



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

Minutes Annual General Meeting - 10 January 2020

Time of Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, 10 January 2020

Venue: Point Lonsdale Primary School, Bowen Road, Point Lonsdale

- 1. Welcome and Introduction. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners.**
- 2. Apologies:** Cr. Ross Ebbels, Cr. Rob Minty, Cr. Susan Salter, Evan & Donna Williams.
- 3. Matters arising from 2019 AGM Minutes**
- 4. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting – 11 January 2019**

Motion: That the minutes of the 2019 AGM be confirmed as a true record.

Moved: David Kenwood

Seconded: Fay Agterhuis

All in Favour.

5. Reports

1. Annual Report – Presented by President, David Kenwood

Resolution: That the Annual Report by the President be received.

Moved: Laurie

Seconded: Dr. Peter Rumpf

2. Treasurer's Report – Presented by Andrew Rogers

Resolution: That the Treasurer's Report be endorsed.

Moved: Andrew Rogers

Seconded: David Kenwood

6. Election of Office Bearers and other Committee Members:

(All positions now declared vacant & Guest Chair Dr. Peter Rumpf to take meeting chair)

1. Nominations are called for each Office Bearer separately, for the following positions;
President: David Kenwood.
V/President: Fay Agterhuis.
Secretary: Laurie J. Muskatt.
Treasurer: Andrew Rogers.

(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 2020 the number of ordinary committee member positions be 6:

Moved: David Kenwood Seconded: Laurie.

3. Ordinary Committee members that have been Nominated are:

1. Michelle Jepson
2. Lynne Furness.
3. Michael Grout.
4. *Vacant*
5. *Vacant*
6. *Vacant*

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

7. Annual Subscription for 2021, Subscription Due Date & 2021 AGM Date:

1. **Motion:** That the annual membership subscription for the 2021 year be \$10 per person

Moved: Andrew Rogers Seconded: Jacqui Pierce

2. **Motion:** That the annual subscription due date for the 2021 year be 8 January, 2021.

Moved: David Kenwood Seconded: Laurie.

3. **Motion:** That the 2020 Annual General Meeting be held on January 8 2021.

Moved: Andrew Sutherland Seconded: Merv Jaensch.

8. Guest Speaker: Mr Martin Gill CEO Borough of Queenscliffe.

The President, Mr David Kenwood introduced the new Borough CEO Mr. Martin Gill.

Mr Gill brings a decade of level of government experience to Queenscliffe, but most recently General Manager of Tasmania's Meander Valley Council – a LGA of 20,000 residents.

He has a family connection with Point Lonsdale since the 1920's.

He was appointed to the council in October 2009, for a probationary period, then a 5-year term following on from that.

Mr Gill focused on the first 100 days (but has only served 66 working days in office), about the expectations for the 2020, and a vision for beyond that. He also noted he has enjoyed his time thus far as the Borough CEO.

What Could Queenscliffe be?

Mr Gill noted that Queenscliffe has a vision, celebrates and reinforces the relationship to place that the majority of resident and non-residents ratepayers experience now, and it also explains why the guiding aspiration of the vision is for things to stay the same. This is highlighted because these aspirations remain the same and will influence the time and extent of change the community will support, and importantly participate in.

What could Queenscliffe be because it needs to be?

Mr Gill noted that,

1. (We are) a strong community that wanted to hold on to what it had. So, this is going to be challenging, extending ourselves, not re-inventing ourselves, and building sustainability. We are reintroducing new things that they are complimentary, so diversity is not a shock to us.
2. In addition, that we do spend a lot of time working on the spaces you know, and in (some) local government areas we tended to neglect things.
3. Also, another commitment, was no matter what we do we need to bring the community with us. And making sure we all go in the same direction.

He also noted that “people in the room have an intimate knowledge of this Borough, and an intimate knowledge of all good things, of all the frustrations, of what is working and what is not”.

Mr Gill noted he has travelled to Canberra as part of a G21 delegation, with other regional CEO’s, LGA officers and Mayors. He also noted that the disproportionate political interest for ‘such a small place’ (compared to other LGA’s)

So far, he has in his first 66 days, a change of Mayor, a resignation of a councillor and the election of a new councillor. A changing and restless environment internally. Borough staff have had someone come in very different than the last CEO, with a different range of experiences, and someone asking questions.

Mr Gill felt change has been welcomed both within and external to the organisation, and is an opportunity to reset the conversation with the community, and all work together in the future.

Mr Gill has observed in this community that residents are an engaged, educated and are a thoughtful community. He also noted that there “is there's so much expertise in this community”. He also spoke about the Borough as a community with a very strong sense of place.

He also said that there is much frustration in the community; that the council is not listening to them. “We have really struggled with communication – at an officer level we have not managed this well”. “And that there has been “a bit of a trust deficit”. Also, one of things as an organisation (Borough) is to work with the community and develop a relationship with the community.

The subject of Community, and council relationship to community, is something that has been repeated many times to Mr Gill.

Following on from that, council needs to find some different ways to engage with a community and they have been working on that with a (new) Facebook page and the council website getting updated more regularly.

One 3225.

A meeting has been scheduled for 31/1/20 between the Borough and CoGG to restart and progress the issue, and gauge the situation – at the Mayor’s request. The Minister has given a clear indication that both councils need to be onboard with this issue. Also, discussions are taking place within the organisation on how some of the spaces will integrate – like The Point – a new type of urban development.

Major Projects.

Council have given a clear indication to the CEO, to try and complete some of the bigger projects that, some of which, have not progressed, and of managing resources and to (try and) get some traction to complete some of these big projects.

Climate Emergency.

At this point in time, there was a Climate Emergency, which was declared in December 2019, and the Councillors have requested a report, a response plan, from officers on what that means for the Borough, Businesses and Residents.

Council Elections

Due in October 2020. More changes to come! “We’ve had some very long serving councillors who may be serving their last term”

Expectations: Beyond 2020.

Organisation: People and customer focused. Be smart and lean and always improving, be problem solvers and decision makers. Continue to be financially sustainable.

Engagement:

Queenscliffe Historical Museum notification of engagement has gone up at museum site.

Destination Queenscliff:

We will get there – back council late January/February and then out for (more) public consultation.

9. Q&A with members:

Q1. “Why is there a disproportionate political interest in Queenscliffe?”

A: Council has managed to fend of amalgamation in past, and it’s not often that a council has such a high concentration of highly educated constituents, that ministers explain have a high proportion of correspondence from (compared to others). Plus, History of Deakin, LaTrobe, etc.

Q2. “What is the latest status of the Outdoor Gym locations project? The Trail along the promenade was mentioned 12 months ago, and met with silence until September, when complaints were received by council, and no attempt made to contact Rotary – on a project voted for in favour by the community. How many complaints were received by council?”

A: Council received 4 or 5 direct complaints, and others from, social media etc, community groups. The department (DEWLP) received about 8, some were from organisations.

Complaints varied from locations, to “not wanting to see people sweating and exercising in front of us” - to a range of things, but the clear theme was the locations on Point Lonsdale Promenade and potential damage to the dunes.

(Where) the project is at, council received a letter just before Xmas, from the department (DEWLP) that they would not give coastal management consent due to concerns due to lack of community engagement, and locations.

We have worked with Rotary, and wrote to people involved, to meet and have a discussion about how we will progress it. Also, we were asked by the department to go and find some alternative sites to the 3 along the Promenade. We have worked with Rotary to identify those sites, and to then give them back to the Department, and then engage with the community about those sites.

Council have until June to get a result one way or another. The current funding agreements end at this point. The Department have told us that they are comfortable with the Queenscliff site, and one other site in Point Lonsdale and told us if community supports new sites we are proposing, they will give consent.

One of the new sites is near playground, near toilets across the road shops, and another near the

Barbeque area.

(Questioner clarifies) "So no trail – even though the community voted for it"?

A: "Yes, (No trail)."

Q3. "You have a lot of projects on the go this year, Destination Queenscliff, The Fort, The Queenscliffe Hub – I have some reservations as an observer – on how are you going to manage all that? How are you going to triage the work in a realistic way, that can't and can be done? Outsource?"

A: A good Question. We usually run at a \$3M capital program each year, but currently we have an \$11M Capital program. It all came very quickly. The Hub is reasonably under control. A project manager has been engaged, and expertise on the Project Control Group. Obviously, consultation on the design process will take some time.

We've had a look at budgets for the other ones, and we've presented to council, there are some unrealistic timelines there. So, we are having some conversations with relevant Government departments on what we can't and can achieve.,

So, we have asked if they extend the milestones, and if they are able to, what that will mean for the projects, that's Destination Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve. So, we have recognised the issue and put the emphasis on Project management in the organisation – and staff have undertaken training, and a project management framework for the processes involved. Also, we have said to council we are not going to take anything else on – and council are very supportive of that., There is a tendency to want to do new things all the time, so we are not going to do that.

One project we are going to have to focus on is the Coastal management plan, because it's critical and it underpins so much other work, so we have asked council for some help with that.

(Questioner interjects) "So where does the Fort study sit in all that?"

A: The Fort Study is on hold. This was part of my trip to Canberra. It was anticipated after the last Federal election, that we would wait and see who was going to be our local member. So, the project recommenced after Libby (Coker) was elected, we felt there was political support for the Fort project. When the Senate results dropped, the member elected said publicly, that the Fort would "never be anything else other than a defence facility". So that is pretty much put a stop on the project. Unless there is a significant change (or the defence department comes to us) the message is don't push it - that is where it will stay.

Q4. "We don't actually know what the project is, because there's a very expensive report that was promised to be delivered to the community in mid to late last year. It's sitting somewhere gathering dust. So, the community actually doesn't know what was planned for the Fort. At the moment, there are fresh rumours that the department is considering pulling Defence out of there. So what part, given its place in Queenscliff history, just sitting there, it is an amazing landmark. You must be having some discussions about its future?"

No, we are not to be honest with you. The report is there, just about complete but, incomplete, we were not able to have the next level of conversation. We have reached out to the Department of Defence – and there was nothing back to us, and a clear message from the Senator, (Senator the Hon. Sarah Henderson) she does not want us to be spending any more money on this, and is upset that there has been, and it will always be a Defence facility.

(Questioner interjects) "So does that mean the report was Tourism based?"

A: No, it was multi-purpose community and tourism. From my understanding it would not survived – from what I've seen -as just Tourism the business case would not have stacked up.

(Another Questioner interjects) “So will the Community get to ever see what they actually paid for?
A: Potentially – yes. We are working through council with that – the consultants want more money to finish it. What a surprise!

Q5. “Martin, thank you for your presentation. Your first impressions of the first 95 days are pretty positive. As any new community leader, you would have a few things that keep you awake at night., It would be interesting to know, what is that one thing that keeps you awake at night?”

A: Unfortunately, it’s not just one thing., Andrew has listed a few of them; Lighthouse Reserve, Destination Queenscliff.

I think there are some other things, especially around long-term viability and sustainability of the Borough- It’s interesting. Rate capping has changed the environment quite significantly, for smaller councils. We are very lucky here. Certainly, some other regional councils have quickly become unsustainable. They just don’t have the resources to manage their assets.

The real risk for us in terms of assets is exposure to sea level rise. So, they are some of those things that keep me awake at night. The challenge on how we change the dynamic between some parts of community and council. We can tap in to a great talent pool in the community.

Q6. “In a crude way we may benefit from bushfires effecting other parts of the state. Has the Borough though on how it can give back to those communities? Have we got anything in train at the moment?”

A: The Mayor contacted Towong (shire), because there was a connection there. We have offered a few things to them, staff or if members of the community need to get away we’ve put our cabins up for that, also officer support. That if there are things that need to be done in the office – regulatory stuff – we can go up and assist. The Municipal Association of Victoria have also setup a database of councils that can people into the field to help out. We’ve put a couple of our staff in that database to help out.

We have noticed that we are getting a lot of ‘drop-ins’ in to our caravan parks. People have changed their plans for the holidays – but as you can imagine this time of year they are pretty booked out.

Q7. I am just wondering about the issue of one 3225, and potential responsibilities, which would entail particularly inheriting environmental responsibilities, particularly looking at our RAMSAR treaties and the responsibilities of the environment which we would take on.

A: You make a very good point. It is not just a matter of shifting a line, but presents fundamental challenges, we will have to obviously bring more resources in - we have to get more expertise. We have to understand how those water-ways work and how to protect them. So, it’s a very big conversation. It’s a conversation we need to have with the community, if Geelong wants to go with us, where we put all things on the table. It’s not going to be a financial benefit, it will be pretty financially neutral in the long run, because of those things, Infrastructure requires upkeep and there is a lot more to maintain

So, what are going to be the driving things? Is it about having a community of interest, and having broader community where you don’t have that separation, people that live there feel part of this community. They are some of things we need to have conversations about.

Q8. “Just a small one. Is it true that none of the caravan parks yet have a dump point for RV’s, and caravans? It was mentioned as a late addition to the Caravan Parks study, and it’s a major thing that I have seen in towns around Australia, where people stop and spend some money.”

A: Yes, it is true. We are going through a process with Barwon Water, not necessarily in the Caravan Parks, but in another location where they can park and manoeuvre to have a dump point there. We are working through that with Barwon Water -they are not that keen at the moment, but we will keep working on it.

Q9. *“One of your potential best sources of revenue in the next year or 2, is Murray Rd. Did we sell it?”*

A: No, we haven't sold it yet. No. We have certainly had expressions of interest, and we've got to go through those and have to do due diligence ourselves, and work out what best value for the community is.

Q10. *“And just a question about that one 3225. So, we had Lisa Neville and the then Minister for Local Government, Natalie Hutchens, I think it was two AGM's ago. So, probably, 2018, as the community was given a promise at that point that they would take away that issue and get the Essential Services Commission to start the work around some of the viability of the things you are talking about. As a community, we've had nothing back from that, but I'm assuming the Borough might have had some conversations in that space. And so, we (PLCA) have invited her to come either the March or April Member meeting and that's absolutely one of the things she's been asked to speak about, because it's two years on, and we don't have any information. So, what does the Borough know that we don't?”*

A: We probably know less than you, certainly in my time here, my understanding of the situation is that the advice back from Essential Services (Commission) was to go away and do work with Geelong to see if they're interested and see if they will start with the conversation. So, it will be interesting what Lisa (Neville) has to say.

10. Next Annual General Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, 8 January 2021

11. Next General Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, 21 February 2020

12. President Closing remarks.

13. Meeting closed. 9.00pm.

(Could you please help with pack up of the chairs, thank-you)