

# HARBOUR TO HORIZON MARITIME FESTIVAL

1-9 MARCH



**Borough of Queenscliffe**  
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia



# TASTES OF THE SEA

## MARITIME DINING TRAIL

1-9 MARCH 2026



***From harbour to horizon and straight to the table Tastes of the Sea invites locals and visitors to eat their way through Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale during the Maritime Festival.***

*Running from 1-9 March 2026, this nine-day dining trail transforms the twin coastal towns into a vibrant, festival-long food destination, where maritime history, local seafood and coastal flavours take centre stage.*

*Across the Festival, restaurants, cafés, pubs and hotels will serve up special seafood dishes and signature drinks inspired by Queenscliff's rich maritime heritage, Victorian seafood and the rhythms of life by the sea. From a hearty fish dish to a perfectly mixed Dark and Stormy cocktail, each venue brings its own flavour and story to the table.*

*Visitors are encouraged to follow the Tastes of the Sea Dining Trail Map, available online in late February, and explore participating venues across both towns sampling dishes and drinks created especially for the Maritime Festival.*

*Book a table for lunch or dinner before or after a maritime talk, tour or event, and enjoy festival dishes alongside stories of shipwrecks, lighthouses, rescues and life on the water.*

*Whether you're visiting for the festival weekend or dining locally mid-week, Tastes of the Sea is your invitation to slow down, savour the coast, and experience Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale the way they're meant to be enjoyed.*

***One plate. One seaside view. One unforgettable taste of the sea.***

# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

1 - 6 MARCH 2026



# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

MAR  
1

## SUNDAY

### **GIANTS OF THE SOUTHERN SEAS - VICTORIA'S PREHISTORIC COAST**

#### **Ben Francishelli & the Citizen Scientists**

Join paleontologist **Ben Francischelli** on a journey more than 30 million years in the making! Dive into Victoria's prehistoric ocean to uncover bone-crushing sharks the size of a Humpback whale, giant Killer sperm whales and other fascinating creatures. In this one-off talk, Ben will uncover the evolutionary history of Victoria over the last 30 million years, including along our very own Bellarine Coast. Ben will showcase hundreds of real fossils on the day that you can touch and share some of the newest fossil discoveries from the Bellarine Peninsula, Bayside Melbourne and the Surf Coast.

**2.00 – 4.00 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum Members \$15 Book Online**

### **THE STORY OF CAYZER BOATS**

#### ***The Cayzer family in conversain conversation with Michael Cathcart***

From watching Anders Hanson, the region's first boatbuilder, at work, to shaping Queenscliff's fishing fleet and ferries, *The Story of Cayzer Boats* is a multi-generational tale of craftsmanship, resilience, and life on the water. Spanning wartime work, post-war growth, industry change, and modern restoration practice, this conversation explores how one family helped define boatbuilding in Queenscliff, and why those skills still matter today.

**5.00 – 6.30 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum Members \$15 Book Online**

**Bar open — drinks at bar price**

MAR  
2

## MONDAY

### **BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MARITIME COLLECTION**

#### **Special guided tour of the Museum and archives.**

Step beyond the public galleries and into the Museum's archive and collection spaces for a rare behind-the-scenes experience. Led by our guides, this special tour offers a deeper look at the stories, photographs, and objects rarely seen by visitors, with a particular focus on 100 years of the Lifeboat *Queenscliffe* and the people who served on her.

**2.00 – 3.30 pm**

**Queenscliffe Maritime Museum \$15 - Numbers limited to 15 participants**

**Book online**

### **THE RISE & DEMISE OF AUSTRALIA'S BARRACOUTA FISHING INDUSTRY**

#### **Roger B. Beeston - Director & Principal Heritage Architect RBA Architects +Conservation Consultants**

Along Victoria's rugged Bass Strait coastline, a chain of ports known as the 'couta coast' once powered a booming barracouta fishing industry. Faced with dangerous waters and the challenges of The Rip, Queenscliff fishermen and local boatbuilders developed the iconic couta boat, a vessel that transformed the industry and supplied millions of pounds of fish to Victorian tables.

This talk explores how the industry rose, flourished, and ultimately collapsed in the mid-1970s, and how the legacy of the couta boat endures today as a symbol of maritime ingenuity and coastal culture.

**7.00 – 8.00 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum Members \$15 Book Online**

**Bar open — drinks at bar prices**

# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

MAR  
3

## TUESDAY

### ***BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MARITIME COLLECTION***

**Special guided tour of the Museum and archives.**

Step beyond the public galleries and into the Museum's archive and collection spaces for a rare behind-the-scenes experience. Led by our guides, this special tour offers a deeper look at the stories, photographs, and objects rarely seen by visitors, with a particular focus on 100 years of the Lifeboat *Queenscliffe* and the people who served on her.

**2.00 – 3.30 pm**

**Queenscliffe Maritime Museum \$15 - Numbers limited to 15 participants**

**Book online**

### ***OUR SAILING HISTORY: THE SHIPWRECKS OF QUEENSCLIFF AND SURROUNDS***

Heritage Victoria - Danielle Wilkinson and Liam Phillips are maritime archaeologists with Heritage Victoria, working to protect historic shipwrecks under Victorian and Commonwealth heritage legislation. Both are occupationally qualified SCUBA divers with postgraduate training in maritime archaeology and have worked on shipwreck sites in Australia and internationally.

Situated just inside the treacherous Heads, Queenscliff is surrounded by one of Victoria's richest concentrations of shipwrecks. These wrecks offer a remarkable window into the history of shipping, trade, and life along the coast, spanning more than a century. This talk explores the challenges of recording, conserving, and protecting underwater heritage, where fragile shipwrecks must be carefully managed while still allowing respectful access and public understanding. It also traces the journey of artefacts, legally and, at times, illegally recovered that have found a final home at the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum.

Join us as we uncover the stories of nearby wrecks including William Salthouse, Sacramento, Holyhead, George Roper, and others, and learn how you can play a role in protecting these historic sites for future generations.

**5.00 – 6.30 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum Members \$15 Book Online**

**Bar open — drinks at bar prices**



*Photo: Rodney Nicholson*

# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

## WEDNESDAY

MAR  
4

### ***BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MARITIME COLLECTION***

**Special guided tour of the Museum and archives.**

Step beyond the public galleries and into the Museum's archive and collection spaces for a rare behind-the-scenes experience. Led by our guides, this special tour offers a deeper look at the stories, photographs, and objects rarely seen by visitors, with a particular focus on 100 years of the Lifeboat - the Queenscliffe and the people who served on her.

**11.00 – 12.30 pm**

**Queenscliffe Maritime Museum \$15 - Numbers limited to 15 participants**

**Book Online**



# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

## WEDNESDAY

MAR  
4

### ***ALL ABOUT THE BAY RESEARCH***

Victoria's marine habitats – what we have, what we have lost, and how we are getting it back

**Presenters: Prof. Tim Dempster, Laney Callahan, Rick Verkooijen  
Deakin Marine Scientific Research and Innovation Centre**

Victorians love our coasts and bays, particularly in summer where we stream out across its shores. But what we see now beneath the waves has changed dramatically over the past 100 years. Many species, such as kelp, oysters and seagrasses that formed extensive underwater reefs and forests are in steep decline, and the ecosystem has shifted to simpler states with less biodiversity. But there is hope – we have discovered new ways to recover these lost habitats and teams are rapidly rolling out restoration programs. This talk will cover Victoria's unique marine biodiversity, the habitats we have lost and give insights into the teams of managers, indigenous ranger groups and scientists who are restoring our marine estate.

**2.00 – 3.30 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum Members \$15**

**BOOK ONLINE**



### ***FIRST PEOPLES OF THE SEA & COAST***

**Ash Skinner — Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation**

A historical overview of the local first people's relationship with the Sea & Coast.

**7.00 – 8.30 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum Members \$15**

**Bar open — drinks at bar prices**

**Book Online**



# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

## THURSDAY

MAR  
5

### **THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES — IWD MORNING TEA**

Join us for a panel conversation hosted by **Hannie Rayson**, featuring women who work in, care for, and are deeply connected to the marine and maritime environment. Through personal stories and professional insight, the panel explores what it means to live, work, and steward the sea and coast, and why women's perspectives are vital to its future.

**10.30 am – 12.00 pm**

**Tarra Queenscliff - 1 Wharf Street East**

**Cost \$25 Museum Members \$15** Book Online

### **ARRIVAL OF THE TALL-SHIP ALMA DOEPEL**

Join us in **Queenscliff Harbour** to welcome the iconic tall-ship *Alma Doepel*. Supported by Queenscliff Harbour and the Borough of Queenscliffe, this visit marks *Alma Doepel*'s first visit to another port in 25 years, making it a truly special moment for the town. She will be docked in Queenscliff until Sunday 8 March, with opportunities to step aboard and tour the vessel during her stay.

Expected arrival: 2.00 pm (weather and wind permitting)



# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

**FRIDAY**

**MAR  
6**

## **LET'S GO FISHING - MARITIME CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF THE QUEENSLIFF FISHING COMMUNITY**

### **Adjunct Professor Brad Duncan**

Dr Brad Duncan is currently the Senior Maritime Archaeologist of the Maritime Heritage Program for the NSW Heritage and an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the Department of Archaeology, University of New England.

Discover the hidden expertise behind Queenscliff's fishing families and the knowledge that kept lives and vessels safe.

From the early days of settlement, fishing shaped everyday life along Southern Port Phillip. In Queenscliff, a diverse fishing community grew around Fishermen's Flat, working the rich seasonal fisheries and developing an intimate understanding of the sea, weather, and coastline. Drawing on archival research, archaeology, and first-hand oral histories, this talk brings those stories to life. It reveals how local fishers' deep knowledge not only sustained families and fed communities, but also played a crucial role in shipwreck rescues and maritime safety.

**10.30 – 11.30 am**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum Members \$15 Book Online**



# MARITIME HISTORY WEEK

MAR  
6



## **QUEENIE 100 — THE LIFEBOAT QUEENSCLIFFE TURNS 100**

### **Free family celebration at the Museum**

Join us as we celebrate 100 years of the Lifeboat *Queenscliffe* with a relaxed, family-friendly party at the Museum. Everyone is welcome to drop in for birthday cake, music from the Sea of Ukes, and a chance to celebrate a century of courage, service, and community connection.

**3.30 – 5.00 pm**

**Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Free event — just come along and join the celebration**

## **THE MEN OF THE LIFEBOAT QUEENSCLIFFE — AND WHAT CAME NEXT**

**Michael Cathcart** in conversation with the remaining *Queenscliffe* lifeboat crew and the Coast Guard Queenscliff members.

A rare opportunity to hear directly from those who risked their lives at sea, and those who carry that responsibility forward today.

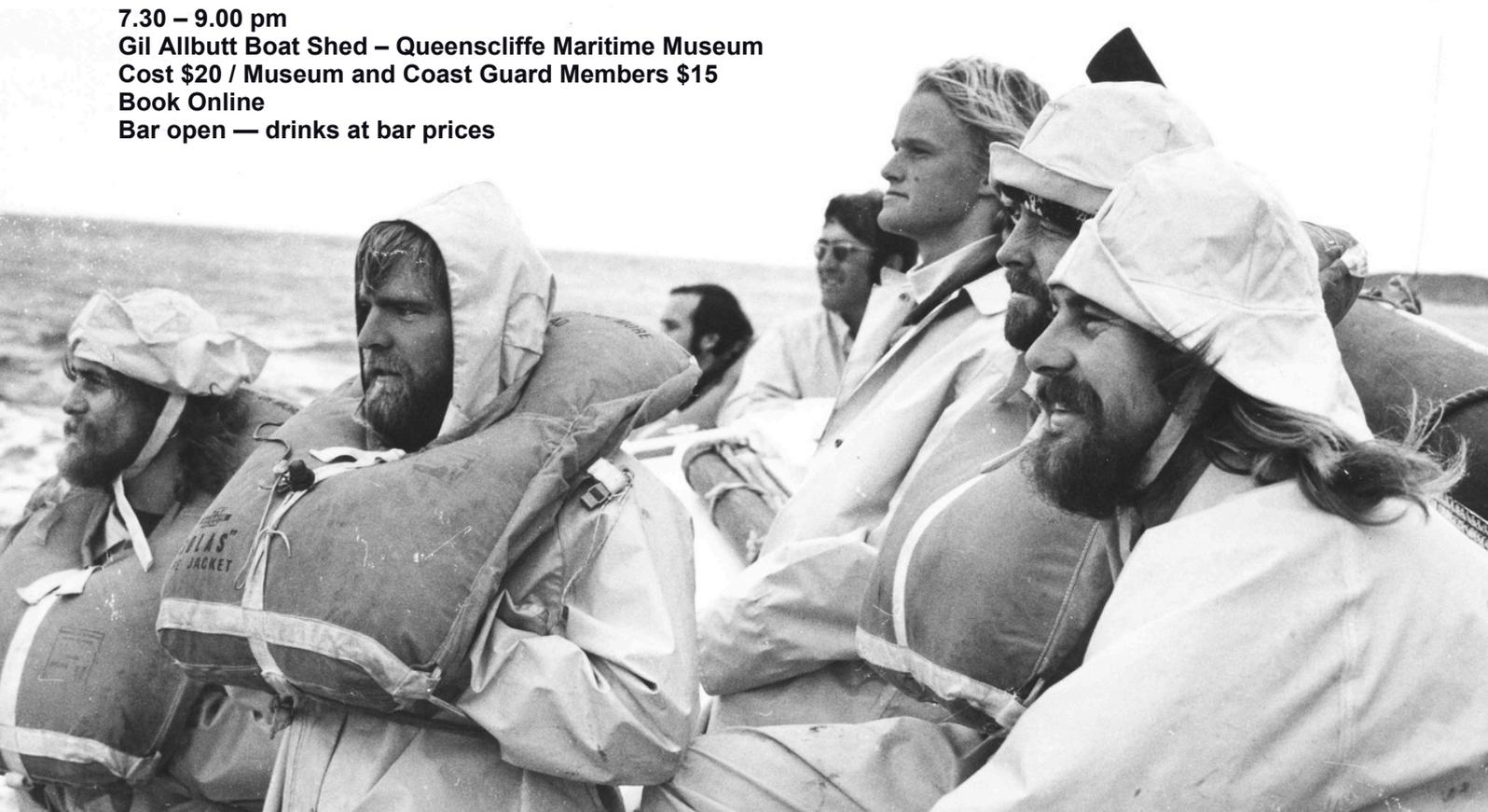
**7.30 – 9.00 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**Cost \$20 / Museum and Coast Guard Members \$15**

**Book Online**

**Bar open — drinks at bar prices**



QUEENSCLIFF  
MARITIME  
WEEKEND

7 - 9 MARCH 2026

# MARITIME WEEKEND

## ALL WEEKEND

### ***Lifeboat Shed Tours***

Book your place for a guided tour of the Lifeboat Shed on the pier, a historic structure rarely open to the public. The shed which housed the lifeboat is located on the Queenscliff 'New' or 'Steamer' Pier (built in 1884). This shed includes the internal section of the slipway used to launch and retrieve the lifeboat.

**\$10 per person \$5 Children under 15**  
**Bookings online — numbers limited per tour**

### ***Queenscliffe Maritime Museum - open all weekend from 11.00 am***

The Queenscliffe Maritime Museum celebrates the rich maritime history of Queenscliff, southern Port Phillip and Bass Strait, bringing to life the vessels, people and stories that shaped this unique coastal region. Originally established to preserve the iconic Lifeboat *Queenscliffe*, the Museum's collection has grown to include exhibitions on sea pilots, steamships, boatbuilding, lighthouses, fishing and local seafaring life, supported by historic artefacts, photographs and maritime objects.

Set on the waterfront at 2 Wharf Street, Queenscliff, the Museum also features outdoor heritage displays including an original fisherman's cottage, the Fishermen's Waiting Shed and relics such as the buried remains of HMVS Lonsdale, the pilot boat the Mavis III, and a Pt Lonsdale Bathing Box.

Whether you're interested in dramatic shipwreck tales, heroic rescues, early boatbuilding, or the evolution of life by the sea, the Museum offers stories and experiences for all ages in a stunning harbour setting.

### ***Pirate Escape Room***

**Bookings online via - [maritimequeenscliffe.org.au](http://maritimequeenscliffe.org.au)**

You've been taken captive by the notorious pirate Benito Bonito (aka **Benito of the Bloody Blade**). To claim the hidden treasure, ye must decode the clues, solve puzzles and navigate through treacherous waters of this escape room. Beware, for time is of the essence!

### ***Tours of the Tall Ship Alma Doepel***

Presented by the Alma Doepel Trust [www.almadoepel.com.au/about-us/](http://www.almadoepel.com.au/about-us/)

Built in 1903 in Bellingen, NSW, Alma Doepel has spent more than a century sailing Australia's coastline. Originally designed to carry cargo such as timber, wheat, and jam, she later served as a supply vessel during World War II in Papua New Guinea, before returning to commercial service around Tasmania. Saved from scrapping in the 1970s, Alma Doepel was restored and went on to play a remarkable role in youth sail training, completing around 140 voyages between 1988 and 1999 and giving more than 4,000 young Victorians the chance to experience life at sea.

While in port at Queenscliff, the Alma Doepel Trust invites visitors to step aboard and tour this iconic tall ship, learning about her history, her restoration, and her ongoing role in building resilience, teamwork, leadership, and confidence in young people through tall ship sailing.

**Book online - see back cover**

# MARITIME WEEKEND



## SATURDAY

From 10.00 am at the Queenscliff Harbour.

Arrive early, find a good viewing spot, and enjoy the atmosphere along the harbour before the Festival Opening.

10.30 am

### ***Festival Opening and Blessing of the Fleet in the Queenscliff Harbour***

Join us in Queenscliff Harbour for the official opening of the Queenscliff Maritime Festival and a reflective **Blessing of the Fleet**. This much-loved ceremony returns, bringing the community together to honour the vessels, crews, and maritime traditions that have shaped Queenscliff and Port Phillip for generations, marking the start of a weekend of celebration on land and sea.

10.00 am onwards

### ***Boat displays and maritime craft demonstrations***

Explore a showcase of wooden boats and classic craft on display in the Harbour dry stand area throughout the weekend - alongside a wide range of vessels afloat in the harbour, on the yacht wharf, and on nearby moorings. Throughout the weekend, enjoy maritime craft demonstrations, including traditional boatbuilding techniques and the art of nautical knot-tying, offering a hands-on glimpse into life on the water.

11.00 am onwards

### ***Tours of the Tall Ship Alma Doepel***

Presented by the Alma DoepelTrust [www.almadoepel.com.au/about-us/](http://www.almadoepel.com.au/about-us/)

Built in 1903 in Bellingen, NSW, Alma Doepel has spent more than a century sailing Australia's coastline. Originally designed to carry cargo such as timber, wheat, and jam, she later served as a supply vessel during World War II in Papua New Guinea, before returning to commercial service around Tasmania. Saved from scrapping in the 1970s, *Alma Doepel* was restored and went on to play a remarkable role in youth sail training, completing around 140 voyages between 1988 and 1999 and giving more than 4,000 young Victorians the chance to experience life at sea. While in port at Queenscliff, the Alma DoepelTrust invites visitors to step aboard and tour this iconic tall ship, learning about her history, her restoration, and her ongoing role in building resilience, teamwork, leadership, and confidence in young people through tall ship sailing.

**Book online - see back cover**

12:00 pm

### ***Live music: The Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne – Jazz Ensemble***

The Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne – Jazz Ensemble, based at HMAS Cerberus, showcases outstanding Navy musicians performing jazz styles from swing and standards to bossa nova and New Orleans jazz.

# MARITIME WEEKEND

## SATURDAY

**1.00 pm**

### ***Sail-past of vessels past the main pier***

A highlight of the Festival on the water, the sail-past of vessels brings together emergency and rescue craft led by the Queenscliff Coast Guard, traditional couta boats, classic yachts, and vessels of all shapes and sizes. The flotilla will depart the harbour and sail past the main pier to take the formal salute from dignitaries, creating a powerful harbour spectacle that can be viewed from the beach, the pier, and the headland.

**2.00 pm start**

### ***Bay sailing race***

A highlight of the Festival on the water, the **Queenscliff Yacht Race** will be sailed as a handicap race around fixed marks off Queenscliff. The course will be set on the day to suit prevailing winds and tides, ensuring an exciting and competitive race. Organised by the **Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club**, the race will feature a mixed fleet of keel boats, couta boats, trailer sailers and classic timber yachts, with visiting vessels expected from the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club, the Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club, and beyond.



### **ALL WEEKEND**

- ***Queenscliffe Maritime Museum - open from 11am***
- ***Pirate Escape Room - book online***
- ***Life Boat Shed Tours - book online***
- ***Alma Doepel Tours - book online***

# MARITIME WEEKEND

MAR  
7

## **ALMA DOEPEL - CANAPES ON THE DECK**

Step aboard the historic tall ship *Alma Doepel* for an exclusive evening in Queenscliff Harbour, featuring cocktails & live music in a truly unique setting.

This special event is a joint fundraiser for the Alma Doepel Trust and the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, with funds raised directly supporting the ongoing restoration of *Alma Doepel* and the Museum's vital work in preserving and caring for its maritime collections. By attending, you'll be helping ensure that this important vessel, our maritime history stories, and skills are protected and passed on to future generations.

**6.00 – 8.00 pm**

**Queenscliff Harbour**

**\$150 per person - [trybooking.com/events/landing/1529723](https://trybooking.com/events/landing/1529723)**

**Strictly limited to 80 tickets**

*Joint fundraiser for the Alma Doepel Trust & the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum*

## **THE BOAT SHED GIG NIGHT**

**Shedding the Blues proudly presents — Live Music by the Sea**

A high-energy night of live music and dancing in the Gill Allbutt Boat Shed, featuring a line-up of Shedding the Blues bands for a great night out.

**8.00 – 11.30 pm**

**Gil Allbutt Boat Shed – Queenscliffe Maritime Museum**

**\$15 per person BOOK ONLINE**

**Bar open — drinks at bar prices**

# MARITIME WEEKEND

MAR  
8

## SUNDAY

**10.00 am onwards** ***Boat displays and maritime craft demonstrations***

Explore a showcase of wooden boats and classic craft on display in the Harbour dry-stand area throughout the weekend - alongside a wide range of vessels afloat in the harbour, on the yacht wharf, and on nearby moorings. Throughout the weekend, enjoy maritime craft demonstrations, including traditional boatbuilding techniques and the art of nautical knot-tying, offering a hands-on glimpse into life on the water.

**11.00 am - 3.00 pm** ***Live music: Shedding the Blues playing in the Queenscliff Harbour***

**11:00 am onwards** ***Tours of the Tall Ship Alma Doepel***

Presented by the Alma Doepel Trust [www.almadoepel.com.au/about-us/](http://www.almadoepel.com.au/about-us/)

Built in 1903 in Bellingen, NSW, *Alma Doepel* has spent more than a century sailing Australia's coastline. Originally designed to carry cargo such as timber, wheat, and jam, she later served as a supply vessel during World War II in Papua New Guinea, before returning to commercial service around Tasmania. Saved from scrapping in the 1970s, *Alma Doepel* was restored and went on to play a remarkable role in youth sail training, completing around 140 voyages between 1988 and 1999 and giving more than 4,000 young Victorians the chance to experience life at sea.

While in port at Queenscliff, the Alma Doepel Trust invites visitors to step aboard and tour this iconic tall ship, learning about her history, her restoration, and her ongoing role in building resilience, teamwork, leadership, and confidence in young people through tall ship sailing.

**Book online - see back cover**

### ALL WEEKEND

- ***Queenscliffe Maritime Museum - open from 11am***
- ***Pirate Escape Room - book online***
- ***Life Boat Shed Tours - book online***
- ***Alma Doepel Tours - open from 11am***

# MARITIME WEEKEND

MAR  
9

## MONDAY

### ***BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MARITIME COLLECTION***

**Special guided tour of the Museum and archives.**

Step beyond the public galleries and into the Museum's archive and collection spaces for a rare behind-the-scenes experience. Led by our guides, this special tour offers a deeper look at the stories, photographs, and objects rarely seen by visitors, with a particular focus on 100 years of the Lifeboat *Queenscliffe* and the people who served on her.

**11.00 – 12.30 pm**

**Queenscliffe Maritime Museum \$15 - Numbers limited to 15 participants**

**Book online**



[maritimequeenscliffe.org.au/whats-on/](http://maritimequeenscliffe.org.au/whats-on/)

# MARITIME WEEKEND

MAR  
9

## MONDAY

### *Lifeboat Shed Tours*

Book your place for a one-hour guided tour of the Lifeboat Shed on the pier, a historic structure rarely open to the public. The shed which housed the lifeboat is located on the Queenscliff 'New' or 'Steamer' Pier (built in 1884). This shed includes the internal section of the slipway used to launch and retrieve the lifeboat.

**Tour times from 11.00 am - 2.00 pm**  
**\$10 per person \$5 Children under 15**  
**Bookings online — numbers limited per tour**



# FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

Thank you to the many  
supporters, friends & advisors



**Borough of Queenscliffe**

Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia



50 years of Volunteer Marine Rescue



**Wadawurrung**  
Traditional Owners  
Aboriginal Corporation

**WANTED!**  
**ESCAPE ROOM ARTISTS TO**  
**SEARCH FOR BENITO'S TREASURE**  
 OPEN EVERY WEEKEND  
 and on school holidays



**Book online:**  
[www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au](http://www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au)

**Point  
 Lonsdale  
 Lighthouse  
 Tours**

**TOURS AVAILABLE  
 EVERY SUNDAY  
 MORNING**

ADMISSION	PRICE
Family (2A + 3C)	\$40
Adult	\$15
Concession	\$12
Child	\$8
Child under 5yrs not permitted	

Check website for T&Cs



Scan QR Code to book online




# FESTIVAL BOOKINGS:



[trybooking.com/eventlist/queenscliffemaritimemuseum](http://trybooking.com/eventlist/queenscliffemaritimemuseum)

**Maritime History**  
**Week events, tours**

*Alma Doepel*  
**Tours**

[trybooking.com/DJCHH](http://trybooking.com/DJCHH)

