

Hesse Street Hub design

An exciting step has been taken towards a new building solution to improve and expand the services of the public library, the Historical Museum and the Victorian (Tourism) Information Centre in Queenscliff. These services are currently housed in adjacent, historically significant buildings in Hesse Street, but are all constrained by the limited space available.

Following a tender process, Williams Boag Architects have been appointed by the Council to provide concept designs for a new building to complement and connect the existing premises, and provide better amenities and more room to move for all of its tenants.

I am delighted that the project to explore this opportunity is now underway.

The announcement is celebrated by the Visitor Information Centre, the Library and the Historical Museum, who have all been involved in the process right from the start. I'm confident that the successful architects will come up with an innovative and functional design that is in keeping with the character of the Borough. We are all looking forward to seeing the concept drawings early in the New Year.

Coast Guard opening

Deputy Premier and Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Peter Ryan MLA, visited the Borough last week to open the Queenscliff Volunteer Coast Guard facilities.

The headquarters have been rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 2007. Impressively, the Coast Guard has managed to continue its services from temporary premises over the past four years.

Feedback on former High School site

Residents have until the end of January to provide feedback to Council on development of the former high school site.

Questionnaires have been distributed asking for comments on the proposal to develop the site as a Botanic Garden and high value parkland, including indigenous gardens and a community vegetable garden with associated infrastructure and a community building.

I would like to urge the Queenscliff community to spend time reviewing the options for the use of this significant community asset.

Carbon neutral Queenscliff

Work is progressing on the goals of Council becoming carbon neutral by 2013 and the entire Borough by 2020. Current work includes energy and water audits of council buildings and minor retrofitting to achieve greater efficiencies.

The Council's Sustainability Officer is also working closely with local community organisations, businesses and schools to raise awareness, increase knowledge and encourage participation in making the Borough more sustainable.

A priority project is the development and implementation of a Carbon Neutral Action Plan for the wider Borough community. Community input into the plan has been sought, with further work to continue in this area in 2012.

Festive celebrations

The annual lighting of the Christmas Tree at Point Lonsdale was again a very successful event, signalling the beginning of the festive season.

This magnificent tree can be seen for miles out to sea and around the Bellarine Peninsula. The tree is more than 100 years old, and has been lit annually since the early 1950s.

Congratulations to the Christmas Tree Committee for a very well organised event.

On this festive note, I wish all residents of the Borough of Queenscliffe, and visitors to our fine region, a very safe and happy Christmas.