



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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www.plca.org.au

Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

Welcome everyone to our final newsletter for 2017. The committee wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and sends our best wishes to all for health and happiness in the New Year.

The Point Lonsdale Civic Association hereby gives notice of its Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday January 12th 2018, at 7.30 pm in the Learning Common, Point Lonsdale Primary School, Bowen Road, Point Lonsdale. Our speakers at that meeting will be the Mayor, Councillor Susan Salter and Mathew Ponsford from the Point Lonsdale Surf Lifesaving Club, we hope that you can all come along.

Please download and review/print/return if required, the following documents for the AGM:

[PLCA Committee Nomination Form](#)

[Appointment of Proxy Form:](#)

[Minutes of PLCA 2017 AGM](#)

(For Postal Newsletter recipients ONLY: Please contact the Secretary for Appointment of Proxy Forms, and Committee Nomination Forms – if required. Minutes for 2017 AGM will available on the night to collect)

2018 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2018 is due by the date of the AGM, being 12 January 2018. The subscription amount for 2018 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.

2018 Membership Renewal form link 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 link below or deliver at meeting or post. [Application for membership](#)

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Reference Group:

The 5th meeting of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Reference Group took place on the 27th of November at the Engine Shed at the foot of the Lighthouse. The 3 part workshop was facilitated by Stephen Saguna and chaired by Cr Bob Merriman. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the preparation of a Consultant's Brief for a detailed design of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve.

Council indicated funding milestones require the detailed site design for Stage 1 to be completed by the end of May 2018 so the consultant brief needs to be finalised by late January 2018. Fees for the consultant's work, estimated at between \$40,000 to \$70,000, are included in the funding grant.

The good news so far is that Queenscliffe Council recently resolved to

- Support the Federal Heritage Listing of the Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve and agreed to extend the area to Winterley Road.
- The Green Army has commenced work on the site, which includes removal of pest plants.
- Some road funding may be possible for a redesign of the approach intersection leading into the Lighthouse Reserve.

The funding agreement with State Government for Stage 1 works, which covers elements of Option 2, has now been signed. Stage 1 works include \$500,000 + \$100,000 from Council + \$150,000 of in-kind work by the Green Army. Once those works are nearing completion Council can go back to Government for Stage 2 funding. Total Project cost will be around \$1.3 million.

Subject to funding availability Council indicated that where general consensus emerged amongst workshop members the agreed features will be reflected in the detailed design brief. Where general consensus did not emerge the consultant's brief may require Council's consultants to consider various options.

The 3 workshop groups discussed and presented various views on paths and trails, interpretative and directional signage, viewscales, fencing, vegetation management, open space, road access and egress, integration with neighbouring sites and emergency vehicle access.

The 4 key areas which so far remain unresolved are:

- The future of the P1 Huts (4 of).
- Kiosk and the future commercial operations on site.
- Toilets - discussion centered on refurbishing the existing ones or constructing new ones and whether the toilets remain on the same site or are relocated.
- Future use of the Engine Shed currently under lease to the Board Riders.

At this stage agreement about the future of the derelict P1 Huts (former Toc H buildings) is a sticking point. The options range from:

- Keeping all the huts,
- Keeping just one as an Interpretative Centre.
- Demolishing all 4 huts
- Constructing a new purpose built interpretative building.

Problems with the huts include:

- Grant funding does not cover the refurbishment of any of the huts.
- The CEO indicated a cost of \$150,000 for each hut to bring them up to an acceptable standard.
- Asbestos issues.
- Huts are not in their original condition – revamped by Toc H.
- New bushfire regulations.

- Lack of services and derelict condition of the huts
- Future use to prevent vandalism – storage was mentioned as was an interpretive center.

If one was to be retained it could be the McDonald Hut

Issues associated with demolition of the P1 Huts

- The Lonsdale Lighthouse site, including the P1 huts, is listed by Heritage Victoria. Therefore Heritage Victoria needs to provide advice on their future retention or demolition.
- The huts, which had a variety of military and civilian uses, have strong heritage links to the site and Point Lonsdale.

The group is not in agreement over a kiosk (mentioned in Option 2) on the Lighthouse Reserve. Discussion included construction of a kiosk with a possible new interpretative center, or a pop up type kiosk shared between the PLLR and the Springs car park over holiday periods. An earlier suggestion was to locate a café/kiosk to Rip View rather than the Lighthouse Reserve.

The next workshop looking at the future of the P1 Huts will be facilitated by Neville Barwick and Merv Jaensch on Monday the 11th of December.

Installation of LED street lighting:

For some time now the BOQ Council has been looking into the costs associated with changing the current Mercury Vapour lights with LED technology. Currently street lighting with Mercury Vapour lights costs Council in the order of \$38,000 per year and in 2016/17 generated 206 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

Council has agreed to the installation by Powercor of 318 LED street lights and it is hoped that installation will start before Christmas and be finished in January 2018. Two exceptions that will hopefully be solved at a later date are the decorative lights in Hesse St which have fitting problems and the 117 shared cost lights on VicRoads roads that Council will be approaching VicRoads about in order to investigate the possibility of them funding the cost of replacement.

The cost to replace the 318 lights will be \$148,515 (excluding GST). In the current climate of concern about global warming it is very pleasing to note that replacement with LED technology would reduce carbon emissions by up to 75% and save council in the order of \$16,000 per year in recurrent electricity costs.

A simple payback calculation indicates that these initial capital costs will be offset by savings in about 9 years. It is possible that the result could be even more favourable in the event of significant electricity cost increases in future years.

The Community Listening Post:

For some time there has been concern in the community at the lack of a formalised venue for members of the community to engage with Councillors and Council officers in an open exchange of information, questions and ideas.

Believing that the introduction of Listening Posts would enhance the options for communication with members of the community, Council, at its August 2017 Ordinary Meeting, resolved to request community feedback between 8th September and 6th October on new guidelines for a Community Listening Post.

At the October 2017 meeting Council presented and approved guidelines for the development of Community Listening Posts for implementation over a trial period from 27th October 2017 to 30th June 2018 with a formal report back to Council in August 2018.

It has been a long process to reach this point with Council and the PLCA is keen to promote open, informative and inclusive channels of communication. We look forward to hearing further information about the venue, dates and general organisation of this initiative and strongly **encourage people to keep an eye open for advertised details.**

As we understand it a Councillor and a Council Officer will be available at the Listening Post. **This will be a real opportunity for the community to engage with Council in an informal and open way and we encourage you to use this service if you need information or have questions that you want to ask.**

The following extract from Appendix 6b of the October Minutes (unconfirmed) outlines these guidelines:

“ The purpose of the Community Listening Post Guidelines is to provide an informal opportunity for residents, community organisations, businesses and any other interested party to meet with Councillors to exchange information and ideas.

The Community Listening Posts are designed to complement the other methods and approaches that Council utilises as part of its commitment to ongoing engagement and communication with its communities.

Protocol:

There is a need to cover some simple protocols to explain how the Community Listening Posts will be structured and operate.

1. Community Listening Posts are intentionally designed to be informal and will allow any member of the public to share and exchange information, discuss ideas or examine concerns with elected Councillors.
2. Whenever possible, Council will ensure that at least two Councillors attend the Community Listening Posts. Councillors will remain at the Community Listening Post for the duration of the scheduled hour. A rostered arrangement will be finalised following community feedback.
3. Community Listening Posts will be scheduled for one hour, arranged on a monthly basis and conducted on the third Thursday of the month. The specific timing of the Community Listening Posts will be determined following community feedback.
4. Community Listening Posts will be conducted in community settings such as the Reading Room at the Queenscliff Library or the Point Lonsdale Bowls Club. Final venues will be determined following community feedback.
5. In order to encourage and promote open discussion and exchange of information and ideas between the community and Council, Council will not allow recording or media attendance at the Community Listening Posts.
6. Community Listening Posts are designed to complement other communication methods and approaches utilised by Council. Councillors may therefore encourage people attending the Community Listening Posts to utilise other more appropriate avenues to seek information or attention to matters of concern.
7. Council reserves its right to not discuss matters that may fall into the following categories, that is, information or topics that:
 - ⊗ Relate to a matter beyond the power or duties of Council;
 - ⊗ Are defamatory, indecent, offensive, abusive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or nature;
 - ⊗ Are confidential in nature or of legal significance;
 - ⊗ Relate to personnel matters;
 - ⊗ Relate to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
 - ⊗ Breach legislation or the local law. “

An Update from Bellarine Community Health

There's been a lot happening for Bellarine Community Health throughout the past year and I'm delighted to be able to provide an update for members of the Point Lonsdale Civic Association.

The redevelopment of the Queenscliff Community Health Centre has been an ongoing major project for the organisation. Initial demolition and the successful completion of Stage One of the project were achieved by the middle of the year, with many local community members attending an event to mark the reopening of the Dental wing.

Point Lonsdale residents will be aware that Stage two of the Queenscliff Community Health Centre redevelopment is starting to take shape with the installation of steel framework and construction underway for the new building entrance. Expanded, modern, new client entrance and reception areas for the Medical Centre and the Community Health Centre are being created on the Southern side of the existing building. After some slight delays in the construction schedule, the contractors are now making inroads. Once you start to see framework going up on a building project it helps give you a better picture of what the end design will look like.

Work is also continuing on finalising the process to deliver the upgraded roadworks at the Point Lonsdale Road entrance to the site. Vic Roads has been working with engineering consultants and other stakeholders to finalise the design. Once that work is finalised we'll be able to start letting the local community know what traffic changes there will be and what impact they will have.

The final stage of the project will involve construction of a two storey extension on the northern side of the site. This redevelopment is going to transform your community health centre into a modern, flexible facility that will serve the community for years to come.

One of my first tasks as new CEO was to get out and talk to as many community members and community groups as possible. The series of 'Community Conversations' gave me a wonderful opportunity to hear firsthand what you believe are the most important issues around the provision of health care services on the Bellarine what will become of the remaining buildings on the Point Lonsdale site.

Numerous ideas were put forward including refurbishing and reopening the Eric Tolliday units and exploring options to use Coorabin as a Palliative Care Centre. The feedback has provided a number of possibilities for evaluation and consideration. The 'Community Conversations' feedback has been collated and a summary report is available on our website.

As there has been significant change of Board Directors in the past few months, the new Board will be considering the community feedback as a priority in early 2018. Two new Board Directors were confirmed at the recent Annual General Meeting including your PLCA President Fay Agterhuis. I am really looking forward to working with Fay and Dr Virginia Dixon-Swift who was also elected in the ballot. An appointed Directors position still exists and the new Board will be considering that appointment in the near future.

There was a wonderful turnout at the AGM which was a celebration of Bellarine Community Health's history and future potential moving forward. Sincere thanks to Mr Austin Paterson, a former CEO of BCH, for being the Guest Speaker and taking those present on a wonderful journey through the history of the organisation.

The formal business of the evening included the presentation to members of the financial statements, Annual Report, Quality Account Report and CEO and Chair reports. All motions, including acceptance of the Audited statement of accounts were carried by the members. The new BCH Treasurer, Mr Adam

Murray, a partner with Crowe Howarth outlined that the organisation is in a healthy financial position, with a total asset ratio well above benchmark.

Overall the organisation has had a variation in funding streams with a move from predominately State funding to a mix of State and Commonwealth funding. This has occurred due to the introduction of My Aged Care and the associated change from State to Commonwealth funding for people 65 plus years of age.

I look forward to working with the PLCA moving forward in what we believe will be a very productive year for the organisation.

I wish all your members a safe and happy holiday period.

Shane Dawson

CEO, Bellarine Community Health



Past and present CEOs from left, Graeme Howie, Moyneen Curtis, Austin Patterson and Shane Dawson the new CEO.

The final report on the Point Lonsdale front beach has just been released by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Parks Victoria and is headed

**LONSDALE BIGHT:
CONSULTATION OPTIONS AND ACTIONS SUMMARY. DECEMBER 2017.**

Below is a copy of Chapter 5. The full report can be read at www.engage.vic.gov.au/lonsdale-bight.

5.Final comments from the land managers and asset owners

5.1 Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Sand management is a complex issue, particularly within a high energy engineered environment such as Point Lonsdale and much of the Lonsdale Bight. With no public safety nor asset at immediate risk, the likelihood for priority funding from DELWP's Coastal Protection Infrastructure and Upgrade Program to fund new groynes is low. While social and economic values are important considerations to DELWP at this location, the hierarchy of principles for coastal management in Victoria, set out in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 (VCS)¹, directs decision making and prioritises protecting significant environmental and cultural values. As the area is within a declared Marine National Park, these values must be weighted above others.

Should the community and/or other agencies prioritise maintaining consistent sand on Point Lonsdale front beaches, and provides supporting rationale, DELWP would guide them through the statutory approvals process.

5.2 Borough of Queenscliffe

Council is the appointed land manager of crown land at this location and as such plays a stewardship role on behalf of the community for most of the foreshore land in the area and the landside infrastructure and assets. The increasing visitor appeal of this location also means an increasing role for Council in terms of upgrade, maintenance and upkeep of foreshore infrastructure and facilities, particularly those that facilitate access to the beach. The level of beach sand is recognised as a feature of the community living and visitor experience however Council also recognises the very dynamic nature of this coastline. Council supports a more formal approach to beach sand monitoring arrangements to further understand this process and will work with the community on establishing a monitoring program. Council will also continue to work with the community and other agencies to look at opportunities to improve the level of beach sand into the future subject to funding availability.

5.3 Parks Victoria

The Point Lonsdale front beach has a long history of constant change. With its inclusion in the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park in November 2002, greater attention now needs to be given to balancing long-term visitor use and enjoyment of the foreshore within the park with the significant environmental values of the Lonsdale Bight, including the impacts of near shore developments on the offshore reefs. Critical assessment of any development or upgrade options will need to be undertaken to ensure that the benefits to both the community and the environment are clear and long-lasting.

Combined Bellarine Community Associations

The PLCA was invited recently to attend and join the Combined Bellarine Community Associations. The association (CBCA) is made of community associations on the Bellarine including: Breamlea, Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove, St Leonards, Indented Head, Portarlington, Drysdale/Curlewis/Clifton Springs & Queenscliff. (at this stage the association is seeking out community groups from Wallington, Leopold, & Moolap)

One of the first tasks of the Associations was to organise Community Forums for the just-held CoGG elections. PLCA representatives attended two of the four forums. These were very well attended, and provided an opportunity for residents to meet and question the candidates.

For the medium term, however, the Association would like its entire member Community Group/Association to think about an issue relevant to them that could become a focus for the CBCA to lobby Local/State Government.

For example, that could be the Upgrade of the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal & proposed increase in tourist numbers & road users. This will have a huge impact on Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove, and Queenscliff/Point Lonsdale, and perhaps Breamlea and the Northern Bellarine area, for reasons of increased traffic flow in the peak holiday period.

Whether we like it or not, as two communities on the Bellarine, some of the important issues that crop up can affect us all on the Bellarine – not to mention the City of Greater Geelong.

The PLCA would welcome suggestions from members as to ‘our’ local issue, for the PLCA Committee to consider, and perhaps put forward to the CBCA – via the secretary email:
plcasecretary@gmail.com.au

CoGG Elections.

At the conclusion of the recent City of Greater Geelong elections, the Bellarine Ward had 12 candidates vying for the three positions as ward Councillors; we now have 3 new councillors: ASHER, Stephanie (1st elected), MASON, Jim (2nd elected), SULLIVAN, Trent (3rd elected).

Jim Mason is somewhat of a local, having ties to Queenscliff. Two of the three candidates have indicated that they will come and speak at our Member meeting in February 2018. We look forward to hearing what they have planned for West of Fellows Rd CoGG residents.

The Borough of Queenscliffe – Staff Christmas Party

This has certainly been a hot topic, particularly amongst the Traders in the Borough.

To recap:

- A Staff Christmas Party was scheduled to take place at a venue outside the Borough.
- Proper procurement guidelines were followed in the subsequent decision to hold it outside the Borough.
- Many Traders, particularly those in the Hospitality Industry, questioned why this function could not be held within the Borough.
- The issue received much media and air time, no doubt, particularly because there has been a huge focus on boosting the local economy through the newly released EDS and of course the role of TEDAC during 2017.

In a late development, as we go to print, we have heard that the party has been moved back to the Borough. The PLCA has been unable to confirm this, however.

The PLCA questions why the function was planned outside the Borough in the first place – given the recent focus on the Economic Development Strategy by the council and why members of TEDAC did not advise that this was not a good decision in the current climate.

Avenue of Honour Reference Group.

This group recently met, for the second time, and have begun discussions about the when, where and what of planting and replanting options. There are a number of factors to consider both short and long term including type of tree, type of shade, determining what is the Avenue, given there are three distinct age groups of trees and where it begins and ends.

This is early work as we familiarise ourselves with the reports, do our own research and get to know the site. Some residents may have seen us on our site visit with the arborist last week

Please lookout for the PLCA Column in the Rip, our Facebook page & website plca.org.au for more information about the PLCA.

Fay Agterhuis

PLCA president