

QUEENSLIFFE



LITERARY FESTIVAL

17–26 OCTOBER 2025

CRAIG SILVEY // MARCIA LANGTON // BOB BROWN
MELISSA LEONG // HEATHER ROSE // SIANG LU
VIRGINIA TRIOLI // DON WATSON // OMAR EL AKKAD
ANTOINETTE LATTOUF // ZACH TUOHY // PETER GRESTE



WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY

NYOORA WURREYIN

Queenscliffe Literary Festival acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these lands and waters, the Wadawurrung people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and recognise their continued custodianship of these lands and waters. We honour the diversity and vitality of over 60,000 years of Aboriginal culture and storytelling.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

QLF is only able to offer its year-round program of events because of its remarkable volunteer committee members, who always deliver above and beyond what's requested. Thank you to you all, and to our outstanding Program Director Elizabeth McCarthy and Festival Manager Kirsty Wilson.

In 2025 QLF has played a lead role as a proud foundation member of the Queenscliffe Community Organisations Forum. QCOF is a network of community organisations committed to working together for the collective benefit of the Borough of Queenscliffe.

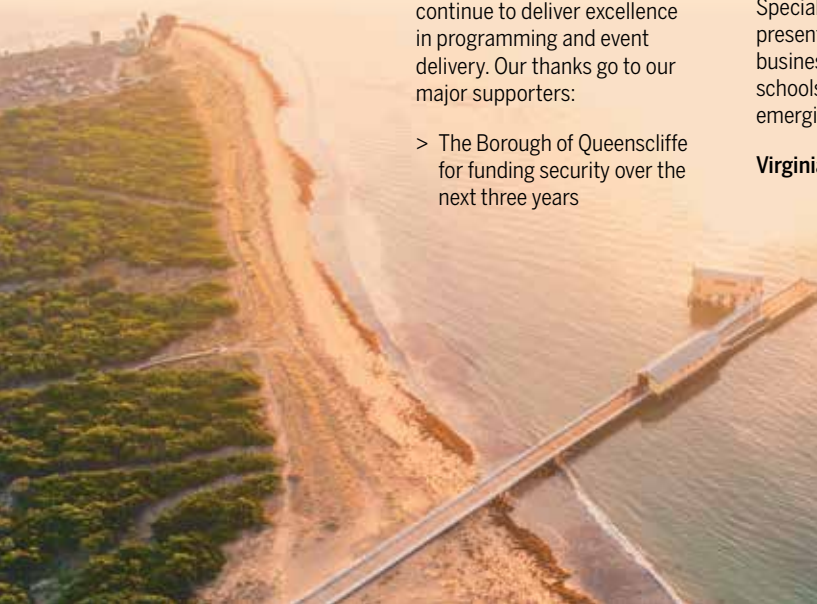
The focus this year has been on sustainability, developing partnerships and securing sponsors to ensure QLF can continue to deliver excellence in programming and event delivery. Our thanks go to our major supporters:

> The Borough of Queenscliffe for funding security over the next three years

- > Brian Nankervis, MC of our incredibly successful trivia fundraising events in July
- > Local community organisations who are always ready to assist, including Queenscliff Music Festival, Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, Point Lonsdale Primary School, Shedding the Blues and Queenscliffe Community Market.

Special thanks go to our presenters, sponsors, local businesses, volunteers, local schools and to our loyal and emerging audience members.

Virginia Todd, President



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It is thrilling that writers from around the country – and our first international guest – have enthusiastically accepted the invitation to appear at our 2025 festival, and I'm so excited to reveal our full festival program.

Heading into the festival's eleventh year, I wanted to further broaden QLF's scope and make sure there is something for everyone in our program –

for art lovers, sports enthusiasts, foodies, podcast listeners, politics junkies, crime buffs, Regency fans, families, green thumbs, social justice advocates, and budding writers.

Our festival program will challenge and inform, educate and exhilarate. Many of our festival guests will explore topics of critical significance, including the climate emergency, First Nations issues, and crises across the globe. These are essential conversations to have at books and ideas festivals – and with so many of us feeling that this moment in history is particularly fraught and the stakes so high, I've decided that the theme for this year's festival is 'Rising Tides'.

As those global tides rise, writers festivals are places where people can come together to interrogate the big issues, be moved by great stories and conversations, celebrate ideas, and experience the pleasures of reading and connection. There is no better place to be in October than on the high ground in Queenscliffe!

QLF is a mighty team effort and I am deeply grateful to our General Manager Kirsty Wilson and our tireless committee for all their generous and thoughtful work in making sure that Queenscliffe Literary Festival 2025 is a brilliant celebration of community and culture.

Elizabeth McCarthy,
Program Director

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Queenscliffe Literary Festival has become one of the state's major literary events – thanks to excellent programming and all its generous volunteers.

This year once again promises to be an experience not to be missed.

The Borough of Queenscliffe hopes visitors and residents alike can enjoy our beautiful surroundings as well as participate in the festival.

Di Rule, Mayor



Queenscliff Literary Festival is a registered charity for the advancement of culture

TICKETS

Buy online at
tinyurl.com/QLF2025

Or at **Queenscliffe Visitor Information Centre**

Contact media@
queenscliffliteraryfestival.com.au

All sessions at **Queenscliff Town Hall** and priced at \$30/\$22 unless indicated.

All sessions 60 minutes duration unless specified.

The information in this program was correct at the time of printing.
For updates and more information visit queenscliffliteraryfestival.com.au

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS – WEEK ONE



LUNCH WITH ALICE ZASLAVSKY

Over a delicious two-course meal prepared from her hit book *Salad for Days*, the host of ABC TV's 'A Bite To Eat With Alice' will share her passion for healthy, seasonal, flavourful meals and her mission to educate everyone on the joy and power of cooking for health and connection. **With Kerrie O'Brien.**

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

12.30PM

Upstairs at 360Q

\$85



A MORNING WITH CRAIG SILVEY

Join **Craig Silvey**, bestselling author of *Runt* and its gripping sequel, *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping*, for a fun hour of reading, pie-eating, dog drawing, question-answering, and all manner of dog-themed shenanigans. Recommended for readers aged 8+. **With Kirsty Wilson.**

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

11.15AM

Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall

\$30, includes entry and party pies for two kids and their adult



BOB BROWN REMAINS DEFIANT

Former Australian Greens leader **Bob Brown** casts an unflinching eye on the forces that have shaped him and the reasons why he'll never stop fighting. Bob's new book, *Defiance*, traverses his early days leading local environmental campaigns, to the national stage and federal parliament, all the while fighting for issues that matter.

With Sophie Black.

Presented in partnership with the Bookshop at Queenscliff.

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

\$40/\$30



A TOAST TO JANE AUSTEN

It is a truth universally acknowledged that 2025 is the 250th year since the birth of Jane Austen! Contemporary Regency authors **Kelly Gardiner**, **Sharmini Kumar** and **Alison Goodman** will explore Austen's wide appeal and ongoing relevance, and explain why they love to write novels set in the Regency era. Afternoon tea and champagne will be served, Regency costumes will be on display, and we'll learn a simple Regency dance!

With Elizabeth McCarthy.

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

2.45PM

\$40 includes afternoon tea and sparkling wine

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS – WEEK TWO



OMAR EL AKKAD'S ONE DAY, EVERYONE WILL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST THIS

Egyptian-American journalist **Omar El Akkad's** new book has been described by Richard Flanagan as 'a howl from the heart of our age'. Exploring recent global flashpoints, including Black Lives Matter, the Gulf War, and the genocide in Gaza, Omar's book is a call for accountability and clarity, and a courageous examination of what it means to live in societies that have strayed so far from the values they claim to uphold. **With Antoinette Lattouf.**

Presented in partnership with The Wheeler Centre.

**FRIDAY
24 OCTOBER**

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

\$40/\$30



WORKSHOP: PUTTING THE ROMANCE IN YOUR NOVEL WITH MARION LENNOX

Would you like to make your writing a little spicier? Multi-award-winning romance novelist **Marion Lennox** has had over 110 novels published across 130 countries, and translated into 30 languages. With over half of all fiction containing romantic elements, it's no secret that romance makes a book easier to sell – and often more fun to read. If you think romance could add a touch of zing to your writing, Marion will guide you through plot, pace, empathy and, of course, passion.

**SATURDAY
25 OCTOBER**

9.30AM – 1.00PM

Wirrng Wirrng
(Queenscliffe Hub)
49-55 Hesse St, Queenscliff

\$45



THE GREER EFFECT

The Greer Effect is an interrogation of one of Australia's most audacious thinkers. For over fifty years, Germaine Greer has been a consistently fearless and deliberately provocative figure. This play is based upon unprecedented access to the Germaine Greer Archive, portraying Greer at key points in time and giving voice to the many and varied responses she has provoked. This playreading of Vanessa O'Neill's exciting new work is a fascinating exploration of one of Melbourne's most formidable daughters, featuring actor **Louise Siversen** (Rosehaven, Utopia, Rake) as Germaine Greer. Q&A after the reading facilitated by **Hannie Rayson**.

Presented in partnership with Queenscliffe Maritime Museum.

**SATURDAY
25 OCTOBER**

4.30PM

The Boatshed, Queenscliffe
Maritime Museum

\$40/\$30



BETTER OFF SAID: EULOGIES FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

At one time or another, we all find there was something we wish we'd said aloud, someone out there in the world waiting to hear an important message, a piece of history we feel our voice could have improved. *Better Off Said* offers the opportunity to find closure and sing truth from the rooftops before it's too late. Four guests will speak to the phrase 'The words I wish I'd said', and a special guest will deliver a Living Eulogy to someone or something still of this earth, to celebrate the best in our lives while we're here to hear it. From members of the team behind international literary phenomenon *Women of Letters*, *Better Off Said* is a spoken-word art salon celebrating words, stories and human experiences.

Created by Marieke Hardy and Emilie Zoey Baker and featuring Antoinette Lattouf, Hannie Rayson, Brian Nankervis, Shokoofeh Azar, and more.

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

\$45/\$35



THE BEACH HOUSE YEARS WITH BRIAN NANKERVIS

Inspired by **Brian Nankervis**'s own experiences and 'classic' beach house anecdotes, *The Beach House Years* is the fictional story of 'Seahaven', a beach house. Seahaven shimmers in the heat, looking across grass, scrub and sea. The house faces north and is shaped like a Vita Brits box. Four rooms, louvred windows, concrete paths and a swing. This funny, heartfelt show by Brian explores beach house memories across forty years of family life.

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

2.45PM (bar from 2pm)

\$40/\$30

FESTIVAL PROGRAM – WEEK ONE

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

12.30PM

Lunch with Alice Zaslavsky

Upstairs at 360Q

\$85

Over a delicious two-course meal prepared from her hit book *Salad for Days*, the host of ABC TV's 'A Bite To Eat With Alice' will share her passion for healthy, seasonal, flavourful meals and her mission to educate everyone on the joy and power of cooking for health and connection.

With Kerrie O'Brien.

5.00PM (bar from 4pm)

After The Stella Comes The Rot

Goorie and Koori writer and Stella Prize-winning author **Evelyn Araluen** talks about her new book, *The Rot*, a liturgy for girlhood in the dying days of late-stage capitalism, exposing the fraying nerves of a speaker refusing to avert their gaze from the death of Country, death on Country, and the bloody violence of settler colonies here and afar.

With Jayne Tuttle.

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

Craig Silvey's Diabolical Genius

From *Rhubarb* to *Jasper Jones*, *Honeybee* to *Runt* – and its new, blockbuster sequel – **Craig Silvey** will share how he crafts genre-defying stories for his devoted readers, why he prefers being unshackled by category and convention, and where he sees his diabolical career taking him next. **With Jason Steger.**



Photo: Ivan Kemp

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

9.30AM

The Wellmaniac and the Introvert

Bestselling *Wellmania* author **Brigid Delaney** and reformed sociophobe **Jenny Valentish** will canvas how existential dilemmas have stimulated some of their wildest escapades, revealing the hard lessons and fraught truths that have made them into two of Australia's most compelling writers. **With Tracee Hutchison.**

11.15AM

A Morning with Craig Silvey

Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall
\$30, includes entry and party pies for two kids and their adult
Join **Craig Silvey**, bestselling author of *Runt* and its gripping sequel, *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping*, for a fun hour of reading, pie-eating, dog drawing, question-answering, and all manner of dog-themed shenanigans. Recommended for readers aged 8+.
With Kirsty Wilson.

11.15AM

Jane Caro's Lyrebird

Bestselling, award-winning author and political commentator **Jane Caro** will talk about her new crime novel, *Lyrebird*, and how she weaves her real-life advocacy into her fiction, creating worlds that are uncannily familiar while crafting plot twists and absorbing mysteries to keep readers guessing. **With Hannie Rayson.**

1PM (bar from 12.30pm)

John Wayne 'The Gunslinger' Parr: An Australian Champion

Monahan Sports Centre
Over the course of 150 fights and 349 stitches, Muay Thai fighter, kickboxer and boxer **John Wayne 'The Gunslinger' Parr** won ten world titles, including the prestigious WMC World Title and an Australian middleweight boxing title. With co-writer **Jarrod Boyle**, Parr will discuss the book that details the triumphs and trials of his brilliant, brutal career. **With Jenny Valentish.**

1PM

Heather Rose's Next Great Act

Stella Prize-winning author **Heather Rose** shares the inspiration behind her latest work, *A Great Act of Love*. Rose will explore the themes she grapples with across her stories; how strong, determined, unapologetic women fuel her fiction; and why the scope of merciless colonial history has provoked her new book. **With Jason Steger.**

2.45PM (bar from 2pm)

Peter Greste: From Correspondent to Casualty

Imprisoned for his journalism, **Peter Greste** has traversed the globe and reported from the world's most dangerous places. Depicted by Richard Roxburgh in a film based on his bestselling memoir, Greste will reflect on why telling the truth has become so dangerous, and how good journalism is essential in a fractured world.
With Michael Cathcart.

Presented in partnership with the Peter Blazey Fellowship.

4.30PM (bar from 4pm)

Melissa Leong Gets Gutsy

The first female judge on MasterChef Australia, Gold Logie-nominated TV personality and fashion icon **Melissa Leong** will discuss her book *Guts: A Memoir of Food, Failure and Taking Impossible Chances*. Melissa will share her experiences of mental health and racism, and the joy food has played in her daily life and soaring career.
With Jaclyn Crupi.

Presented in partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries.

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

Bob Brown Remains Defiant

\$40/\$30
Former Australian Greens leader **Bob Brown** casts an unflinching eye on the forces that have shaped him and the reasons why he'll never stop fighting. Bob's new book, *Defiance*, traverses his early days leading local environmental campaigns, to the national stage and federal parliament, all the while fighting for issues that matter.
With Sophie Black.

Presented in partnership with the Bookshop at Queenscliff.

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

9.30AM

Make Policy Great Again

Jenny Macklin AM's parliamentary career saw her lead multiple portfolios: she designed the NDIS, oversaw the Apology to the Stolen Generations and established the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse. Passionate about reform and progressive change, she explores how urgent issues can be tackled in the current political landscape.

With Jane Caro.

11.15AM

America Unravelling

With the re-election of President Trump, America has entered a tumultuous new era of political strongmanship and an unravelling of previous approaches to foreign policy, climate action, human rights and more. With decades of US political expertise between them, **Emma Shortis** and **Don Watson** unpack what this new era means for Australia and the world. **With Dylan Bird.**

Presented in partnership with RMIT University.

1PM

All Gardens Bright and Beautiful

Award-winning gardener and landscape designer **Tim Pilgrim** and passionate gardener and cook **Jaclyn Crupi** talk about the inspirations behind their new gardening books. Hear Tim and Jaclyn explore the pleasure of being green thumbs and the joy of planning and creating the gardens of their wildest dreams. **With Michael McCoy.**

2.45PM

A Toast to Jane Austen

\$40 includes afternoon tea and sparkling wine

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Photo: Ivan Kemp

FESTIVAL PROGRAM – WEEK TWO

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

**Omar El Akkad's One Day,
Everyone Will Have Always
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\$40/\$30

Egyptian-American journalist
Omar El Akkad's new book
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recent global flashpoints,
including Black Lives Matter, the
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accountability and clarity, and
a courageous examination of
what it means to live in societies
that have strayed so far from
the values they claim to uphold.
With Antoinette Lattouf.

Presented in partnership with
The Wheeler Centre.



SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER

9.30AM – 1.00PM

Workshop: Putting the Romance In Your Novel with Marion Lennox

Wirrng Wirrng
(Queenscliffe Hub)
49-55 Hesse St, Queenscliff
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Would you like to make your writing a little spicier? Multi-award-winning romance novelist **Marion Lennox** has had over 110 novels published across 130 countries, and translated into 30 languages. With over half of all fiction containing romantic elements, it's no secret that romance makes a book easier to sell – and often more fun to read. If you think romance could add a touch of zing to your writing, Marion will guide you through plot, pace, empathy and, of course, passion.

9.30AM

Miles Franklin vs. The International Booker

Winner of the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award, **Siang Lu**, and International Booker Prize shortlistee **Shokoofeh Azar** will talk about their deeply imaginative novels and explore why they love to play with tradition, myth and reality in surprising and enthralling ways. **With Charlotte Guest.**

11.15AM

Marcia Langton & Judith Ryan: 65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art

Distinguished Professor **Marcia Langton AO** and Senior Curator **Judith Ryan AM** talk about their landmark book on the history of Indigenous Australian art. This courageous and comprehensive exploration calls us to bear witness to 65,000 years of continuous culture, Indigenous knowledge and powerful art. **With Virginia Trioli.**

1PM

Zach Tuohy and Catherine Murphy and the Way of the Irish

In 2023, **Zach Tuohy** set a new record for the number of AFL games played by an Irish player, passing the effort of the great Jim Stynes. A champion of the Geelong Cats, his road from Ireland to AFL Premiership glory was paved with missteps, triumphs and, ultimately, victory. Journalist **Catherine Murphy** and Zach talk about collaborating on the book about Zach's life. **With Francis Leach.**

2.45PM (bar from 2pm)

Virginia Trioli Loves a Bit on the Side

Two-time Walkley Award-winning journalist **Virginia Trioli's** latest book is part-memoir, part-manifesto, and an ode to looking for joy in the side dish rather than the main course. She discusses the memories, recipes, anecdotes and humour that help us navigate all the tough stuff.

With Kate Halfpenny.

4.30PM (bar from 4pm)

The Greer Effect

The Boatshed, Queenscliffe
Maritime Museum
\$40/\$30

The Greer Effect is an interrogation of one of Australia's most audacious thinkers. For over fifty years, Germaine Greer has been a consistently fearless and deliberately provocative figure. This play is based upon unprecedented access to the Germaine Greer Archive, portraying Greer at key points in time and giving voice to the many and varied responses she has provoked. This playreading of Vanessa O'Neill's exciting new work is a fascinating exploration of one of Melbourne's most formidable daughters, featuring actor **Louise Siversen** (*Rosehaven, Utopia, Rake*) as Germaine Greer. Q&A after the reading facilitated by **Hannie Rayson.**

Presented in partnership with
Queenscliffe Maritime Museum.

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

Better off Said: Eulogies for the Living and the Dead

\$45/\$35

At one time or another, we all find there was something we wish we'd said aloud, someone out there in the world waiting to hear an important message, a piece of history we feel our voice could have improved. Better Off Said offers the opportunity to find closure and sing truth from the rooftops before it's too late. Four guests will speak to the phrase 'The words I wish I'd said', and a special guest will deliver a Living Eulogy to someone or something still of this earth, to celebrate the best in our lives while we're here to hear it. From members of the team behind international literary phenomenon Women of Letters, Better Off Said is a spoken-word art salon celebrating words, stories and human experiences. **Created by Marieke Hardy and Emilie Zoey Baker and featuring Antoinette Lattouf, Hannie Rayson, Brian Nankervis, Shokoofeh Azar, and more.**



SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

9.30AM

The Sea in the Metro and Boogie Wonderland

Kate Halfpenny and **Jayne Tuttle** have become prominent residents of the Bellarine after moving here from big cities. Their new memoirs explore ambition, regret, motherhood, overwhelm, addiction and all the messiness of life. The two will dive deep into their moments of triumph, regret and bemusement. **With Sarah L'Estrange.**

11.15AM

Mushroom Murders and the True Crime Podcast Boom

ABC investigative journalist **Rachael Brown** created and presented *Trace* and *Mushroom Case Daily*, two of the most-listened-to podcasts in Australia, and **Andrew Rule** is a veteran crime reporter and podcaster. Together they'll break down which stories they can't let go, their process for cracking cold cases wide open, and why the mushroom murders fascinated so many of us. **With Francis Leach.**

1PM

Crime Writers on the Surf Coast

Mark Smith, Christine Keighery and **Tanya Scott** explain their love of writing crime fiction, and how living on the Surf Coast stimulates their imaginations. Demystifying the conventions of crime fiction, each author will talk about the processes behind their writing and the ways they grab their readers' attention, creating gripping novels that stand above the pack. **With Sarah L'Estrange.**

2.45PM (bar from 2pm)

The Beach House Years with Brian Nankervis

\$40/\$30

Inspired by **Brian Nankervis**'s own experiences and 'classic' beach house anecdotes, *The Beach House Years* is the fictional story of 'Seahaven', a beach house. Seahaven shimmers in the heat, looking across grass, scrub and sea. The house faces north and is shaped like a Vita Brits box. Four rooms, louvred windows, concrete paths and a swing. This funny, heartfelt show by Brian explores beach house memories across forty years of family life.

JOIN IN THE FESTIVAL FUN



DOWN ON THE CORNER, OUT IN THE STREET

Join community music group Shedding the Blues outside Wirring Wirring (Queenscliff Hub, 49 Hesse St) at **10am on Saturday 18 Oct** for a distinctly bookish performance.

GET INTO THE FESTIVAL SPIRIT

The QLF Town Hall Bar will be open from **2pm on 18, 25 and 26 Oct**, or pop over to festival friend Shelter Shed (25 Hesse St) from 4–6pm daily to treat yourself to QLF's delicious signature cocktail, the Queenscliffe Spritz.



JOIN A READING FLASH MOB

Grab a sunny spot on the Town Hall Lawn from **2pm on Sat 18 Oct** and join members of The Book Club Social (@thebookclubsocial_) for a quiet readathon. The QLF bar will be open: just bring your book and a picnic rug/cushion. Weather dependent!

MAP



VENUES

- 1 **Queenscliff Town Hall**
50 Learmonth St
- 2 **360Q Restaurant**
2 Wharf St E
- 3 **Wirrng Wirrng/The Hub**
Queenscliffe
Information Centre
49-55 Hesse St
- 4 **Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall**
29 Bowen Rd, Point Lonsdale
- 5 **Monahan Sports Centre**
150 Hesse St
- 6 **Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**
2 Wharf St

OTHER FESTIVAL SITES

- 7 **The Bookshop at Queenscliff**
84 Hesse St
- 8 **Shelter Shed Restaurant**
25 Hesse St

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

QLF thanks our partners and sponsors for their invaluable support



**Borough
of Queenscliff**

Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale,
Victoria, Australia



ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS



FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

Shelter Shed
TARRA Queenscliff
Wharf Street Pantry
Seaview Gallery
Farm Foods

Point Lonsdale Primary School
Kerleys Coastal Real Estate
Queenscliff Sweet Shop
Queenscliff Gallery
Homebody Orchard

Willow Tree Cafe
Gingerbaby
North Bellarine Film Society
Saltbush Fine Foods



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