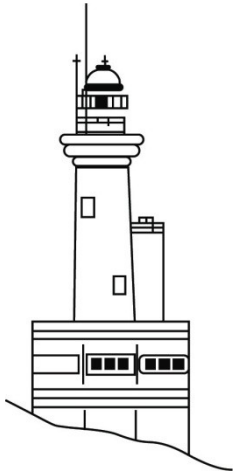


Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

PO Box 28 Point Lonsdale VIC 3225 Reg. No. A0017883S

Email: plcasecretary@gmail.com Website: www.plca.org.au



Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

September 2016 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Borough of Queenscliffe Elections / PLCA 2016 "Meet the Candidates meeting"

A number of people attended an earlier Town Hall Queenscliffe Borough Council Community and Candidates Information Evening briefing session for potential candidates, which included guest speakers. Given some recent Council deliberations, conflict of interest advice, about Councillors' friends and acquaintances, received from the MAV representative was an area of interest for some audience members. Cr Wasterval has subsequently indicated that at all times it is up to individual Councillors to determine if they consider they have a conflict of interest.

Mention was made recently by Councillors that there were now some 1,700 non-residents and 1,600 residents in the Borough.

On September 23rd, at 7.00pm we are having our "Meet the Candidates Meeting" for upcoming BoQ elections. After the meeting, in the Pt. Lonsdale Primary School Hall, please stay behind for a cuppa and perhaps chat to the prospective councillors about your personal issues, concerns and priorities for those who will represent you for the next 4 years.

Some of the Topics for discussion may include:

Fort Queenscliffe,
Caravan park study,
Avenue of Honour,
Point Lonsdale front beach – Environmental concerns,
Rate revaluation;
Tourism plan for Queenscliff Harbour – where to next?
Heritage issues;
Service delivery;
BCH redevelopment;
Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve – including Heritage listing and how it will be progressed;
Possible creation of one 3225 - Amalgamation of residents West of Fellows Rd into BoQ, and how it will be progressed;
Planning transparency and openness
Community Consultation & engagement.
Community Engagement.

Please keep this date free, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Point Lonsdale Light House Reserve – update.

At the July 27th BoQ Meeting, the PLCA asked the following question:

"Regarding the Point Lonsdale Light House reserve, given the promises made pre election by the environment minister and our local member Sarah Henderson regarding National Heritage listing - Are the BoQ actively pursuing this? and what is next in this process?"

The Council responded at the June meeting, it was resolved to prepare a report detailing all relevant matters associated with National Heritage listing, and that preliminary steps had been taken by council including review of application process, and discussions with Heritage Victoria.

The council also indicated that the process for application is complex, and that the next call for submissions to the Minister of Environment is February 2017.

The PLCA is keeping a very close watch on this issue.

C27 Planning Scheme Amendment

Public submissions closed on August 15th and at the August 24th Council meeting it was resolved to make a limited number of changes in order to correct spelling, factual and grammatical errors and to improve the overall clarity, form and presentation of the proposed Amendment documents. It also resolved to refer all submissions to an Independent Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning for further consideration at the end of the year. Once the Panel has heard the submissions and handed down their recommendations the Borough's new Council can either adopt or reject these recommendations and forward their decision to the Minister for Planning for a final decision.

Planning: 73 Bellarine Highway

No Council planning meeting as yet to discuss issues associated with a large residential development at 73 Bellarine Highway, Point Lonsdale. The development includes 4 x 2 storey buildings and a single storey dwelling on one large block and includes 2 new access points, but council has called the plans in and will schedule a special meeting.

BoQ Council meeting 24 August Motion 2016/570: Point 13.4 of the Borough of Queenscliffe Local Law No. 1, 2010 Processes of Municipal Government

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24th of August Cr Sue Wasterval successfully moved 3 motions that requires the CEO to draw these resolutions to the attention of new Queenscliffe Council. The first relates to a change to Local Law 1, Point 13.4, that provides if there is a vacancy in the office of Mayor, or the Mayor is absent, incapable of acting or refusing to act, the Council must appoint one of the Councillors to be acting Mayor. This changes the current procedure, which has been found to be inconsistent with sections of Council's Code of Conduct and the Local Government Act, where if the Mayor is unavailable the longest serving Councillor automatically steps into the role of acting Mayor. If this resolution is adopted by the new Council it will be an interim arrangement only until changes are enacted to the Local Government Act in 2018 requiring all Councils to elect a Deputy Mayor.

BoQ Council meeting 24 August: Motion 2016/571: 2016/571: Street Tree Planting

The second resolution adopted by Council requests the CEO to prepare a policy and related plan to ensure the continuation of the annual street tree planting program and draw the intent of the motion

to the next Council when preparing the Council Plan for the period 2017 to 2021 and the budget for 2017/18. it states:

That Council requests the CEO to:

- 1. Prepare a policy and related plan to ensure the continuation of the annual street tree planting program, and*
- 2. Draw the intent of this Notice of Motion to the next Council when preparing the Council Plan for the period 2017 to 2021 and the budget for 2017/18.*

The PLCA welcomes this initiative from Cr Wasterval.

BoQ Council meeting 24 August: Motion 2016/572: Community Listening Post Forum.

The third resolution is a request for the incoming Borough of Queenscliffe Council to consider the formation of a Community Listening Post Forum or other such mechanism to complement the existing Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee of Council (TEDAC) and provides Terms of Reference for the Community Listening Post Forum. It states:

That Council request the CEO to draw to the attention of the 2016/20 Council, as part of the Council Induction Process:

- 1. This Notice of Motion;*
- 2. A request for the Borough of Queenscliffe Council to consider the formation of a Community Listening Post Forum or other such mechanism to complement the existing Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee of Council (TEDAC); and*
- 3. The Terms of Reference for a Community Listening Post Forum (see attachment 1 on the next page).*

Attachment 1(P 14 BoQ Meeting Agenda 24/8/16)

BOROUGH OF QUEENSCLIFFE COMMUNITY LISTENING POST FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

It has been suggested by councillors that there needs to be a forum for the general community to express their concerns, views and suggestions on issues that arise in the Borough and to have these reported on at a Council meeting.

2. Purpose of the Listening Posts

To listen and discuss issues of relevance to the community such as: small works, general maintenance, local vegetation, roads and paths, services, access, drainage etc.

3. Objectives

3.1 To maintain open, efficient and productive communication between Council and the community.

3.2 For councillors to attend staged 3 monthly meetings in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale open to all community members to discuss the matters that they raise. A total of 6

meetings per annum.

4. Roles and Functions

4.1 Councillors to host Listening Post meetings

4.2 Meetings to be held 3 monthly on a Sunday afternoon in a staged format

4.3 Venues, Queenscliff Community Hall, Point Lonsdale Anglican Church hall.

4.4 Councillors to take notes of matters raised and seek replies as appropriate

4.5 A record to be kept of attendee's names and addresses for replies if needed

5. Reporting

5.1 For Councillors to bring notes and reports from these meetings to Council Ordinary Meetings on a regular basis

5.2 For reports to be listed on the Council agenda under Portfolio reports / Listening Post reports.

6. Legal Status

The Listening Posts are a venue for communication between Councillors and the community. Issues raised and opinions expressed have no legal standing unless they are adopted by Council at a formal council meeting.

7. Resourcing

Regular advertising would be required in local papers and to a wide range of community groups.

The PLCA again welcomes this idea, and fits with the PLCA's firm belief that Community Consultation should be one of the most important elements of a successful, well run Local Government.

Our Coast including Coastal Erosion of Front Beach Sea wall:

DELWP and Council held public meetings in the Queenscliff Town Hall on the 29th of July to explain the findings of a recent Coastal Study. The displays and maps were designed to make us aware of various sea level predictions based on different assumptions and the need for funding and measures to mitigate the effects of rising sea levels in the Borough. Some areas of concern were Lakers Cutting/Murray Road and Fisherman's Flat. Council resolved to form a long term Community Reference Group to help tackle future problems.

As a result of the growing concern about the erosion to the Point Lonsdale foreshore, and impact on the promenade, a separate effort is being made to find a solution. Full details and updates can be found on Facebook page "Save Point Lonsdale Front Beach".

The latest information on progress is contained in the post to above Facebook page, of September 5:

"DELWP have now responded to our submission and have on the whole agreed to our requests! They have agreed to commission an independent expert to review the previous reports in line with today's environmental context, and provide recommendations for future action. DELWP hope to commission the expert by mid Sept, with their report to be ready by mid Nov. Whilst it would have been great if they had said they would review the previous report and if still valid, get the solution in place for Christmas, the disappointment is that they have no funds available this year to perform

any rectification works, including beach re-nourishment (ie moving sand around with a digger/dump truck). However they have said they will work with us to allow us/Council to perform beach re-nourishment works. So now it is time to chase council for some funds to shift some sand around to allow their biggest asset to be usable over summer! If not, we will see if we can raise the funds to do it ourselves... thanks to all for your support so far! Slowly but steadily..."

Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper:

The Victorian Government is delivering on its commitment to create a new Marine and Coastal Act to improve the management of our marine and coastal areas. Our coast is special and important to all Victorians and is a treasured place for us to live, visit and work. Healthy coastal and marine environments support biodiversity, wellbeing, business and recreation.

To be confident that we are doing everything we can to protect marine and coastal environments now and into the future, the Victorian Government is creating a new Marine and Coastal Act as part of a broader system to manage our coastal areas. Submissions are now open.

Comments and submissions on the Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper are now open and will close on Sunday 23 October 2016 at midnight AEST.

The Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper has been prepared with the guidance of an expert panel. The paper explores Victoria's vision and values for a healthy coastal and marine environment and discusses the strengths of the current system.

This is an important opportunity for you to share your feedback and ideas on marine and coastal management in Victoria.

To get involved in the conversation and to download a copy of the Consultation Paper visit "Have Your Say" at DELWP website: <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/>

Your feedback will help inform the development of the new Act and important changes to our marine and coastal environments.

Proposed Amalgamation of Residents west of Fellows rd into Borough of Queenscliffe:

At the last BoQ Council Meeting (August 2016) the PLCA put this question to Council:
"Can the Council give an update of the progress of the proposed amalgamation of Residents West of Fellows Rd. into the BoQ? And, Has the Local Government Panel been formed, as mentioned by the minister at her visit in January 2016?"

The answer given by the CEO was that he had communicated to the Minister for Local Government in June 2016, about the matter, and that the Minister identified a number of "elements" that need to be addressed before determining this matter. Specifically they include; the impact of a boundary change on the respective Local Government's revenues and expenditure relating to services and infrastructure.**

Additionally, The Minister responsible is interested to hear *"the respective Council's views regarding how the Point Lonsdale residents in the City of Greater Geelong should be consulted were the Minister to consider this matter more fully"*.

The CEO also mentioned that he has met with the CEO of the CoGG twice to seek information on this matter and is waiting advice as outlined above.

(**As per BoQ Council Minutes 24/2/2016 "16.3 - Municipal Boundary Alignment" PP46

"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.")

This research paper has "commenced" according to another Question Without Notice about the status of proposed 3225 amalgamation put at the May 2016 BoQ Council Meeting.

The PLCA has concerns on how this issue will be progressed to those residents West of Fellows Rd. As far as the PLCA can determine, the issue has not surfaced at the CoGG save for the initial question asked by the PLCA at the last elected CoGG council meeting in March 2016: (see last newsletter)

Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd Consultant's Report - Proposed Stingray Stadium and Fisherman's Wharf Rebuild

QHPL's Consultant's Report, which was recently released, overwhelmingly showed that local Queenscliffe people who attended the earlier open forums and workshop did not want the Stingray stadium venture to go ahead. However people did support the immediate repair of Fisherman's Wharf with funding previously earmarked by Government for this purpose. The recent announcement by QHPL that the vacant 360 Q building would re-open after 3 years as a restaurant and function centre, is very good news.

Moonahs

It has been brought to our notice that a number of trees (at least 10 mature species) in the Victoria Park precinct appear to be marked for removal.

Residents' concerns include - no permit process, lack of reference maps to identify which trees are to be removed and no public consultation all this in an area where heritage and vegetation overlays should be in place. We believe 9 of the 10 trees recommended for removal are indigenous Melaleuca lanceolate (Moonah) for which a permit is required under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 for any works.

Bellarine Community Health - Revised Plan

BCH's revised plan for their Point Lonsdale site has recently been exhibited in conjunction with a planning permit application. The retirement village section towards the southern half of the site has now been split off with the scaled back redevelopment, including a two storey addition, retention of the GP's building and slightly more car parking located on the northern end of the site. Access to the BCH site will be improved with an entrance directly from Point Lonsdale Road and for the time being the Eric Tolliday units will remain on site. All this is taking place whilst a State Government sponsored Health Services Review for the Bellarine is underway.

BoQ Council sacking

Around the middle of August, the BOQ councillors were saved from a sacking by the state government's change of heart around a deadline as they had not completed their duty and completed the agreement to abide by the new Code of Conduct in the correct manner.

Councils had four months to renew their codes of conduct after the legislation came into effect on March 1, and individual councillors were also required to sign a form pledging to abide by the laws.

All councillors & CEO apologised to the residents for their oversight on the detail, at the August BoQ council meeting. The BOQ chief executive accepted responsibility in his role as chief administrator for not actioning the documents correctly.

Point Lonsdale Tennis club Lighting.

Prior to 2003 the Tennis Courts, on Ocean Rd, were lit by 4 x 16 m unshielded floodlights, which were replaced in 2004 by a modern lighting system – after an extensive consultation process involving BoQ, close residents & Tennis Club. These baffled floodlights were installed as per criteria set by Tennis Victoria at the time.

In 2015 the baffled floodlights were replaced with unshielded LED floodlights. Apparently, with no consultation of nearby residents, who now have major issue with the light spillage.

PLCA have contacted BoQ and are awaiting a response.

Bellarine Hwy Roundabout construction – Eventually through to Shell Rd.

As part of the original Planning Permit grant, of the Stocklands development (now Moremac's "The Point") a Roundabout will be constructed. Works include:

- Construction of a Roundabout at the intersection of Point Boulevard & Bellarine Highway
- A new traffic island, line marking and signage on Bellarine Highway
- New footpaths and street lighting at the intersection
- Construction of two new bus stops on Bellarine Highway for Queenscliff and Geelong bound travellers, with installation of a new bus shelter and dedicated bus bay.

Works are expected to start on Monday, 19 September, and be completed by late June 2017.

The Point Blvd at Shell Rd will eventually connect with the Bellarine Hwy at this Roundabout, and will provide another alternative to Fellows rd/Bellarine Hwy.

NBN – arrives in Point Lonsdale

The NBN has arrived in Point Lonsdale, with connection applications to the NBN beginning on 9/9/16 in parts of Point Lonsdale, with other parts of Point Lonsdale & Queenscliff, will be on the 23/9/16. The Green Boxes that have been popping up around town are the “nodes” that provide the interconnect between the Fibre Optic cables from our local exchange, and the copper cable infrastructure to your house.

Please note if you have a Medical Alarm, you MUST contact your alarm provider first before changing over, as some systems are NOT compatible with NBN infrastructure.

Finally, you have 18 months before the copper network is to be switched off, and need to be on the NBN or another type of Telecommunications Infrastructure, for your Home Telephone and Home Internet.

New Toilet Block – Main street.



REMINDERS:

Please remember to seek further information about any of these, or other important matters on the Borough of Queenscliffe's website.

Also the PLCA has just launched its Facebook Page; (still a work in Progress)
<https://www.facebook.com/PointLonsdaleCivicAssociation/>

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President, Point Lonsdale Civic Association.