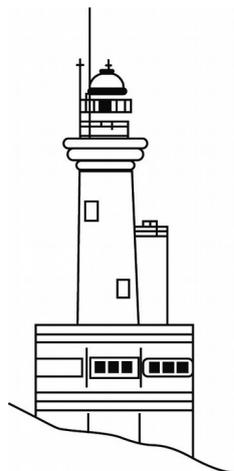


# Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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*Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910*

## NEWSLETTER

### June 2016

**Annual Subscription Payment Reminder:**The annual subscription payment for 2016 was due by the date of the last AGM, being 8 January 2016. The subscription amount for 2016 is \$5 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. The PLCA bank account details are:

Account Name:      Point Lonsdale Civic Association  
Bank:                Bendigo Bank, Queenscliff  
BSB:                 633108  
Account Number:    131346017  
Description:        Surname, Initials

It is particularly important that your surname and initials are shown in the description section of the payment transaction where Electronic Funds Transfer is used. 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.

**Whichever method of payment is used, please complete the Membership Renewal and Subscription Payment form included with this newsletter.** The form can be returned by email or by post (address on form).

If you know of family or friends who wish to become a member of PLCA, please advise them that new members need to complete the Membership Application form that can be found here: <http://www.plca.org.au/contact/>

# **Newsletter**

## **1. Proposed Meet the Candidates Meeting - Cancelled.**

Due to Sarah Henderson's team being unable to schedule a time to meet us in Point Lonsdale, we have decided to cancel the proposed Meet the Candidates meeting. It was felt that it was inappropriate to proceed when one of the major parties was unable to attend, and instead we would focus our efforts on forthcoming local government issues and elections.

The seat of Corangamite is large and population diverse, at time of going to print it appears that there will be at least six candidates for the Lower House. We encourage all members to read up about candidates and ask questions directly of them through their own electoral teams.

## **2. Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve: Protection - one major step closer.**

On the 10th of May Sarah Henderson - Federal Member for Corangamite & Greg Hunt, Federal Environment Minister announced at the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve that the Federal Liberal Government - if re-elected would support the Heritage Listing of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve and Queenscliff Light House Reserve. Minister Hunt used the analogy of the City of Broken Hill that already has Heritage Listing. It was reported that he appeared to say that this would be at the very least and he did allude to the concept of links to Point Nepean and the work being undertaken on that side of The Rip. Importantly he also made mention of the fact that such an initiative may be a positive in terms of future grant submissions from local government. Photos and details of that and the Green Army announcement can be found on Friends of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Facebook page, along with the initial response from the Queenscliffe Borough Council.

The Rip newspaper June Edition covers background information to the announcement by Minister Hunt. <http://pubhtml5.com/nlpx/bxjj> <<http://pubhtml5.com/nlpx/bxjj>>. An open letter has been sent to Council (see page 24), signed by 19 local people, including ex Australian Heritage Council Chair, Tom Harley, former state government MP Garry Spry, National Trust member Jennifer Bantow OAM, and Boyce Pizzey. Boyce served as Director of Heritage Victoria (1976 - 1986). While journalistic spin of Rip newspaper reported a secret committee, it has been no secret over many years that local people have wanted greater protection of the significant heritage locations within the Borough.

In early April of this year a group of local organisations and community members did in fact meet, for the first time, to map out a way forward.

While it has been reported that the Borough of Queenscliffe has been taken by surprise with the announcement by Minister Hunt, it is also true that the committee formed were both surprised and delighted that their endeavours had caught the eye of the Federal Environment Minister, as well as Ms Sarah Henderson, MP.

The Minister has further stated he will "be guided by the community" on how this could evolve, potentially in several stages given the legislative complexities involved. The benefits of National Heritage listing are profound and positive: additional funding; technical expertise; remediation of deteriorating built assets; weed/erosion management; development controls, and; National Heritage is a year round draw card for tourism

(particularly if as the Minister noted Point Lonsdale is linked to Point Nepean). It's great the world class attributes of the significant locations within the Borough are now recognised by the Australian Government.

The Queenscliffe Council, as the responsible management authority for the Reserves, must seize this opportunity and start a community engagement process to get National Heritage happening. We look forward to the Council's formal response to the visit of Greg Hunt and Sarah Henderson.

### **3. BoQ Car parking & Directional Signage surveys.**

Over the next few weeks, BoQ Council is seeking your views on two important topics that relate to businesses in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

1. Car parking survey - following a motion passed at the April 24 Ordinary meeting, Council wishes to understand your views on matters relating to customer car parking in the Queenscliff CBD, King Street Queenscliff and the Point Lonsdale shopping precinct.
2. Tourism and directional signage survey - Council has commenced work on the Tourism Directional Signage project. The project looks at how visitor signage policies and processes can be improved for the Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale region, including along the roads leading to the Bellarine Peninsula.

This is an opportunity to better understand your views on the above topics. Participation is not compulsory, however we urge all businesses to be involved in BOTH surveys. Please click on the links below to participate. Online surveys will close on Thursday 30 June at 5pm. A hard copy of each survey is available on request.

Car parking survey - click here<<http://vic.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c1b439d48b02f8216081974a7&id=99501523e3&e=928d3eb6bc>>

Tourism and directional signage survey - click here<<http://vic.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c1b439d48b02f8216081974a7&id=d0c93c199b&e=928d3eb6bc>>

### **4. Municipal Boundary Re-alignment of CoGG 3225 residents into BoQ:**

At a recent BoQ council meeting (February 2016) Council resolved to pursue and progress a formal request to the Minister for Local Government for the realignment of the municipal boundary to include all of Point Lonsdale in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

At that meeting councillors also decided:

1. *Request that the CEO write to Minister for Local Government, Natalie Hutchens to establish a local government panel, pursuant to Section 220A of the Local Government Act 1989, to conduct a review of the municipal boundary between Borough Of Queenscliffe and Greater Geelong City Council, with a view to 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;*
2. *Write to the CEO of the CoGG advising of this; and*

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.

The PLCA attended the subsequent CoGG meeting (their last in March 2016), and asked the following questions:

Q1. Has the CoGG received the communication about this matter from the CEO of the Borough?

Q2. What is the CoGG Council position on Boundary re-alignment to make all of Point Lonsdale part of the Borough of Queenscliffe?

Q3. As this directly involves the CoGG and the Borough of Queenscliffe; why has there been no communication between the CoGG Council and residents effected on this matter?

Q4 What action does the CoGG propose to take to ensure it's position is represented in any process which results from the the BoQ resolution?

Q5. What initiatives could be taken by the CoGG in planning matters, to ensure all of the community of Point Lonsdale's needs are taken into account?

The answers to the above questions is summarised below:

The CoGG indicated that CEO AND VEC have NOT received communication from BoQ CEO. The relevant Ward Councillor, Jan Farrell indicated also that she had personally taken a lot of calls about the subject after the January meeting. (Please note: At the later BoQ Council - March 2016 - meeting the PLCA were advised that the CoGG had been contacted).

CoGG Councillors were aware of the meeting in January (Meeting at PLPS with Minister Hutchens and Neville to discuss issue). No official position is "on books" regarding amalgamation. Council indicated it will be discussed at next Councillors assembly with a view to an official position developed. (Please note here: Subsequent CoGG council meeting did not take place, so PLCA assumes that CoGG Administrators will follow this up.). Also mentioned, was that at the last plebiscite on the subject, the Municipal Boundary Alignment was rejected, and has been rejected over the years by ratepayers in Point Lonsdale.

Regarding the CoGG position, it was noted again that no official position has been taken [yet] by CoGG - but it was noted by council that in the past, the State Government has looked at 79 different request for boundary changes in different parts of the state - and very few had been successful.

Finally the research paper mentioned above by BoQ has commenced, according to the May 2016 BoQ council meeting.

The May 2016 BoQ council meeting made mention that the research work on this issue has begun. PLCA will be following this issue closely.

## **5. Local council Elections:**

This October, local Government elections will be held in the Borough of Queenscliffe, but not for those members in the CoGG – as has been reported Geelong will hold it's elections in 2017.

Around 12 people attended the recent briefing session in the Queenscliff Town Hall for potential candidates. Presenters included the CEO's from Queenscliffe and Melton Shire and a guest speaker from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). Queenscliffe's Postal Election to elect 5 Councillors for a period of 4 years will be held on the 4th Saturday in October but may extend a further 9 days before a final result is known. At this stage it is not known how many sitting Councillors will stand again. The Borough of Queenscliffe is an unsubdivided municipality (no Wards) of around 3000 voters comprising a total area of 10.83 square kilometres which includes the townships of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale together with Swan Island. Problems facing the Borough include changing weather patterns, dwindling government grants and state imposed rate capping.

The PLCA will advise in due course of any proposed 'Meet the Candidates' meeting that will be held.

## **6. BCH - amended proposed works for Point Lonsdale site:**

PLCA were pleased to see that the Board of BCH have listened to residents and users of their services and consequently amended their proposal for an extensive redevelopment of the site. The most recent concept plans show refurbishment and upgrade of the medical centre as the key feature with a down scaling of other aspects. PLCA will continue to monitor this project and keep members informed as information and more detailed plans become available

## **7. Stage 3 – Pt. Lonsdale Foreshore Revitalisation - New Toilet amenities.**

Work has commenced on the new Toilets in Point Lonsdale Village. This is part of the Point Lonsdale Foreshore Revitalisation – Stage 3. The new block is adjacent to the Bowling club, and will include demolishing of the existing Toilet block near-by. The new Toilet block will have a disabled cubicle & include rain water tanks to supply toilets. Also included is a semi-screened outdoor shower area.

The Old Toilet Block area will become a new BBQ area and seating for approximately 34 people. It will also mean increased coastal views by removal of the toilet block.





## **7. ATMS go AWOL**

Of great concern to residents is the disappearance of ATM's in the Point Lonsdale shopping strip and whilst banking can be done at the Post office many are concerned by the lack of out of hours access and what will happen over the holiday period. We understand the reason behind the removal of the machines is financial but like many of our fellow residents fail to see the logic of no ATM in our township.

Our advice is for you to write to the various banks and state the case as it will only be the volume of concerns raised that will make them take notice.

## **8. BoQ Council Meetings – Public Question time:**

Did you know that you can submit a Question at “Public Question Time” at BoQ Council meetings?

Just go to the BoQ website “Public Question Time” link below, follow the instructions and lodge your query online. Deadline is 3pm on day of the council meeting. There is no requirement to attend the meeting.

<https://tinyurl.com/zourolj>

<http://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/council/council-meetings/public-question-time/submit-a-question/view/form>

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