



# Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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*Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910*

## Annual General Meeting - Minutes 8 January 2021

Time of Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, 8 January 2021  
Venue: Online Via Zoom Meeting ID: 852 5502 3576

- 1. Welcome and Introduction. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners.** By President, David Kenwood.
- 2. Welcome to Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr. Ross Ebbels; Councillors, Cr's Fleur Hewitt, Susan Salter and Michael Grout; and CEO, Mr. Marin Gill.**
- 3. Apologies.** Cr. Donnie Grigau
- 4. Matters arising from 2020 AGM Minutes Nil.**
- 5. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting – 10 January 2020**

Motion: That the minutes of the 2020 AGM be confirmed as a true record.  
Moved: David Kenwood                      Seconded: Peter Rumpf. Motion Carried.

### **6. Reports**

1. Annual Report – President David Kenwood

Motion: That the Annual Report by the President be received.  
Moved: Peter Rumpf                      Seconded: Lynne  
Motion Carried.

2. Treasurer's Report. Andrew Rogers

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be endorsed.  
Moved: Andrew Rogers                      Seconded: David Kenwood  
Motion Carried.

### **7. Election of Office Bearers and other Committee Members: (All positions now declared vacant & Guest Chair to take meeting chair)**

1. Nominations are called for each Office Bearer separately, for the following positions;  
President: Mr. David Kenwood  
Vice – President: Ms. Fay Agterhuis  
Secretary: Mr. Laurie Muskett.  
Treasurer: Mr. Andrew Rogers

All elected unopposed.

*(Election by Ballot will follow if there are more than one nomination for each position.  
Guest Chairperson to vacate the chair, President will now take chair.)*

2. Resolution: That for 2021 the number of ordinary committee member positions be 6:

Moved: David Kenwood

Seconded: Laurie Muskett

3. Ordinary Committee members that have been Nominated are:

1. Ms Lynne Furness
2. Ms. Michelle Jepson
3. Vacant
4. Vacant
5. Vacant
6. Vacant

All elected unopposed.

*(Election by Ballot will follow if there are more than one nomination for each position.)*

#### **8. Annual Subscription for 2022, Subscription Due Date & 2022 AGM Date:**

1. **Motion:** That the annual membership subscription for the 2022 year be \$10 per person

Moved: David Kenwood

Seconded: Fay Agterhuis

2. **Motion:** That the annual subscription due date for the 2022 year be 7 January, 2022.

Moved: David Kenwood

Seconded: Lynne Furness

3. **Motion:** That the 2022 Annual General Meeting be held on January 7 2022.

Moved: David Kenwood

Seconded: Peter Rumpf.

#### **9. Guest Speakers:**

Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr. Ross Ebbels, & Borough CEO Mr. Martin Gill.

Mr. Gill will speak about the Borough Emergency Plan in terms of this year's events, i.e bushfires, and pandemic issues.

The BoQ Mayor, Cr. Ebbels will give an update on input into our new four year council plan, as well as a ten year community vision under the new Local Government Act.

Additionally, he would like to hear from the members, on what they would like to see happen, or not happen in Pt Lonsdale for the next four years, and also start to consider what they would think the community vision for Pt Lonsdale would be for the next ten years.

Borough CEO, Mr Gill addressed the meeting first.

#### Fire/Emergency Planning.

BoQ has a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee that meets three times during the year. The Committee has representatives from Fire, DEWLP, VicPol, Ambulance , SES, Department of Health and Humans Services, Bellarine Community Health and others.. In March 2020 a review of the current risk assessment was undertaken by the committee. .It was assessed that Bushfire remained a medium risk the would most likely be a small fire. 2Largely dependent on weather conditions, critically, those mainly Westerly and Northerly wind conditions.

A July 2020 a separate risk analysis was conducted of a potential fire at Queenscliff Marina precinct and how agencies would respond & impacts, which the Borough and other agencies were satisfied with. Nov, a review of Municipal fire emergency plan, which included VicPol, CFA, SES, and State Agencies, Defence, etc. The Borough is also involved in regional meetings that also occur frequently, assessing potential risks in our region

Additionally, an internal seasonal bush fire assessment was undertaken – in-regards to changing our fire readiness. Rain events of above average has minimised the potential for bushfires, but concerns mainly centred around about the potential of grass fires on the Bellarine. Discussions were held about changing the municipal Fire emergency plan with Agencies.

Borough Municipal Fire Prevention Officer did annual inspection of properties in bushfire management overlays, as is normal practice, and some notices were send to some land owners for the purposes of clearing to mitigate fire risk.

The Regional Emergency Management Team continues to meet every week, from November through to April, to monitor the potential for incidents including fire.

Weather has been kind to us and agencies happy with preparations that have been made in the Borough.

### COVID 19 pandemic.

COVID-19 pandemic was unexpected, Borough went from one heightened event to another, and Borough went from Bushfire management to pandemic readiness. Reviewed pandemic plan in March and was signed off in March. BoQ formed a BoQ Covid Response Committee which included representatives from , BCH, VicPol, DHHS. This group initially met twice a week, then weekly to take advice as it was received, to coordinate locally/regionally responses as required. In addition, we were monitoring what was happening in Geelong area, and the changing dynamics as they happened.

The Borough planned for different levels of out breaks, and how they would be managed - isolate, test, service community, distribute relief packages – if required, etc. Additionally the Borough developed a Local Response Plan and sub plans, for the Pandemic situation, setting up various levels concerning cases (1 case; 1 – 4 cases and 4 – 100 cases) and how they dealt with isolation, testing and serving the community

CEO's from LGA's from around the state met once a week with DHHS and relevant ministers/government represents . Much was not known until the Premier made announcements. To keep on-top of anything that arose during the pandemic. COVID-19 cases confirmed were 3 cases in 3225; one in Borough, which none are active. It was a good test of staff and community, and stood up well.

### Questions to BoQ CEO, Mr. Marin Gill:

*1. Regarding bushfires, do we still have assembly areas in the borough where people can go in the event of fire?*

Yes. We have a number. Shared with regional authorities, but NOT the qualified mandated safer places, we have 4 or 5. depends on scenario we need to follow, ie. Point Lonsdale evacuation, or Queenscliffe – depending on where the event is. They can be used in a normal heat wave situations

*2. Pandemic. UK variant and specifics. Does this alter (our) Municipal plans?*

No specific instructions as yet. However, what is known, plans that were made to re commence work at offices has been put off for now. Same mechanisms for isolation, social distancing, etc are recommended even though it is more virulent.

*3. Fire risk in regard to Tea tree scrub in old Lonsdale, camping areas, South of the Narrows, ie Royal Park? Also at Swan Island Defence facility, who is responsible there?*

Defence have their own plan and are responsible for it, whilst on committee, not privy to what they actually do but we do liaise. In other areas we are very conscious about managing, particularly

weeds. Tea tree – risk management is important and work has started. Royal Park , has not been looked at for a while, weeds have been a bit neglected and has built up.

The Narrows; works have been happening over the last 12 months – some areas have been given a cleanup. Rain has accelerated the weed growth. Borough constantly looking at funding and opportunities to try and marry environmental and weed management together.

*4. Pandemic, when can we be expected to be immunised?*

No idea, however letter has been received from relevant department last Monday, stating LGA's will be involved but no further info, but preliminary planning started. Updates will be forthcoming.

*5. Evacuation during peak periods, education needed for visitors to know where to evacuate. Good point, and work needs to be done. No talk about community themselves, it would be impossible at the moment to get the community out. Emergency management committee need to help out with particular points and how we can educate the community?*

Good points – you are right on the community thing. We do talk to all agency's and if ask they can manage during peak periods - and they are not worried as organisations as we might be. There is a gap around community knowledge.

The Emergency Management Committee is a broad church, made up of Ambulance Victoria, CFA, Parks, SES, DEWLP, and Harbour, Ferry, Pilots, etc all assist. Legislation changes next year regarding this as well.

*6. Tree protections, has council made plans to protect trees on private properties from automatic 10m cut rule.? Also, following on from last question, given traffic flows, how is evacuation be managed during summer?*

Agencies confident and confident they can manage traffic if evacuation needed here. Issue here is if something happens on the narrows – we've rated it higher than our bushfire risk. There is an extreme risk if something happens there. We can certainly take it back to emergency committee that concerns about managing peak traffic flows that have been raised by this group.

Tree protection – no projects have been initiated to get exemptions in our (Planning) scheme.

(Note: Changes to the Planning scheme made by the Minister for Planning in August 2020 remove the exemption for tree removal 10 meters of a property)

*6a. (Same Questioner followup) – Some trees have already been cut back within 10 meters of properties. )*

Since Black Saturday many areas around the state have suffered the same.

Borough Mayor, Cr. Ross Ebbels spoke about the 4 year council plan.

What have we got planned for the next 4 years, but we need to ask need to engage with community starting in March on what they want to see happen for 4 year council plan. Council needs to listen to the community to understand what they want from there council.

4 years ago we did various workshops including youth in the Borough.

Under new LG act we now need to Community Vision plan. Where do you want to see the Borough in 10 years, what do you want it to look like? What can council do to improve services & amenity? Visitors? What do the community want to see?

What we are currently doing:

Borough has had challenges in the last year, like Caravan Parks that were closed because of Pandemic, now open. Borough Caravan Parks are a real help for councils bottom line we are quite reliant on them. Budget from last year has been a movable feast given all of the above. We need to listen to the community and find out what their priorities are not ours.

Martin mentioned, vegetation removal along on Ocean rd, it's a 3 year plan for removal of vegetation. Also improvements to Ocean rd Winterley rd areas for part 2 of this process. Thanks to a couple of PLCA members for assisting with this..

Lonsdale Tennis Club. New lights and new courts. Club house refurbishments tender has been filled. Work starting soon.

PLSLSC – Borough has a good working relationship. Discussions has taken place if they come up short in funding- we would be able to help them if needed. We sold for a \$1 the block they are building on.

Skiplets and barricades in Admans St Point Lonsdale – This was part of short term plan by State Government to help hospitality to get back on their feet. Hospitality have had a pretty hard year, Skiplets are being generally well received. Will be removed end of March 2021 (*Confirmed by CEO*). Some traders have done it quite hard over the past year, some quite well and we need to do all that we can to assist them.

Bunnywood – Covid meant kids created new tracks at Bunnywood and bumps and humps during home schooling periods. It was unfortunate, but part of the pandemic. Congratulations to Officers and community who engaged with kids and parents to put a halt to that. Bellarine catchment have been replanting. Consultation with youth on where and design of new bike track. Council officers are also assisting.

Ripview - Some vegetation removal has taken place at Ripview for those who admiring views whilst sitting in their car.

Drainage works at Milne court and other locations in Point Lonsdale. Cygnette court also has works to be undertaken which links in to Point Lonsdale. Asset renewal is quite costly for local councils. It is an ongoing situation.

Distinctive. Areas Landscapes Legislation submissions from PLCA and CBCA are welcomed by council, and are pretty much on same page. Draft statement due later this year.

Marine and coastal act. Important document for council, and we have been waiting for it. We have started consultation on this with community.

Anything 200M from water line will need approval. An information Webinar about the new plan is next Thursday 14/1/21 about this issue. Consultation by community is important, including social media and local papers and letter box drops to every resident. Councils database means that many have been contacted to ask about their viewpoint on this important new act. (140 submissions already)

Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct – Cultural heritage plan still ongoing. Meeting 28/1 with old Pt Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Reference Group to get an open and frank dialogue happening, and on how it will look.

We need input from community to formulate what community wants with 4 year plan. And also formulate budgets around the 4 year plan

Questions:

1. Is the \$600k PL Light house reserve still available.

Yes. Part of stage one. Some has been spent - \$400K is left. Spent on design phase. Cultural heritage plan will also take up some funding.

*2. Given this year in unusual, many unable to go away, Point Lonsdale is very crowded with people, pedestrians walk down Glaneuse rd – no footpaths people are walking wrong way. Also lots of cars parked which makes things difficult as well. Can we educate public?*

An awareness thing is needed. Huge increase, a lot more people, and bikes around. As people can't travel, people are down here for longer. Council needs to have a look at this and worthwhile thinking about.

*3. One 3225? Moremac – and toxic run off unable to be released into Lakers cutting – Has council been proactive in protecting Lakers cutting?*

Mayor met with previous Local Government Minister Somyrek, about engaging Essential Services Commission about one 3225. We also talked to our local member The Hon. Lisa Neville, who also had other things going on first with Bushfires and then Pandemic.

Again due to Bush fires and pandemic all went quiet, and minister subsequently got sacked., We started again with new Minister (The Hon Shaun Leane) to again engage Essential Services commission, that was 3 – 4 months ago and we writing back asking why we have not heard anything as yet. but we have received still no word. This would flesh out all these issues – financial and environmental. Water is a problem and the flows. Good thing it is not flowing.

CoGG engagement – (Mr Gill) We are in a bit of a holding pattern. We would know if the system works until they switch it all on and connect and test. We know clearly there are issues in the waterways with algal blooms and lack of movement.

We know standards and conditions they must comply with but we have to wait until they open it up and make sure CoGG enforce planning and environmental conditions & permits they need to comply with, and those of Federal and State Governments.

*4. In case of worse case scenario and Moremac start complaining of smells? What would happen then if council are very restrictive on any flows back into Lakers Cutting?*

It would not necessarily cancel (permits) but we would work with Parks Victoria who look after the waterway. A multi agency response would follow, but we don't know yet as it's all hypothetical, so we don't know how to respond but certainly if it fails we will advocate strongly on behalf of the community.

*4a. (Same Questioner followup) Could it fall under Emergency Management Plans – in terms of gearing?*

If there are aspects of it that fell under an definitions of Emergency Management – absolutely. If it's emissions or nuisance we would other mechanisms we would have to use. We do have some co funding with CoGG for Emergency planning for different plans.

*5. Ross, You spoke about Victorian Government plans, a Good initiative by Government for hospitality trading skiplets – 7 car parks taken, barricades with advertising, they don't appear to very well planned and some of it looks ugly, ugliest on the Bellarine. I.e Symons st Queenscliffe. Not very well thought out. -Council was advised about those in December but no response from officer. Will Brewhouse skiplets be permanent? No though or planning or consultation? No explanation at all!*

Mr. Gill. Apologies no one has not contacted you. I will contact you on Monday and have a chat to you. Funding came with no planning – you are going to get this money and planning scheme got changed. The Brewhouse is one of our most difficult decisions due to history involved. Messaging

from State Government, to be supportive, meant that it was a rushed solution in some areas that the skiplets were placed. March is when it all comes down, we did know it would have some effects for some people, but did not think it would have any adverse effects for just a few months. I will also speak to pizza shop operators in Symons st to see if they are having any adverse effects. I'm sorry to say it was a bit rushed.

Cr. Ebbels – Some Skiplets are better implemented than others, ie Noble Rot. Brewhouse have advertising.

*5a. (Same Questioner follow-up) – They take up far too much room and fear that they will be a permanent fixture in Symons street!*

We understand and it was a State Government decision that threw out the Planning scheme for a few months. We will have a longer chat with you on Monday.

*6. Following the 2 subdivisions Murray rd. What about the 5 Ha that is left? What will happen to the Sale moneys of the subdivisions?*

Remaining land – no plans or proposals. Environmental values of the remaining land prevent any further development – effectively a protected salt marsh in BoQ Planning Scheme. No further expansion of development there.

No decisions on how money will be spent. We don't have the money yet, settlement is subject on a number of conditions. And what I have flagged to councillors is to focus on community vision and community plan on how money will be spent. Money will come in to council possession after development takes place

*Cr Ebbels: Is there a rider on how the money must be spent?*

It has to be able to demonstrate a community benefit, The money must be spent and a piece of community infrastructure, ie. can't be spend on running council or say changing council vehicle fleet, must be spent on a community asset.

*6a. (Another Questioner follows up on the same subject) I thought that the money had to invested into an asset that gets a return above land value?*

Cr Ebbels: I was unaware of the land value, but that it had to be an investment.

*7. Murray rd follow up; The rescinding of motion of bike track on Murray rd?*

(Mr. Gill) We have only taken this through a briefing process.

(Cr. Ebbels) There was a motion but it was it was all subject to funding, so nothing has happened. There is a plan in place after community consultation, but no funding was in place, but it was a shovel ready project.

*7a. (Same questioner follows up) The project should not continue, even if it is shovel ready.*

We can take that off-line. The Boardwalk component probably would not be successful in getting permits in it's current design. The Boardwalk would not be successful in getting any funding anyway.

*8. Invite community in 4 year plan? You will invite the community to create a wish-list. However, it was put in the past that nothing new project wise until decks are cleared first. For example, Golightly park a project – the income could be increased dramatically from an upgraded Golightly Park; Hesse st needs some work, Lonsdale rd needs some work, another good project why go to the community and create a new wish-list instead of getting some of those that have been on the books for quite a while?*

(Cr. Ebbels) All good ideas. Community needs to be asked if they still want these projects. Are they still relevant? Do the Community still want them? We need to look at our budgets about scheduling them over the 4 year plan. Agreed that some of these things should be taken seriously.

*8a (Same Questioner follows up) – Really how logical is it to expect above could be achieved in the next 4 years, what capacity is there? Also a new Skatepark could be achieved in next 4 years. What is the capacity to that?*

(Cr. Ebbels) Depends on what is prioritised and weight of numbers. Certainly we have spoken about skateparks, and Hesse st as well, and I know councillors and community will be bringing that up.

*8c. (Same Questioner follows up)– Shouldn't it be for Councillors to prioritise Golightly Park to improve income, which generate more funds for coastal land management?*

(Mr Gill) Yes I think so. You raised some interesting points. With Golightly Park anything we do on the foreshore needs to have Coastal Management plan in place. Council continues to prioritise the strategic work, which will help with the community vision and council plan. Golightly Park will be tied to getting that work done.

Statutory obligations for new council plan later this year, in October, and a Council vision which is mandated now. Up to community feedback we want you to focus on things that were not finished in the last council plan and provide that to us. Government and Municipal Association (MaV) are saying to us to not preempt any of these things, and keep it open.

It could be that community wants to slow things down and finish what is on the books. That may be the council plan.

*9. – Survey monkey is continually thrown at us – I hope that is not used! It's not the answer to community engagement. Climate change implications for tree canopies, more solar dealing with storm water, how are council going to take this on board? What are the hard realities of Climate Change going to be?*

(Mr. Gill) Just completed a Community panel process for climate emergency planning, and consulting with different community representative groups on what are the priorities, and starting to put those priorities into pillars. Also formulating business cases and doing some analysis and turning them into action plans.

(Cr. Ebbels) This is all tied together, and comes back to our council plan?

(Mr Gill) Yes; absolutely. This will inform part of community vision and Council Plan. In terms of concrete actions we are not there yet. We have done some work with a company called 'Renew', in response to the Climate Emergency response plan, on how we can produce behind the grid energy for the Borough, and what they might look like.

Those sorts of things will inform the plan, and councillors, and community, will have to let us know what we are going to implement. Is that going to change the way we run the organisation, or is it going to be incorporated in the organisation?

Lot of unknowns. A very stressful time for new council and community, We have 4 or 5 significant planning projects in 2021 coming out of the Pandemic.

We need to be patient with each other, and we need to listen, and we need to represent the community view as best we can, and we need to distil this down into something manageable and something achievable.

(Cr Ebbels) Hopefully, moving forward, we won't have to do SurveyMonkey's or SurveyMonkey might be used with our non permanent residents. We would much rather have community



engagement in the Town Hall, and community engagement in person, rather than SurveyMonkey surveys.

Certainly we are doing a draft Community Communications plan for Council Plan and Community Vision we will take that to council this month. There are a number of different platforms for community engagement which we will be asking the community to nominate for.

*10. In terms of the Electricity issue. Is this a means of self generation? it could be a simpler issue Lots of projects will be undertaken the use of tree canopies shade etc?*

Currently we are doing heat mapping with DEWLP in the Borough, including tree canopies and getting information about the right type of trees, etc, , and water use will be no silver bullet but a fundamental change on how all of us manage the organisation, and how we all act.

*10a. (Same Questioner) I suppose that Government will try and activate a fast track a recovery process, to get the economy going. How is Council going to deal with Government forcing us to open business 24/7 as against Climate Change criteria?*

An interesting question, one that I have raised in Barwon Region Partnership forums, it's on a lot of peoples minds in recovery plans that Government have thrown Money our way. The opportunity has been lost on how we integrate into economic recovery, probably because use of such a reliance on residential construction, and in our area, on the visitor economy in our region

(Cr Ebbels) Thank-you. We hope to continue engaging with the PLCA, with our our monthly meetings with your Association, to keep the communication channels open.

#### **10. President's Closing remarks.**

The President thanked the CEO, Councillors, and Mayor and stressed the advantages of keeping communication open between our organisation and the council.

- 11. Next Annual General Meeting:** 7.30pm, Friday, 7 January 2022  
**Next General Member Meeting:** 7.30pm, Friday, 26 February 2021

- 12. Thanks to all our guest speakers Cr Ebbels, all attending Councillors, and CEO Mr Martin Gill.**

**Meeting closed. 9.10pm**