 in the event of a fire or emergency situation.

For more information visit our Facebook page or [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)



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## Working for Victoria

A group of young people with a primary interest in the environment are now working in the Borough as part of the *Working for Victoria* initiative. Dan Armstrong from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning took charge of the Team on 1 June. They will work for six months on outdoor projects from Anglesea to the Bellarine.

"Coastcare chose the projects," said Dan. "The different councils and relevant organisations had an input." The inclusion of the Queenscliffe Indigenous Plant Nursery was on a recommendation of Matt Crawley, Program Manager of the Bellarine Catchment Network. The team will benefit from the expertise of Nursery Coordinator, Sarah Roberts, who teaches Horticulture at Gordon TAFE.

I met up with the group in the Indigenous Plant Nursery in Nelson Road. Sarah Roberts had set up work stations all carefully socially distanced. Safe health is a primary concern in COVID-19 times. Alex, Aidan, and Blake were busy propagating plants while Owen was moving around the tube stock checking for weeds and learning their Latin names.

The students have impressive academic credentials. Alex Ainsworth has completed an Honours degree in Environmental Science and Marine Studies at Deakin University in Warrnambool. Of the project, Alex said, "I am looking forward to gaining more knowledge and hands on experience in local vegetation management."



Blake Hose 'working for Victoria' at the Queenscliffe Indigenous Plant Nursery.

Blake Hose has graduated from Deakin University, Warrnambool, in Zoology and Animal Science. His primary interest is in reptiles. "We have removed gorse and watsonia on the Bellarine Rail Trail," said Blake. "If we see a snake, I'm happy. Australia has awesome snakes."

Owen Adams also studied Zoology and Animal Science at Deakin University. After a short time working as a casual for the Wyndham City Council, Owen found himself out of a job. He praised the project, saying, "Working for Victoria is a practical initiative that is connecting people who lost jobs through coronavirus."

The youngest in the team is Aidan Rogers from Inverleigh. Aidan completed secondary school at Belmont High School last year. "I love working outdoors" said Aidan.

So, do I Aidan, and I am happy that we can give you the opportunity to join with us in this worthwhile project."

For more information on participating in *Working for Victoria* go to [vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria](https://vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria).

Rosemary Brown

## Walking the Coast

Remembering that we live in a troubled world

I have developed a love for our Queenscliffe-Point Lonsdale coast where I walk every day. This has been part of my routine for over twenty years. I'm impacted emotionally by the passage of large vessels as they negotiate the Rip. My walk is where emotion and history seem to collide. For me, walking the coast is a daily reminder we live in a troubled world.

One of the earliest moments in my 'psycho-historical' walking of the coast was to see a large vessel, akin to the Norwegian MV Tampa, come through the heads in the months and years after the famous confrontation off Christmas Island in 2001. <https://theconversation.com/australian-politics-explainer-the-mv-tampa-and-the-transformation-of-asylum-seeker-policy-74078>

That reminded me then, and the memory of it reminds me now, of my responsibility as a member of this polity. I am reminded of the way Australian Government policies have changed the way our coastline looks to those coming by sea in fragile crafts in their bid to make Australia their 'safe haven'. Political parties of both sides have swallowed the false view that they will get more votes if they



demonstrate hairy-chested protection of our sovereign borders. And as a result, the status of our polity as an Indian Ocean and South West Pacific safe haven has been severely compromised. Even after their asylum claims have been found to be valid, whether in Nauru or Manus Island, such fleeing people are not going to be settled amongst us while this cruelty prevails for electoral purposes.

So, in my regular walk I have had to get used to the fact that our coastline has undergone a profound change and my walk in its aspects of 'psycho-historical sentiment' cannot shake off political responsibility. I only have to look at the Rip to be reminded that there are many in our midst wanting to stay in this safe haven who need our assistance.

Bruce Wearne

### Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees

Local Bellarine residents are invited to join together with others across this land to support the thousands of people living in our midst who are seeking asylum.

For further information see <https://queenscliffar.org/#hero>

## Point Lonsdale VIEW CLUB

"I would like to congratulate an amazing team of women who took up the torch from Ocean Grove Evening VIEW Club to make over 200 masks for our club and community. The mask making exercise epitomises what VIEW is all about, from the lady who made the suggestion, the ladies who gave their time, materials and power, right down to the members and their families who bought the masks," said spokesperson Sue Bell. "I know the ladies worked hard to get the orders out quickly. I saw the blisters myself!"

A phenomenal result by these wonderful women raised approximately \$2090. Together with our other fundraising to date, we now have a very healthy bank balance and will be able to take on the sponsorship of our first students for the new school year.

In the meantime, stay safe and take care of yourselves and your families. View Pledge

*I pledge to promote the interests of VIEW, to extend friendship to all and help those in need.*



VIEW Club masked marvels raised enough money to sponsor students' education.

## History Museum on the move

Shoppers in Hesse Street on Thursday 13 August would have noticed unusual activity in front of the Queenscliffe Historical Museum (QHM). The museum's Archive was being transported down the hill to the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum by volunteers who were continuing the huge task of packing and clearing out the building in preparation for the construction of the Queenscliff Hub.

This was the visible result of many weeks spent by QHM packing teams working behind closed doors to record, photograph, wrap and box display artifacts in readiness for transporting to temporary accommodation for safe keeping.

Much of the main display level has now been packed and in the basement, storage packing has begun. As other temporary storage becomes available it will be necessary to use commercial carriers to transport display cases, furniture and other large items. The museum has to be totally cleared by the end of October for demolition in November. Construction is due to start early in 2021 and will take about 12 months.

The design of the Hub was open for final consultation until the end of August and the full plan including renderings are available on the Borough website.

In the meantime, members of the public are still accessing the QHM Research Unit, with 11 new requests coming in this month, and ongoing involvement with two Monash students doing remote internships recording experiences with the pandemic in the Region.

Our sale of videos continues, with Ron Hodgetts' 'Queenscliffe Then and Now' which premiered early this year being requested from as far away as Tocumwal, Sydney, Perth, Hobart and even Brighton (wait for it) not Melbourne, but England.

More info: [www.queenscliffe-history.org](http://www.queenscliffe-history.org)  
QHM - Eddie Loughnan

*"If you think museums are boring then you're doing it wrong."*

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## QUEENSCLIFFE HISTORICAL MUSEUM MONTHLY TALKS

The Committee awaits the lifting of restrictions so it can proceed with the following speakers:

Local author Linda Brumley and researcher Clare Ribaux. Arrival in Queenscliffe of Chinese from the Ballarat Goldfields.

Professor Jock Given: Connection of Marconi and Point Lonsdale in the first overseas transmission from the Southern Hemisphere.

Author and Research Director Chris Ganly describing the key role that Major Mercer from a prominent Scottish family played in establishing Victoria and then its separation from NSW.

Journalist and local author Paul Malone, who has researched Japanese rogue elements who fought on in Borneo after the surrender and allied commandos who were sent to deal with them.

More info: [www.queenscliffe-history.org](http://www.queenscliffe-history.org) (events)

Contact: [admin@queenscliffe-history.org](mailto:admin@queenscliffe-history.org)



# A tale of two pirates

by Denis Walters

They weren't seafaring pirates, quite the opposite, they were landlubbers, stationed at Fort Queenscliff when it was operating as The Australian Staff College, back in the early seventies but they were pirates nonetheless.

As part of their posting at the College, corporals Crossy and Coops were employed as support staff and assisted in the planning of military exercises by laying out 3D models of exercise areas.

Despite their love of a beer, they still maintained reasonable physiques but it would be somewhat of a stretch of the imagination to consider them as sportsmen, or to consider them athletic.

Back then, Wednesday afternoons were considered sports afternoons. It was rather a loose description as there never seemed to be a great deal of sport played on those allocated afternoons.

There was one afternoon I well remember, when in a bid to have maximum representation involved in a sporting activity, word was received from the College Adjutant, that a foot race would be conducted on the upcoming sports afternoon. It wasn't just a foot race, the event was planned to begin in Point Lonsdale, proceed through the narrows and end up at the Fort.

The terms and conditions were distributed. Teams of two would participate, representing the various

departments throughout the military contingent within the Staff College. To ensure competition was keen, the prize would be what most participants would consider, somewhat of a Holy Grail, a dozen long neck beers. Each team member would have their time recorded, the times would be added together and the lowest mean time would provide the winners.

Leading up to that particular Wednesday afternoon conversations revolved around the staging of the race. In my department, the Draughting Office, there was a distinct air of confidence. There were three soldiers and one civilian employed in our section. Tasks were varied and involved all aspects of silk screen printing of tactical map overlays for



exercises with exotic names like Exercise Carpet Bagger. There was a dark room were black and white film and photos were developed and small printing plates were produced. Layouts were produced for the various publications throughout the year and the work was varied and interesting but sports afternoons always added a different dimension.

There were six teams to take part in the 'mini marathon'. I would be one member of the team representing the office and Atko would be the other. We were both in our early twenties. I could run a bit back then and was involved in a number of local sporting competitions. Atko, while not a regular participant in sporting pursuits, was in reasonable shape and fit enough to make his presence felt in the race. Crossy and Coops would be representing the Model Room crew.

We were transported to Point Lonsdale to the start point, lined up and we were off. There were a range of body shapes and sizes and it soon became evident that many were going to struggle to finish, let alone be competitive. I was up with the leaders and Atko not far behind in fourth position.

As we negotiated the narrows in the vicinity of Tip Island, Atko and I had maintained our prominent positions. The other two competitors in the leading group were from different departments and it was

well back to the rest of the field.

We came up the hill towards the RSL and competitors began to struggle. In a final surge of enthusiasm, I charged towards and entered the gates of the Fort. On arrival, I turned to encourage Atko. Although he hadn't improved on his fourth placing, our composite time would be good enough to win the race. We stayed at the gate to cheer on the remaining competitors. There was no sign of Crossy or Coops.

The competitors all gathered for the presentation to the winners. Crossy and Coops were declared the winners. Atko and I thought it was a joke and had a laugh for a while, until with the beer tucked under his arm and with Coops in hot pursuit, Crossy laughing his head off made his way up to the Other Ranks Mess. The regular after work activities followed. A few beers and a game of cards. The game of choice being Euchre. The 'winners' spent some time gloating about their victory and it was only after a number of beers and a few hands of cards that they spilled the beans.

In an uncanny piece of timing, not long after the race had started and with Crossy and Coops well back, the Lonsdale-Queenscliff bus had come along. They flagged it down, climbed on board, stayed hidden as the bus passed the legitimate competitors, alighted a few hundred metres from the Fort, waited and then, in a theatrical performance of puffing and panting, ran towards the Fort as if just finishing the race.

They both had a lot of laughs telling that story over the next few years and no doubt in the years since. Atko and I would have laughed along with them except for one thing - we never got offered even a sip of beer. After the card game ended the two of them went giggling into the night, carrying their ill gotten booty.

I don't know where either of those two pirates are now but I have a fantasy. Somewhere, sometime, I enter a pub. At the bar enjoying a beer is Crossy or Coops. I walk up from behind and place a hand on their shoulder and say 'Aaaaaaarh me matey. It's your shout.'

Over the last 26 years we have donated about \$40,000 per year to clubs, charities and fundraisers therefore we are reaching out to everyone we have been supporting to ask them to support us in any way they can.

Help us continue to foster the next generation of Blues musicians.

Give, so our legendary Blues musicians continue to hone their craft.

Give, so our volunteer-run Bellarine Heritage Railway can continue to pull the legend that is The Blues Train.

Go Fund Me  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/thebluesra in2020/donate>



The Blues Train is a vital part of Queenscliff's identity and it's loss would be a disaster for the town.

## Help keep Australia's longest running blues music venue alive

We've survived 9/11. We survived two GFCs. But we NEED your help to survive COVID-19

The Blues Train has launched a Go Fund Me campaign to raise money to 'semi hibernate' the business until it is safe to return.

"Back in March we lost 100% of our income overnight like so many others in the music industry. Since then we've done everything we can to bounce back and for a while it looked like we would be running again this year this is clearly not the case," said Blues Train founder Hugo T Armstrong.

"Financial losses to date are getting towards \$100,000 and we have significant costs of over \$10,000 a month to keep the business alive so it can come back.

We've set a target of \$70,000 which will get us through until January when hopefully tickets go on sale. If we raise additional funds

above that The Blues Train will hire local musicians and do some live streaming from the Queenscliff railway platforms.



Freemasonry is an Organisation of Good Men, supporting each other, their families and the community.

Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96

## Masonic Musings

In the last edition of Masonic Musings in July I stated that the Lodge would be able to resume the normal activities from 1st August, however this did not happen due to further increase in COVID-19 numbers. In conjunction with State Government regulations and Freemasons Victoria the approval was cancelled and to be reviewed in January 2021.

When we do receive permission to continue our activities at 60 Learmonth Street we will still proceed with a thorough clean and repainting internally and general maintenance.

Remember to keep safe

Please keep wearing your face mask whilst out and about and practise the social distancing.

Further information regarding Freemasons or this lodge may be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Richard Clark by phone on 0400 553 939 or email [dick@ratutddy.com](mailto:dick@ratutddy.com)

## Shedding the Blues

Health & Wellbeing - Learned Optimism

Derek Rogers from The Thrive Movement Australia recently facilitated an online workshop on Being Optimistic and Remaining Positive. Derek used personal experience and deep knowledge gained from previous work in complex organisations to outline the benefits to be gained by adopting a positive mindset, as well as the health benefits from having an optimistic outlook.

Peter Seligman notes in his best seller, Learned Optimism, that optimism is not a method for disposable use; it is a concept, an evolved mindset capable of seeing the best in any situation.

Derek spoke about the power of our inner voice in determining our focus as we live our lives. It influences the 'way we look at the world'. He stressed that we can choose the way we look at the world and we can choose to change our thoughts and, as Seligman writes in his definition "see the best in any situation".

Seligman goes on to classify this inner voice as either your best friend or your worst enemy. Do we perceive setbacks in our life as being everlasting or do we treat them as life-lessons? Do we feed our negative emotions or do we consciously make a switch to looking for opportunities within any challenge as opposed to finding threats?

Interested in becoming a member of the Men's Shed? Contact [desgorman@bigpond.com](mailto:desgorman@bigpond.com)

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# Queenscliff Coast Guard News

## The Missing Kayak

Over the past 10 years Coast Guard Queenscliff volunteers have averaged at least one callout per year to search for a possible missing person associated with a kayak/dinghy found floating unattended in Port Phillip or Bass Strait. This scenario outlines what happens when one of these tiny vessels is located without an occupant.

Let's say a fisherman finds a kayak floating in Port Phillip or Bass Strait. He comes alongside and can see no one aboard and scanning the water sees no swimmer. He does the right thing and immediately calls 000 to contact Water Police. He reports his location and a description of the vessel. He may drag it aboard his boat to deliver it to police. It is NOT finders keepers!

Water Police are now faced with a number of possible scenarios.

1. A person has fallen out of the vessel and is now floating in the cold waters of Port Phillip. They may have had a medical emergency or have been unable to reboard their craft. Depending on the time of year their predicted life span may now be measured in minutes not hours. The person was unable to report the incident.

2. The person has made it to shore, written off the kayak and gone home. Fails to report the incident.

3. The kayak was left on a beach on a rising tide, has floated off and the owner doesn't know its missing or thinks it has been stolen. They have no insurance so fail to report the incident.

Naturally Water Police must assume the worst scenario and immediately call on one or more Volunteer Coast Guard or Marine Rescue Units to activate a search. Each vessel is crewed by 3 to 5 volunteers who have left work, home or families to render assistance; estimated running costs \$150 per hour (fuel and maintenance only). Water Police will simultaneously activate one or more police boats with a minimum crew of 2 officers per 6 metre vessel; minimum cost \$330 per hour.



If available, a police helicopter will be despatched making that asset unavailable for any other search, rescue, criminal activity or high speed pursuit. The cost to tax payers of running this helicopter including crew is over \$7,200 per hour. Using powerful computer software and a given location of the kayak's recovery point Water Police will begin a drift analysis to establish a most probable search area. This will be updated as more information becomes available. A minimum 2 hour search based on 2 Volunteer Boats, 1 Police Boat and 1 Helicopter would cost tax payers over \$15,600.

In a recent unsuccessful search, a Coast Guard Queenscliff crew spent over 3 hours searching for the occupant of an unattended kayak. On numerous occasions after searches and other investigations police have established the kayak had simply floated off a beach unnoticed.

These unnecessary searches tie up resources, waste police and volunteers' time and take us all away from responding to other emergencies.

If you own or operate a kayak please take the following actions ASAP:

1. At the very least use an indelible marker pen to write the owner's name and phone number on the vessel or better still visit your local Mister Minute, have a brass plate engraved with the vessel details and secure it to the kayak. This will enable police to attempt to contact the owner or operator and investigate if you are safe or obtain other information that may speed up your rescue.

2. If you leave your kayak on a tidal beach, even for a short while, drag it ABOVE the high water line.

3. If you lose your kayak report its loss to Water Police via 000 as soon as possible. This will ensure an unnecessary search is not started for you and if the kayak is found it can be returned.

4. Always wear a Life Jacket no matter how good a swimmer you think you are!

*Plan your actions before things go wrong!*

Operations Summary 1 July-26 August 2020

Requests for assistance: 6. Persons assisted to safe harbour: 12. Value of vessels assisted: \$343,000 Vessel Hours on Rescue: 14.7. Recreational Boating Operators Licence Course (Needed to get a boat licence)

Due to Covid-19 RBOL courses continue to be suspended until further notice.

Covid-19 Update

At this time requirements are in place to ensure the health of all members of the public, our volunteers and their families. We have, as required, suspended in person training. Some training will continue online. Our monthly business meeting is being held online. The Queenscliff Base will remain closed. The Coast Guard vessel CG09 will operate a short weekly engine run to ensure its preparedness for an emergency response. Our volunteer crews WILL continue to respond to 000 calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as per normal.

For Marine Emergencies call: 000 Remember: Plan your voyage and maintain your Covid distance, your life depends on it!

Safe Boating, Ric Lasslett



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Contact John on 0409 686 044 or  
Email: john.j.mcmillan@coastguard.com.au  
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## Queenscliffe Herald

Published by Swansong Publishing  
31 Hobson Street, Queenscliff 3225  
Phone: 5258 4828  
Email: quherald@bigpond.net.au

**READ US ONLINE EVERY MONTH AT:**  
[www.queenscliffeherald.com.au](http://www.queenscliffeherald.com.au)

**Editor: Carmel Murphy**  
Printers: Newsprinters Pty. Ltd. Shepparton  
**Average Monthly Circulation: 5000**  
Copyright: Swansong Publishing 2020  
ISSN: 1443-5071

**Disclaimer**  
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**READERS PLEASE NOTE**  
The next edition will be available on  
**Wednesday October 7, 2020.**  
Copy deadlines are one week prior for this edition on Wednesday, Sept 30, 2020.

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