



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the October 2017 newsletter of the Point Lonsdale Civic Association.

Your committee members for 2017 are:

President - Fay Agterhuis

Vice President – Merv Jaensch

Treasurer and Communications Officer – Laurie Muscat

Secretary – Michelle Jepson

Correspondence Secretary – Sue Wasterval

Membership Officer – Andrew Rogers

Member Meeting Coordinators – Jacqui Pierce and Michelle Jepson

General Members – Peter Russell, Andrew Sutherland, Rob Minty and David Kenwood.

We have 2 members on the Avenue of Honour Reference Group of Council and 5 on the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Reference Group of Council.

2017 has been a very busy year so far due to writing up responses to the Council Plan and the Council Implementation Plan that are redeveloped every four years when new Councillors take up the reins. In addition there is lots happening in the Borough and some of the issues that the Committee are involved with are summarised below:

SOME RECENT QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

The following Questions were asked by PLCA & friends at the September Borough of Queenscliff Council meeting:

As the proposal to build Eco Cabins on Shortlands Bluff has been strongly contested by the PLCA the following question was asked:

Question : Regarding a motion by Bob Merriman to relocate proposed Eco cabin installation:

We request that this motion be replaced with the following one as we consider the rush to find a new location needs to be tempered with the need to achieve a long term and sustainable outcome.

"That the CEO extend the long overdue camping area study which included the issue of the Shortlands Bluff location for Eco Cabins, to consider alternative locations for the proposed cabin installation. This should include the camping areas included in the original study at the Queenscliff Recreation reserve and Golightly Caravan park. It may also include consideration of additional camping areas on council land at Murray Road or similar sites as necessary to meet expected or extended camper numbers. The revised report should then be subject of a community consultation process before any decision is made on camping area configuration as intended from the original study.

If it is considered that this procedure will create an unacceptable delay to process, a community reference group be formed to work with council, and the consultant, to finalise the camping area study."

We would appreciate council careful consideration of this suggestion. Thank-you

Answer: The Bob Merriman motion stood unchanged. The Councillor (Bob Merriman) spoke about the question put, and thanked the PLCA for their input.

The possible expansion of the boundary of the Borough of Queenscliffe has been a subject of great interest to the community:

Preamble : Referring to minutes of July 2017 Borough of Queenscliffe Ordinary Council meeting:

"At the BoQ council meeting 24/2/16, Councillors Russell / Merriman moved (& Carried unanimously):

"That Council:

1. Request the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Minister for Local Government formally requesting that she establish a local Government panel, pursuant to Section 220A of the Local Government Act 1989, to conduct a review of the municipal boundary between the Borough Of Queenscliffe and Greater Geelong City Council, with a view to Borough of Queenscliffe making a restructuring order so that the boundary is altered and the entire postcode area of 3225 is included with the Borough of Queenscliffe's municipal district, and;
2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer write to Greater Geelong City Council's Chief Executive Officer advising of this resolution.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer present a research paper to Council (and community) on the likely impacts, present and future, to the Borough Council, such as, but limited to, net-financial costs, infrastructure and capital works, planning, staffing, and other likely consequences of successful boundary realignment."

Question:

1. Has the local Government panel been formed?
2. What has happened to the research paper requested by former Cr. Russell & Cr. Merriman, and, if completed, when will it be released to the public?

Answer by the CEO:

Council officers have prepared a research paper that has been the subject of a confidential Assembly meeting workshop with the Council.

It is anticipated that this agenda item will be considered by Council at its September 2017 Ordinary Meeting.

In relation to the formation of a panel, this authority rests with the Minister for Local Government and the Minister is yet to receive formal feedback from the Borough of Queenscliffe Council so this has not occurred at this time.

As there is some community concern regarding the road works at "The Point" development the following question was raised:

Question:

Do the Borough know when the completion date is for the roundabout works at The Point, Bellarine Hwy? The only scarce information is that it will be completed in June 2017.

Answer by the General Manager Planning & Infrastructure:

The contractor undertaking the roadworks has advised Council that the scheduled practical completion date for the roundabout is 2 October 2017.

Question: Is this still on track?

Answer: Due the amount of rain, the round-a-bout completion date has been changed from early October, to the end of November.

INFORMATION ON CURRENT COUNCIL PROJECTS

Queenscliff Harbor Pty Ltd – Fishermen’s Wharf Re-Development

QHPL are eager to redevelop the land and derelict Fishermen’s Wharf located at the end of Bridge, Bay and Beach Streets in Fisherman’s Flat, Queenscliff.

The new wharf plan has 4 main components (1) Dinghy Basin rebuild (2) Fishermen’s Wharf rebuild (80 meters of new wharf) (3) Cayzers Slipway reconstruction (4) Harbor Heritage Walk. The previous unpopular stingray stadium proposal will not be part of the new wharf development.

QHPL estimate it will take 8 to 12 weeks for planning approvals and 6 months to rebuild the wharf. State Government will provide \$1.8 million for the project, which QHPL hope to start in February 2018. All planning documents will go onto the Harbor website including support documents. Council will also make a contribution to the overall project. Construction of the Dinghy Basin, Fishermen’s Wharf and Cayzer Slipway, using steel sheeting with tie backs, will provide new boating facilities and allow for future sea level rises associated with climate change.

Following the failure of the stingray proposal QHPL entered into a community engagement process, which provided a lot of good ideas with possible tourist links.

A key community message was “the need to tell the story of the harbor”. QHPL, with the assistance of a new harbor consultative committee, have decided that a heritage walkway (with installations) that tells the story of Queenscliff Harbor will now form part of the development. Some locals believe the retention of at least one wharf building would also be a good outcome for the community.

QHPL has a 60 year lease over the harbor including the Fishermen’s Wharf redevelopment area. Once completed the new wharf facilities will greatly improve the waterfront area and provide berths for larger vessels, recreational fishermen will also be permitted to fish from the wharf. Some car parks will also be constructed behind residential streets to reduce traffic risk and make the area more user friendly.

Queenscliff Lighthouse Reserve:

Following a 2014 Public Survey that overwhelmingly resulted in a "landscaping only" option for Shortland Bluff, Queenscliffe Council progressed a plan that included, among other plans, the construction of 10 x 2 storey tourist accommodation units (deemed Eco-Cabins) on Shortland Bluff. A small group of concerned “Queenscliffers”, emboldened by the success of the public campaign to save the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve from development, banded together to convince locals and Victorians that this disastrous project shouldn't go ahead. It was felt that the Queenscliff Lighthouse Reserve's heritage and environmental attributes were far too important to all Victorians to allow it to be spoilt by commercial development. It was felt that, like those at Point Lonsdale and Point Nepean, the historic headland at Shortland Bluff located at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, needed to be protected and if possible federally listed.

The campaign to protect Shortland Bluff next to Queenscliff Fort included FOI requests, signs, meetings with MP's, letters to the editor and a successful petition that quickly got the attention of both Federal and State MP's who realized the importance of saving this special crown land site for future generations. As a consequence a number of public meetings took place at the lighthouse reserves at which the Federal and State MP's pledged to tie any government grants to Council relocating the tourist housing to another location. Council has recently been awarded a further State Government grant on the proviso that the tourist cabins are not built on Queenscliff Lighthouse Reserve.

Cr Merriman has since indicated that the 10 units will be relocated to the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve with the existing 7 single storey cabins and manager’s quarters on that site being relocated. Public campaigns have now saved both the Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserves from

Council inspired commercial developments and measures are now underway to have both sites nationally listed for their heritage importance.

Queenscliff Recreation Reserve

The Queenscliff Recreation Reserve, which is currently undergoing some improvements to the sports oval, is also set to host 3 new uses including a new car park with some 90 spaces, new sporting facilities including 2 new netball courts and a cricket training facility in the south west corner and 10 x 2 storey tourist accommodation units that will be located in the south eastern section of the reserve after the 7 existing cabins and the managers quarters are relocated. Attached is a new landscape plan for the car park and new sporting facilities to compensate for the loss of the vegetation once construction begins. The community still awaits the release of the Caravan Parks Study commenced over 12 months ago.

(Editors note: The Tender Document – Not For Construction – Plan below is from Tract Landscape Architects Urban Designers Town Planners – and all Copyright remains with them. The plan is not to scale, and are to be read in conjunction with details, specifications and other Engineering documents.)

Queenscliff Ferry Terminal Development:

New ferry terminal developments are planned for both the Sorrento and Queenscliff terminals. Searoad Ferries will continue to operate 3 ferries at least for the next 10 years. Annual passenger numbers were 850,000 with around 200,000 cars being transported every year, however no data was given on how many people/cars actually stop in the township.

The new Queenscliff development includes a new visitor experience featuring a new larger terminal building (over 11 metres high) with a very distinctive sculptured stainless steel roof designed by F2 Architects, a new public walkway extending along the seaward side (part covered) of the terminal area to the very eastern end of the seawall, refurbished cafe, new passenger boarding arrangement via first floor level (similar to an airport boarding area) with an elevated walkway leading directly into the ferry so passengers will no longer have to compete with cars when embarking and disembarking. The Queenscliff Terminal will also have a retail area, improved beach access points and a new bus pick up point at the terminal.

Most of the approvals for the Queenscliff Terminal were dealt with some years ago following a 3 day Planning Panel Hearing, however some possible planning issues might include revised sea level rises (given the new building is designed for a 50 year horizon and is to be built adjacent to the foreshore), the height and scale of the new structure and possible impact on retail operators. In addition bigger picture issues around linking ferry services, greater traffic volumes, terminal upgrades, duplicated roads/highways and linkages to the Great Ocean Road could come into play.

On the Sorrento side planning issues associated with the new terminal include the resolution of traffic problems (cars on/off ferry), design issues, duplication of roads, extra tourism numbers and more retail on the foreshore.

Council prepares for mosquito season:

People may have noticed that mosquito numbers have been increasing due to the recent wet weather and the particularly windy conditions, which have made it difficult for effective aerial treatments to occur. In addition salt marsh mosquito numbers usually peak around this time (more water and slightly milder climate) so greater numbers are not uncommon.

Monitoring and treatment (ground based) in the Borough occurs during the mosquito season (August to March) and consists of a combination of fortnightly monitoring and aerial treatments. The program is part of the largest mosquito control initiative in Victoria and while mosquitos cannot be eradicated completely, the control program is implemented annually to minimize the risk of mosquito-borne diseases and preserve the amenity of Borough residents and visitors as much as possible.

It is important to remember that there will be adult mosquitos at large in certain areas despite the control program, due to our unique coastal vegetation and challenging environmental conditions such as strong winds.

To reduce the likelihood of being bitten and manage mosquito numbers around your home:

- Wear long, loose-fitting clothes and cover up as much as possible.
- Use an effective mosquito repellent on all exposed skin.
- Prevent mosquitoes from getting inside by using fly screens on windows and doors.
- Use mosquito coils or insecticide candles in small outdoor areas.

Only approved products that do not adversely affect humans, animals, plants, other species or the general environment, are used to manage mosquito numbers. To find out more about mosquito control in the Borough of Queenscliffe, visit the Public Health page of Council's website, www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/community/public-health.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BELLARINE AGED CARE ASSOCIATION



Bellarine Aged Care Association

A DISCUSSION FORUM IN POINT LONSDALE AT THE POINT LONSDALE BOWLING CLUB

“WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP ME STAY AT HOME?”

Monday, November 13th from 2.00pm to 4.00pm
(Including afternoon tea)

- Do you or a family member or a close friend need support to stay living independently and at home?
- Do you understand the process of accessing services to support you?
- Do you understand what the February 27 changes to Home Based Aged Home Care packages mean for you?

This discussion forum aims to help you, the consumer, understand how to access information and services from the range of home based care choices available. We will explain the assessment and care planning process and the role of service providers, without bias towards any one provider.

**Numbers are limited therefore to attend you are required to register.
To Register contact: Chris Kelly - 0438 404 867**

SUBMISSIONS BY THE PLCA

1. Borough of Queenscliffe Council Plan.

The response below to the 4 year Council Plan lists the issues we see as important to be included under the headings provided by Council.

(Editor's Note: The Council Plan can be downloaded/read at the link below, and should be read in conjunction with the PLCA submission.)

http://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/images/FINAL_Borough_of_Queenscliff_Council_Plan_2017-21_lo_res.pdf

Council Plan 2017 -2021

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Please find below the collective response of PLCA members and committee as our input into the development of the new Council Plan. We have sought to highlight areas of significance to members and would value the opportunity to speak with councillors to expand on these in a formal setting where they can be discussed more fully.

Sincerely

Fay Agterhuis. President PLCA

Community Wellbeing

- Caravan Parks (Royal, Golightly and Rec Reserve and Victoria Park) complete study consult, publicise and action.
- Preservation of Victoria and Royal Parks as public open spaces
- Complete and enact toilet study across the Borough
- The hub project – a priority project.
- Support community based independent living for those residents either aged or with disabilities (Eric Tolliday units refurb or rebuild)
- Advocate strongly that Eric Tolliday Units are renovated, upgraded fit for purpose
- (Dedicate council plan-) Youth Officer Appointment to provide support for youth engagement activities and to address marginalization of young people including opportunities for mentorships and internships (eg Neighbourhood House, QMF etc.)
- Develop a strategy plan to educate community to ensure inclusion of all and support the BOQ as a refugee welcome zone.
- Walking Paths/bike paths - network connectivity
- Fitness/gym path linked to walk/ride model
- Link across to Barwon Heads (walk path)
- Publicise and circulate updated community emergency plan

Environment Sustainability

- Follow up DWELP re sand depletion Lonsdale Bight
- Finalise sale and development of Murray Road site - (full process)
- Implement a local flora and fauna policy - prioritise planting of street trees

- Ongoing liaison and work with DWELP, COGG and stake holders in relation to issues arising regarding the Coastal Adaptation Plan
-
- Establish long term reference group within BOQ to develop community plan to address coastal flooding (Ref council minutes 2016)
- Institute water quality testing management plan in Lakers Cutting at the culvert under Fellows Road in order to ensure that the Moremac Estate does not release pollution of any sort into Lakers Cutting and therefore ultimately into Swan Bay
- Promote removal of environmental weeds and the planning of indigenous vegetation throughout the Borough. Specifically ensure that weeds on railway land are removed by council or railway personnel
- Pursue the possibility of exemption of certain areas of Queenscliff from bushfire provisions – advocate for change to state planning provisions.
- Ensure conservation covenant/s in place in Point Lonsdale remain

Local Economy

- Caravan Parks(Royal, Golightly and Victoria) complete study , consult, publicise and action
- CBD management and development policies clearly articulated in council plans in both Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff
- Improve town centres with streetscape plantings
- Create a strong marketing message that is memorable and unchanging " heritage surrounded by sea"
- Completed a Tourism Strategy that benefits both Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff

Planning and Heritage

- Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve, follow Option 2 strictly
- Front Beach wall maintenance
- Queenscliff Lighthouse reserve - Shortlands Bluff, no Cabins
- The Narrows: an integrated approach to maintain Avenue of Honour, dunes etc
- Heritage policies - adopt existing heritage code within the planning scheme and action. Ensure policies are updated.
- Pursue the issue of heritage listing for Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale
- Monitor impact of development beyond council boundary
- Advocate for a boundary change to create a “one 3225’’. Council to create a consistent message to be relayed to all. A sound bite that is memorable and makes it easy to understand the long-term benefits of a boundary change. That this is what we want and why.
- Establish process to monitor pop-up business compliance issues
- Upgrade protection on Crown Land areas
- Review planning regarding fencing with view to maintaining safety and security in addition to existing heritage issues
- Finalise signage strategy
- Monitor adherence to compliance with regard to planning eg 40% site coverage, setbacks and vegetation
- Finalisation of the heritage study for the whole of the Borough (taking into account C27 submissions) to protect and enhance heritage areas
- Develop and action a maintenance strategy for deteriorating heritage assets

Government and Performance

- Develop a detailed Master Plan for whole of Borough - long term and sustainable with staging and time lines
 - Infrastructure review plans
 - Develop Queenscliff structure and land use plans
 - Review urban character study across the BOQ
 - Review changes for garbage collection in order to provide same charge for all properties in the Borough
-
- Use Borough Bytes for communicate progress on council activities, initiatives, actions in a focussed way and raise potential issues
 - Expand use of social media to communicate more broadly with the community enabling specific topics to be tracked
 - Review of public question time - to open up discussion again
 - Communication with community - regular/open/frank, establish processes so that community can impact in a formalised manner
 - Facilitate monthly reporting back to community sessions on major projects, covering milestones reached, budget, issues arising etc
 - Re-establish community reference groups on specific projects
 - Establish community consultative model - representative of community
 - On line publication of all agreements, leases and licences entered into with community groups
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2. Borough of Queenscliffe Council Implementation Plan.

The 4 year Council Implementation Plan lists initiatives for Council over that period. The PLCA response to the initiatives is written below:

(Editor's Note: The Council Implementation Plan can be downloaded/read at the link below, and should be read in conjunction with the PLCA submission.)

http://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/images/ADOPTED_2017-18_Implementation_Plan.pdf

Council Implementation plan. 2017 - 2021 Initiatives

One 3225 Consolidation Project.

A.1 Ensure the continuing financial sustainability and independence of the Borough of Queenscliffe, with the inclusion of a boundary change.

Establish a working party of well skilled ratepayers/residents, & municipal advisors, to initiate and further advance continuing conversations with City of Greater Geelong, the State Government, and the 3225 postcode community to implement communication and community engagement in decision making across the ONE3225 postcode area.

Commencing immediately, until resolved.

A.2 Make a significant attempt to **engage with the community** of the ONE3225 postcode area with vision for the future of a ONE3225 postcode area retaining Queenscliffe as a gem in the Victorian landscape and act as a barrier to urban development that would irreparably change the character of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

Community Wellbeing

Enhance community wellbeing by providing a safe environment where people are involved, healthy and active in recreation, arts and culture.

1. **Reads**, Implement the Borough of Queenscliffe’s Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 and meet Council’s statutory responsibilities related to public health standards; **Replace with - Following consultation with the community**, implement the Borough of Queenscliffe’s Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021. Seek a formalised contact with Bellarine Community Health, or a place on the BCH board, to ensure that any gaps in the provision of required medical services are met by lobbying to the State Government, and reporting to the community. As an example, improved Ambulance times, and the need for Palliative Care services within the community. Review by 1st December, 2017

2. Provide an accredited, responsive aged support service with a “zero waiting “list;

3. Investigate and respond to the Federal Government policy changes to the Home and Community Care Service; **What are the changes, and how and when will the community be involved in assessing the changes?**

4. **Reads** Facilitate collaboration between local community and emergency service organisations in planning to improve safety in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

Replace with Facilitate collaboration between local community and emergency service organisations in planning to ensure safety in the Borough. Specifically, but not limited to, general emergency management (including relief, recovery, heatwave, asthma) fire management, traffic routes/neighbourhood safer places. Guidelines and safety standards will be developed, for each of those categories, and will be made widely known to the residents. To be updated on an annual basis. To commence 1st July 2017, and initial reporting back to community prior to the summer.

5. Seek State Government funding for and implement a new school crossing s e r v i c e at St. Aloysius Primary School.

6. **Continue to** provide a community grants program and **clarify the statement “and sponsorship program to support local clubs and community organisations.”**

7. Conduct public events that recognise the contributions of volunteers.

8. Support local organisations plan and implement community recreation, sport, civic activities and events.

9. Support planning for the future use of the Fisherman’s Cooperative building.

What is the detail?

10. **NEW**. Ensure that the existing Infant Welfare Centre building being vacated by the Queenscliff Music Festival, is available for use of the community.

11. **NEW** (& refer to note at .1). Establish a formalised point of contact with Bellarine Community Health as the major provider of government services and base for general practitioner services within our borough, to ensure there are no gaps in the services provided to local residents.

12. **NEW** Develop a strategy action plan to improve all ability access and inclusion in all aspects of local community life.

13. **NEW** (& refer to note at .1 and .11) Ensure that palliative care (Palliative Care) is incorporated to “improve home and palliative care on the Bellarine”.

Environment and Sustainability

1. Continue planning with the community to determine the future of the Borough's historic Avenue of Honour and how best to manage the replacement of trees along the Avenue.
2. Continue street tree and park planting programs that reflect the character of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.
3. Work with local and regional organisations to implement weed reduction programs.
4. Support local organisations and volunteers undertaking projects designed to protect and enhance the natural environment.
5. Produce a Foreshore Plan to identify priority actions to enhance the amenity and use of the foreshore and beaches. **This strategy needs an Action Plan to be approved by a community consultation. A Foreshore Plan should come within the Queenscliff Marine and Coastal Management Plan (refer New point 15)**
6. Review the practicality and cost of undertaking beach cleaning activities for major public events and at the Queenscliff Front Beach in the Summer, Easter and September School Holiday periods. In addition, investigate the environmental implications of such an activity. **This point should be included within New point 15).**
7. Work with local and regional organisations and neighbouring councils to reduce waste and promote and increase recycling in the Borough and enhance the green waste disposal capacity of the region minimising waste to landfill.
8. Continue to implement the Council's Corporate Carbon Neutral Action Plan'
9. Facilitate community participation in the Community Environment Alliance and promote new projects through implementing council's small grants program.
10. Work with the Community Environment Alliance to identify opportunities to enhance alternate power supplies to the Borough of Queenscliff.
11. Work with the City of Greater Geelong and State Government partners to implement recommendations from the Geelong Queenscliff Coastal Adaptation Program. **As these are ongoing long term initiatives, this point should be combined along with point .5, within or under the umbrella of a group of related plans, under new .15**
- 11.1 **Undertake a community consultation to include discussions to inform adaptation plans associated with the wharf renewal.**
- 11.2 **Plan for and enact strategies to strengthen our ability to counter the impacts of erosion and climate change on our beaches and the coast. In particular monitor and pursue actions arising from the Bellarine Peninsula - Corio Bay Local Coastal Hazard Assessment.**
12. Continue to advocate to the State Government for inclusion of Laker's cutting into the RAMSAR Swan Bay site. In addition advocate for protection of significant wetlands and Ramsar sites adjacent to the Borough and pursue their compliance with waste water quality and treatment requirements."
13. **NEW.** Establish policy guidelines on lopping and removal of trees and vegetation in our parks, avenues and reserves including Power Line lopping that is severely impacting on street trees, and monitor the application of these.
14. **NEW.** In conjunction with community environmental groups, establish a Significant Tree Register for trees on Public Land.

15. **NEW.** By September 2017, establish a standing environment advisory committee (in accordance with S.86 of the Local Government Act 1989) comprising Councillors, Council staff and up to 8 community members with appropriate skills, to advise the Council on matters pertaining to a review of the Queenscliffe Coastal Management Plan which is to inform the Council and the community on the following;

- * identifying management and planning issues for coastal Crown land in the Borough of Queenscliffe;
- * identifying options for addressing those issues
- * developing a list of urgent and essential works required for the protection and/or restoration of environmental elements within the Borough and an associated prioritised 5-year capital works and maintenance program with an initial report due no later than October 2018 , thereafter with annual updates as recommended by the standing committee. The Committee is to take into consideration obligations under the pending Marine and Coastal Act.

Local Economy

1. Produce and implement the recommendations of the Borough of Queenscliffe Council's Economic Development Strategy. **REMOVE UNTIL IT IS TABLED.**
2. **Remove** Advocate to all levels of Government to implement the Fort Queenscliff Tourism Master Plan. **DELETE DOES NOT EXIST.**
Replace with Continue to Advocate to all levels of Government to **investigate a sustainable adaptive re-use of Fort Queenscliff that will benefit the wider community and underpin the local economy on a year round basis.**
3. Advocate for and seek funding from other levels of Government to improve coastal environment, enhance local amenity and improve community and visitor experience.
Qualified in terms of identified projects and their community acceptance through the community consultation process.
4. In conjunction with the Queenscliffe Historical Museum, Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, and Fort Museum, and in the spirit of .11 (below), work towards securing State Government funding to produce and promote a range of local stories about the history and heritage of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale that can be readily accessed by the community and visitors.
5. Work with local businesses and community organisation, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine and Visit Victoria to promote tourism experiences in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. **Qualified in terms of identified projects and their community acceptance through the community consultation process.**
6. Support local organisations to plan and promote major public participation and tourism related events in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. **Qualified in terms of identified projects and their community acceptance through the community consultation process.**
7. **DELETE** Continue to seek advice on tourism and economic development priorities through Council's formal Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.
8. Continue to provide an accredited Visitor Information Centre Service through the active involvement of volunteers, **and funded by a Special Commercial Rate.**
9. Work with local businesses and community organisations to implement a Winter Arts Festival.
10. Work with local organisations to produce a strategy to improve the planning and management of arts and culture events.
11. Review Council's procurement policy and practices to enhance opportunities for local businesses.

12. Facilitate local businesses access to information and professional development opportunities.
13. **ADD** Set a target of 60% local (3225) employment from new vacancies in the council employment.
14. **ADD.** Undertake a strategy that actually benefits the community.

Planning and Heritage

1. Implement the priority recommendations of the 2017 Queenscliff Planning Scheme Amendment (C27) by undertaking a review of the heritage provisions in the Queenscliff Planning Scheme and the related amendment to the Planning Scheme. With due consideration to the key recommendations of the Deakin University ARC Sea Change Communities Study.

1.1 The Heritage Study will identify a list of prioritised works needed to ensure the repair and maintenance of heritage assets under Council management which will then be incorporated into the Council's asset management plan.

2. Seek funding opportunities to support a future review of the Neighbourhood Character provisions in the Queenscliff Planning Scheme

3. Promote local heritage through arts, cultural and reconciliation activities and events.

4. Promote Council's Heritage Fund to facilitate conservation of privately owned significant heritage assets. **We do not know what it is, so we cannot comment.**

5. Facilitate pre-application planning between Council and applicants considering a planning permit application related to properties with significant heritage values;

6. **Delete** - Improve regulation of statutory planning compliance; **Add** Improve compliance of regulations within statutory planning.

7. Implement Council's asset renewal and maintenance program to ensure the safe and effective use of council owned and managed community buildings, open space and other infrastructure;

8. Complete a risk assessment and produce a mitigation plan for gun emplacements near the Point Lonsdale Reserve as a matter of urgency.

9. **NEW** In conjunction with a broad and skilled community group, establish the viability of ONE3225 Consolidation Project.

10. **NEW.** Implement the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Stage 1, Clean up the Site.

11. **NEW. (Refer .1)** Heritage Assessment to be undertaken by the Queenscliff Historical Museum (with professional input if and when required). This process aligns with point 11. of the Economic Development portfolio, giving the Queenscliff Historical Museum financial support by way of a small revenue stream, and providing council with considerable savings.

12. **NEW.** By October 2017, establish a standing built heritage advisory committee (in accordance with S.86 of the Local Government Act 1989) comprising Councillors, Council staff and up to 8 community members with appropriate skills, to advise the Council on :

* matters pertaining to undertaking a Heritage Study within the Borough

* an associated review of the Queenscliff Planning Scheme which is to inform the Council and the community on the following:

* recommendations on built heritage designations;

* recommendations on best practices on built heritage and urban design;

* undertaking a review of heritage issues (taking into account relevant Victorian or Australian Acts),

* reviewing and nominating if appropriate, any area, building, structure or land as heritage;

- * identifying management and planning issues;
- * developing a list of urgent and essential works required for the protection of heritage assets and an associated prioritized 5 year capital works program;
- * determining the appropriateness of National Heritage for parts of the Borough with an initial report due no later than December 2018 with annual updates as recommended by the standing committee.

13. **NEW** Undertake a community consultation to include discussions and to inform adaptation plans required to anticipate sea level rises associated with climate change and how they will impact on the wharf renewal project.

14. **NEW** Work with Parks Victoria and QHPL to ensure that the wharf renewal project once final plans agreed, is of high priority.

15. **NEW** Work with the State Government direct, through Parks Victoria, and with Heritage Victoria to secure funding for the restoration of the iconic Queenscliffe landmark, the Boat Shed on Queenscliffe Pier.

Governance and Performance

A.1. ONE 3225 Consolidation Project. Ensure the continuing financial sustainability and independence of the Borough with the inclusion of a boundary change. Initiate and further advance continuing conversations with City of Greater Geelong, the State Government, and the 3225 postcode community to implement communication and community engagement in decision making across the ONE3225 postcode area. By establishing a working party (or Reference Group) comprised of councillors, and suitably skilled and interested ratepayers, explore the opportunity and make a significant attempt to engage the community with a vision for the future of ONE3225, retaining Queenscliffe as an historic gem in the Victorian landscape and acting as a barrier to urban development that would irreparably change the character of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

1. Ensure that Councillor and Council officer behaviour complies with the respective Codes of Conduct. **Statutory Obligation.**

2. Ensure adherence to guidelines on prudent management of debt, cash and asset renewal

3. Effectively manage public and organisation risk and meet all legislative requirements. **Statutory Obligation**

4. Following the success of a ONE3225 Consolidation project, strengthen organisation development and workforce planning to more effectively meet community service expectations and statutory obligations;

5. Produce and forward the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan, Performance Statement and Annual Budget to the Minister for Local Government 28 days following council adoption. **Statutory Obligation**

6. Complete an annual review of Councils Strategic Resource Plan and long term budget as part of Council's annual budget preparation process. **Statutory obligation.**

7. Continue to administer the Fire Services Property Levy in accordance with State Government legislative requirements. **Statutory obligation.**

8. Continue to meet Council's extensive Crown land obligations by ensuring that separate accounts are kept for all Crown land revenue.

9. **Review** (not Implement) Council's "Community Information and Engagement" policy to improve public participation in Council's decision making process.

10. Enhance the provision of community information on Council's key decisions and the progress of priority projects by regular reporting back to the community.
11. Establish reference groups on major community projects as determined by Council on all projects with a value higher than \$250,000
12. Assess and report on community perceptions on Council's performance through the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.
13. Continue to improve Council's records management systems. How and when? Start and completion dates.
14. Enhance on-line services available on Council's website.
15. Provide transparent and accountable governance and minimise the number of meetings closed to the public. Target of 5%.

2017/2018 Capital Works Program

The following Capital Work priorities will be undertaken in the 2017/2018 financial year.

1. Continue construction of the Queenscliffe Sports and Recreation Precinct project.
2. Following community consultation, and after the completion of an up to date Coastal Management Plan, complete the Master Plan and associated Business Plan for the three Council managed Caravan Parks in the Borough of Queenscliffe.
3. Following community consultation implement the upgrade to the Caravan Parks at the Queenscliffe Recreation Reserve and Victoria Park.
4. Following community consultation, and after completion of an up to date Coastal Management Plan, advocate for funding from other levels of Government to upgrade utilities and amenities in Royal Park Tourist Park.
5. Seek funding from other levels of Government to implement the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Master Plan (Stage 1)
6. Following completion of a Coastal Management Plan, and in conjunction with the community, produce a detailed design and commence construction of the "Destination Queenscliff" project (this includes improvements to the Ocean View Car Park and a new Kiosk/Cafe; improvements to the southern end of Hesse Street and in the Fort Queenscliff surrounds as well as landscape improvements.
7. Seek funding from other levels of Government to implement the Queenscliff Hub Project.
8. Review the Hesse Street Revitalisation Plan and produce a Streetscape Plan that identifies opportunities to further enhance the amenity of the Queenscliff Main Street.
9. Replace all streetlights with more efficient LED technology;
10. Produce a Master Plan for Queenscliffe Park (former High School site) that provides a safe and friendly activity space for children and families.
11. Support Point Lonsdale Tennis Club in upgrading of lighting and court infrastructure.
12. Support the Queenscliff and District Neighbourhood House to improve the amenity and functionality of the site through the construction of new decking;
13. Following consultation with the community historical museums, *Seek State Government funding to construct a number of way finding interpretive signs that promote the history and heritage of and provide direction to key locations in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

14. Implement the recommendations of Council's Tourism Directional Signage Project.
 15. Renew kerb and channel assets in Hobson Street and upgrade the footpath and nature strip in Harbour Street in Queenscliff.
 16. In conjunction with the community, Complete a Pathways Strategy for Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.
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3. Borough of Queenscliffe Draft Communication Strategy.

In response to the Council request for submissions in relation to its draft Communication Strategy the PLCA wrote to Council as follows:

The New Communication Strategy

PLCA Response

The recent council officer report on council plan submissions and satisfaction surveys as reported in recent council minutes suggested that the community would both appreciate and value improved communication and information availability.

However, as there was minimal adjustment or recognition within the draft 4 Year Council Plan, this appears to be an indication of the Council's disinterest in the views of resident and non-resident rate-payers.

PLCA appreciates that the current council intends to create improved communication with the community. For many years, PLCA has advocated a policy of providing what we consider to be a carefully considered view on community matters, representing our members in particular, and the views of resident and non-resident ratepayers too. However, currently questions or initiatives from the ratepayer/resident community appear to be treated as objections rather than requests for clarification of council attentions. We expect the Council to accept it needs to be proactive in keeping community aware of its plans and programs in all aspects of its activity. The Council needs to take community along on the journey but at present; it is most unclear whether Council wishes to follow this approach.

In general, our PLCA focus is on the "process" of local government, and often less with the decision making that follows the process. If the process is not logical it usually follows that, the decision-making will be faulty.

All councillors indicated prior to the 2016 election their interest in improving community contact and "listening" to community expectations. Unfortunately, those community members who show interest and follow the council guidelines, join community groups, attend council meetings and actually read council communications find that they are often criticised for their negativity rather than an interest in making things better.

We note the comment in the council officer's report that the council would extend its invitation to meet with the PLCA and similar groups. This looks good on paper however; the previous single offer in the last 12 months was for the Mayor to have a 30-minute meeting immediately prior to a PLCA public meeting. The only other contact recorded as a meeting with PLCA was a 30-minute phone call to a committee member where it was requested a hold on the vote to endorse TEDAC as a community reference group for the Deloitte Economic development Strategy. This lack of consultation is very disappointing as the PLCA is always open to discussion and welcomes future communication in a full and frank format that is not time constrained.

It is the view of the PLCA that the concerns raised above can only be addressed by a review of the Council's communication policy and its community consultation guidelines.

A 3 -stage Question Time proposal and Communication Process modifications are presented as Appendices to the August council meeting.

1. Questions without notice.
2. Listening post.
3. Media access

1. In relation to Questions without Notice, the PLCA does not think that the proposals solve the concerns we have in relation to providing open and comprehensive communication channels between the community and Council. In fact, they appear to make a significant reduction in the responsibility of council to respond to reasonable questions from community. With the reduction in community reference group activity on key projects such as the camping areas study and the Deloitte EDS, the need for real community based responsive and respectful Q and A sessions becomes critical.

In justifying limitations introduced to manage a "particular element", council justifies a reduced access for the total community. This possibly suits Councillor, but alienates much of the ratepayer base and is seen by the PLCA as a poor alternative to the clear need to chair Council Meetings efficiently and effectively.

In addition, the proposal appears to delete the 75-word limit to question and there will be no presentation of questions by proponents. Council can now decide what they will respond to in a meeting. There will be no presentation of questions by proponents. It seems that council is attempting to further limit interaction between the community and the Council, particularly as Councillors and Council officers can now decide what they will respond to in a meeting. These changes actually disempower the community, as we cannot now even ask our own questions.

In addition, it is understood that some complex questions cannot be comprehensively replied to on the spot but it is very unsatisfactory that formal Council Minutes do not publish all questions and responses.

To advance this discussion, with respect, we suggest that:-

- The current procedure with the proposed changes further dilutes what is already an unworkable process. Instead, we suggest that there needs to be a format where an individual can present a question in writing with the opportunity to explain the background and intent and expect a reasonable reception. We recommend that Council follow other Councils, which allow a 5-minute period for the proponent to speak to the council meeting (CoGG and Corangamite).
- Council establish protocols as to presentation and format including the opportunity for councillors to ask clarifying questions.
- All questions should then be answered in writing and the Q and A published in an accessible location such as the council web site and acknowledged in council meeting minutes.
- If the Council does not wish to publish all questions and answers (subject to reasonable guidelines already established for question times), an alternative procedure should allow a qualified response.

It is important to accept that a majority of repeat questions refer to matters for which there has been an inadequate response or lack of general information or reluctance to release report or concept design information.

1. In respect to the Listening Post proposal, the opportunity to meet one councillor for one hour per month does not meet the intention of the proposal, that is for the Council to be open to discussion about community concerns in a comprehensive and informative way (access to Councillor input if needed is presumed). It possibly represents a good option for a ratepayer wanting to advise of a blocked drain or a road access issue but is insignificant for community groups wishing to understand a council strategy or development proposal.

To demonstrate a genuine attempt to engage with the community we would suggest that a meeting on the same day each week for about an hour with a rotating Councillor would go a

long way to settling community dissatisfaction about the adequacy of Council communication to the community. Unfortunately, PLCA's perception is that information will only be shared on an absolute "need to know" basis with key decisions as to communication held by the CEO, Council staff and finally Councillors.

It is also requested that Councillors cease using the Winki Pop decision as a constraint to expressing an opinion on a matter and understand that Winki Pop enables them to voice an opinion provided they avoid prejudging decisions, i.e. keep an open mind and articulate that accordingly. The above may sound repetitious however it answers the point at issue. If Council was communicating with the community in an open and inclusive way, the questions that are often referred to as time consuming and out of order would not be necessary. Councillors need to understand this!

2. In respect of media contact, the PLCA request that information available and as discussed directly with media representatives at any forum reflects the full intent of council matters.

Some general issues we also wish to rise for Council consideration are-

- The PLCA has previously proposed a revision to council's project initiation process whereby community input is requested prior to the design consultant stage so that when a brief is presented it contains background data that identifies community expectations. This suggestion, presented as a QWN was supported by Cr Merriman at the time but not subsequently followed up as it appears to be thought to be unnecessary as community views were adequately covered by the existing policy. We believe that this approach is worth revisiting. The classic project comparison was the Lawrence Rd carpark where 3 consultant proposals were presented for public comment (that showed 8 carpark positions with an outlook to the ocean) and then re
- vised to the public concept for what now exists with 27 parks often used. This was followed by the Dog Beach carpark with no community comment and which remains, in the PLCA's opinion, a mess. There are no doubt other examples whereby the process would have been streamlined with more community engagement in the early stages.
- To accompany this process there needs to be an update of the Council's correspondence policy such that all communication to Council receives a response that identifies the date of receipt and a consecutive reference number, the contact person responsible for the response and a date by which it can be expected. This appears to be a normal document management process for most councils and Government departments.
- The overriding issue remains the apparent unwillingness of the Council to discuss proposals openly and invite community discussion as an initial step. The argument may be that by allowing discussion the ideas generated may initiate activity that does not fit a Council planned objective. Alternatively, that council loses control of the public process. All such objections may imply a loss of control by council and the officers or CEO

PROGRESS OF REFERENCE GROUPS:

Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Reference Group.

This group has now met 3 times. Due to funding constraints the project has been divided into two stages and the Reference group is currently addressing issues related to Stage 1, namely;

- Landscape management and revegetation – removal of invasive species, mulching and regeneration with indigenous species.
- Removal of old dilapidated buildings (Toc H buildings).
- New and improved paths through the site and connecting to adjacent areas.
- Construction of ship viewing platform with live shipping data.

- Improved BBQ facilities and interpretive signage.

The group is working together well and support from Councillors Merriman and Pizzey and Council officers has been very helpful. While discussion has centred on Option 2, there has been considerable discussion about the Toc. H buildings and the desirability of retaining and refurbishing one of these if they prove to have notable heritage value

Avenue of Honour Reference Group.

This has not met as yet.

2017 Annual Subscription Payment.

If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, **the annual subscription payment for 2017 is due & payable.** The subscription **amount for 2017 is \$10 per person.** Donations are welcome in addition to the payment of the subscription amount. The preferred method of payment is by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the PLCA bank account. Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque or cash by hand delivery at a member meeting, or via the Treasurer.

2017 Membership Renewal form is below, please fill in and return with your payment:

[Membership Renewal Form:](#)

The PLCA bank account details are:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Account Name: | Point Lonsdale Civic Association |
| Bank: | Bendigo Bank, Queenscliff |
| BSB: | 633108 |
| Account Number: | 131346017 |
| Description: | <u>Surname and Initials of the member must be shown</u> |

If payment is made by cheque, please write your name on the reverse of the cheque if it is from an account different to your name. Please, **DO NOT** send cash via the post.

Please ensure you complete the Membership Renewal and Subscription Payment form. Forms will be available on website for new membership, if you know of family or friends who wish to become a member of PLCA, please advise them to join. Just scan & email form or deliver at meeting or post.

MEETING DATES:

The Point Lonsdale Civic Association holds monthly members meetings at Point Lonsdale Primary School on the following dates in 2017/18 :

13-10-17 at 7.30pm Guest Speaker Shane Dawson CEO Bellarine Community Health

10-11-17 at 7.30pm - TBA

8-12-17 at 7.30 pm - TBA

The 2018 AGM date is :

12-1-18 at 7.30pm

Sincerely

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President PLCA