

GEELONG

Cottage by the Sea gets ready to reveal \$3m makeover

Upgrades to an iconic Queenscliff building are set to be completed next month, enabling a much-loved children's charity to enhance its services post-pandemic.

Natalee Kerr, Geelong Advertiser

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A much-loved children's charity is preparing to enhance its services post-pandemic as a multi-million-dollar renovation nears completion.

Queenscliff's historic Cottage by the Sea is currently undergoing a transformation costing in excess of \$3m.

Chief executive Adam Wake said he hoped to see the facility, which was forced to close its camps due to COVID-19, [reopen to children mid-November](#) depending on health restrictions.

"In the last couple of weeks things have really moved forward and are taking shape, you can see how amazing it's going to be," Mr Wake said.



 Cottage by the Sea building redevelopment. CEO Adam Wake and Bill Kerr (Cottage by the Sea Community Relations. picture: Glenn Ferguson

"We can't wait to have the kids back face-to-face and share this cosy space and beautiful views with them."

The upgrades are set to include a new multipurpose space, foyer, entrance, dining area and double-storey deck.

Other accessibility improvements include an internal lift, accessible toilets, bathrooms and modified beds.



📷 Cottage by the Sea building redevelopment. CEO Adam Wake and Bill Kerr (Cottage by the Sea Community Relations) on the second storey lookout deck. picture: Glenn Ferguson

An internal slide, connecting the first floor to the ground floor, is set to be completed in the coming weeks.

The cottage attracts between 1100 and 1500 young people from Years 8-12 each year. Mr Wake said he expected to see an increase in demand to support children in need following COVID-19.

“In the current environment, we know there is going to be an increased need of services looking to help our young people,” Mr Wake said.



📷 Cottage by the Sea building redevelopment. CEO Adam Wake in new Cottage entry area. Picture: Glenn Ferguson

“The upgrades are one of the steps in that direction to enable us to satisfy that coming through and beyond this.”

A 2016 safety audit revealed issues that needed to be addressed in order to bring the old cottage building to modern standards. The redevelopment came from community donations and \$1.5m from the federal government’s Building Better Regions Fund.

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