

To find out more

Visit the Website or contact one of our offices to:

- Refer a Child
- Learn more of the latest news and obtain updates
- Make a fully tax deductible donation
- Sponsor a child, camp or project
- Donate items – visit the Wish List
- Arrange a guest speaker to come to you
- Arrange to visit the Cottage for a talk and tour
- Join a Branch
- Receive our annual report, financial statements, newsletters, brochures
- Enquire about volunteer opportunities
- To discuss corporate partnerships or bequests with the General Manager

www.cottagebythesea.com.au

Location

The Cottage is located in the historic township of Queenscliff on the Bellarine Peninsula. Melways Reference 500 G1



Get involved

Our Purpose

The purpose of Cottage by the Sea is to improve the lives of children in need by offering seaside holidays at Queenscliff. The children are accepted as individuals with differing needs, expectations and responses and are provided with the opportunity to grow, learn and play – away from the stress of their everyday lives.

Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff Inc.

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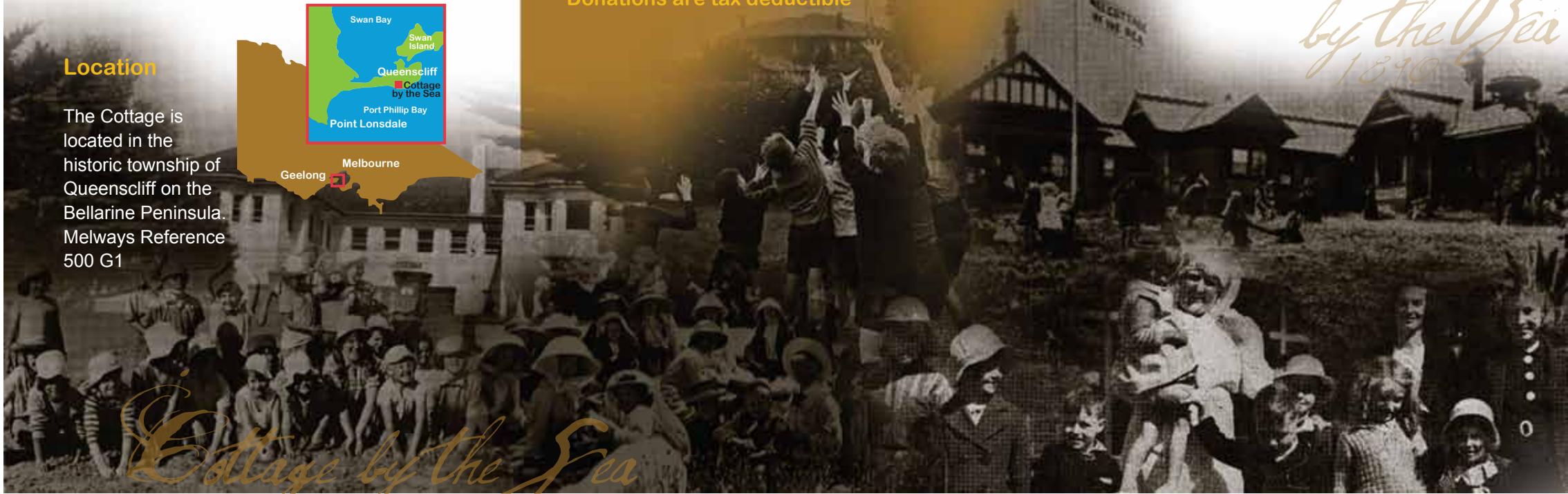
Donations are tax deductible

The History

**Cottage
by the Sea
Queenscliff**

...helping children and families in need

*Cottage
by the Sea
1890*



Cottage by the Sea

The Beginning

Cottage by the Sea is located in Queenscliff, Victoria and has a proud history of helping children in need since 1890. We invite you to journey through time, enjoying our rich history and celebrating the achievement of 120 years of providing holiday care for children in a seaside environment.

Cottage by the Sea was established and originally known as the Ministering Children's League (MCL). Initially catering for convalescing children (groups of 30-40) staying for 3-4 weeks, today the Cottage cares for smaller groups of children from varying disadvantaged backgrounds for shorter holidays.

- 1884** The MCL was established in England by the Countess of Meath.
- 1889** After meeting the Countess, Elizabeth Calder (Maldon) and Annie Hitchcock (Geelong) established an MCL branch in Victoria.
- 1890** MCL was formed and commenced fund-raising activities to establish a convalescing/holiday home for children.
- 1895** The MCL purchased for 1,212 pounds the premises at the current Queenscliff location

Since 1890

- 1895** The timber Federation style Cottage accommodating 12 children, was officially opened by Lady Brassey on 7th December.
- 1936** Due to deterioration, the original timber Cottage was demolished and a Building Appeal started to raise 10,000 pounds for a new building.
- 1938** The current two-storey brick building was completed and officially opened by Lady Huntingfield on 20th January.
- 1939** After WWII broke out, the Defence Dept gave Matron, staff and children 24 hours notice to vacate the property, which was to be used as a military hospital.
- 1939** MCL rented Happy Days cottage in Black Rock, continuing to offer camps for needy children.
- 1942** Finding the capacity at Happy Days inadequate the MCL purchased a larger building, The Lodge, in Sandringham to continue its mission.
- 1943** The Defence Dept returned the Cottage to MCL and, following refurbishment to return it to suitability for children, camps re-commenced.

To 2010

- 1953** Camps continued at Sandringham and Queenscliff until The Lodge was sold in 1954.
- 1989** The MCL Inc. changed its name to Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff, Inc.
- 1990** CBTS celebrated 100 years of providing for children and families in need.
- 2006** The adjoining Riptide Motel property was purchased to cater for increased demands, enabling smaller camps to be run.
- 2008** The innovative Take a Break, REEF and Freeman camp programs were introduced.
- 2009** CBTS catered for around 1,0000 needy children, in groups of up to 35, for 3-7 days.
- 2010** The Cottage proudly announces it is debt free, owns the adjoining property outright, and the Board is working with staff on a Strategic Plan for future growth and sustainability.

