



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

July 2020 Newsletter.

2020 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2020 is due. The **subscription amount for 2020 is \$10 per person.** Donations are welcome & appreciated, 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.

Please print the [Membership Renewal](#) Form, fill in, Scan & email or post, and return with your payment:

The PLCA bank account details are:

Account Name: Point Lonsdale Civic Association
Bank: Bendigo Bank, Queenscliff
BSB: 633108

Account Number: 131346017
Description: Surname and Initials of the member must be shown

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, or click link below, if you know of family or friends who wish to become a member of PLCA. Just scan & email form link below or deliver at meeting, or post.

[Application for membership](#)

Point Lonsdale's Maritime and Defence Precinct.

It's very pleasing to see the iconic Lighthouse getting a major repaint plus a \$690,000 capital works spend is planned for the Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct after conservation and cultural heritage plans are finally approved.

Works are thought to include a shared pathway to the lighthouse, rocket shed upgrading, a viewing platform and improvements around the car park. Hopefully urgent repairs to the P1 Huts are also part of the long-term ownership plan for the former military site. Queenscliffe Council, who are the Committee of Management over the site, continue to maintain the area and have recently cleared vegetation around the P1 Huts. Vegetation and safety improvements are also planned for Ocean Road.

It is noted by the Association that recently there has been relatively little done on the site, following broad agreement by a community/council reference group, on plans for upgrades and enhancements. It is also noted that this particular issue was a key plank of various candidates that stood for election in 2016.

Bellarine Phase II DAL's Submission.

The Association submitted a comprehensive submission to the Bellarine Distinctive Area Legislation Phase II engagement. See here: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bellarine-peninsula>

The Association inserted a "Coastal Town definition" it would like to see in the Legislation framework.

A copy can be viewed here:

http://www.plca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/PLCA_DALS_Ph_II_Submission.pdf

Bunny Wood & Rip View Precious Moonah Damaged.



We hear about the fires destroying the Amazon Rainforest for farming and the gradual extinction of Koalas in New South Wales due to logging and clearing, but what can we do? How many of us are aware of the importance and fragility of the Bunny Woods in Point Lonsdale? This small patch of land, wrapping along the front beach foreshore adjacent to Royal Park, houses one of the last remnants of Coastal Moonah Woodland that covered Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale up to 200 years ago. By doing nothing now we will allow its gradual destruction to continue.

Before European settlement, Coastal Moonah Woodland (CMW) dominated coastal areas in southern Victoria. CMW is a plant community with Moonah, Wirilda Wattle and Coast Tea-Tree providing a canopy for plants like Coast Beard-Heath, Coast Swainson Pea and Spear Grass. There are now only a few remnants of CMW in coastal Victoria. In Mornington and Bellarine peninsulas less than 9% have survived. In Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale the remnants on public land are along Ocean Road at the Lonny back beach, Rip View Lookout, Bunny Woods, The Narrows, and Queenscliff's Victoria Park. Even though Coastal Moonah Woodland is listed as a threatened community under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, we are now seeing further destruction in several local areas, including our Bunny Woods and Rip View Lookout.

CMW mainly occurs on the more stable hind dunes. The plants stabilize the dunes, provide clean air, stabilize the water table, and contribute to soil development. They provide habitat to insects, birds and other small animals. As there are now only a few pockets of CMW, several plants and animals are now threatened, such as Coast Helmet-Orchid, Long-Nosed Bandicoot, Yellow Admiral Butterfly and Fiddler Beetle.

It appears that recreational cyclists have taken to Victoria's parks and woodlands in larger numbers in recent months – families are looking for healthy entertainment during long periods of screen-bound home-schooling. People have been riding bikes through the Rip View Lookout for decades, so why is it an issue now?

Tracks with jumps and embankments have been created in woodlands. In the process, saplings have been destroyed, branches broken, tree roots damaged, and native shrubs and grasses crushed. From March to June (during COVID lockdown in particular) the Bunny Wood have been seriously damaged, as has the woodland behind the Rip View Lookout. Take a walk and see for yourself.

If we want to keep our remnant Moonah Woodlands we need to care for them. If you see someone ride a bike or "building tracks" in Bunny Wood or at Rip View Lookout, please explain to them why these woodlands are important and endangered (nicely!). Or, you could tell one of our Queenscliffe Councillors or Council staff that these areas are still being damaged and that this issue matters. We should encourage the council to find an alternative area for bike trails, such as the Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall site. For Coastal Moonah Woodlands we are witnessing their death by a thousand cuts. If we do not do something now Joni Mitchell will be right "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

(Editors Note: Thanks to Association Committee Member Mr. Michael Grout for this report.)

Queenscliffe Hub Project.

The latest information we have to date is as follows: *(Editors Note: Update From the Borough of Queenscliffe's Coordinator – Community Engagement and Communications)*

We're still finalising the exact details of the next round of consultation, but the following points should help you provide an overview of what will be happening in the coming weeks:

- *The Queenscliff Hub continues to progress well. Thank you to everyone in the community who has helped shaped the design so far by taking part in consultation.*
- *The collaborative approach between the tenant organisations is producing a sophisticated design that will ensure each organisation's needs are met. We want to thank the Victorian Government and Lisa Neville for their support as the design progresses.*
- *The final round of consultation for the Hub will begin in the coming weeks. Advertising will begin when renderings and drawings are ready for the community to review.*
- *This round of consultation will be an opportunity for participants to comment on the building's elevations, setbacks, facades, and other planning matters.*
- *This round of consultation can be conducted entirely from home, with information including full plans and renderings available on Council's website. Printed copies of plans will also be available by post for residents who request them.*

An information session will be held at the Queenscliffe Town Hall. Participants will need to register in advance, and presentations made at the information session will be recorded and posted on Council's website the following day.

More details will be available once the consultation is ready to launch. As with previous rounds of consultation, we'll be advertising this widely.

Corangamite Climate Change and Environment Reference Group.

In early October 2019 Ms. Libby Coker MP, asked community groups within the Corangamite Electoral District to nominate a representative to this group. The group is an apolitical group to inform Ms. Coker of the effects of climate change in Corangamite.

A meeting was held in mid October at Libby's office with almost 70 representatives. Many issues were presented and so a chairperson was elected and a subcommittee nominated with the idea of large meetings 4 times a year and the subcommittee every second month. The Association's representative, Lynne Furness, attended.

The first subcommittee meeting in January was postponed due to the Bushfires, and then Covid 19 appeared, which caused delays, and on the 18 May the first subcommittee meeting was held by Video Conferencing.

The discussion was centred around presentations on the EPBC Act Review (Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999), Climate Change & Health and a CCMA update (Corangamite Catchment Management Authority).

This is a summary of the presentations:

Climate Change & Health-Barbara Wilson's (from Deakin University) presentation included a wheel with the following:

- severe weather – injuries, fatalities, mental health impacts
- air pollution- asthma & cardiac disease
- changes in vector ecology- malaria, dengue fever, encephalitis, hanta virus, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus
- increased allergens- respiratory allergies & asthma
- water quality- cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter & leptospirosis
- • water & food supply impacts – malnutrition & diarrheal disease
- extreme heat- heat-related illness & death, cardiovascular failure.

From this wheel Barbara talked about the following:

- economy, infrastructure, wildlife & population are all extremely vulnerable
- there are greater costs from failing to prepare and failure to mitigate

- renewables industry is highly developed but can only expand if existing coal & gas generation is removed
- no time to waste as fast approaching irreversible tipping points
- there are many health benefits of action & many benefits are available now
- costs & impacts will rise steeply so now is the time to act
- Australia can lead – Federal Government cooperates with all jurisdictions for maximum benefit.

Climate Change & Health – this was spoken to by Jo Centra (Doctors for the Environment) & Tim Adams (Sustainability Geelong-Housing). The main points were:

- climate change greatest impact on health & as such there is a profound affect on health in Barwon Region due to increased population & lack of funding
- evidence that climate action improves conditions for health
- Tim spoke about the research into the effects of thermal conditions in homes particularly social housing

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority- Jo Marango spoke about:

- there have been a number of community meetings to discuss the replanting & revegetation of the dunes & the wild Otways feral pig & animal removal

it is hoped that a full meeting can be held in July & will have a focus on waste recycling.

(Editors Note: Thanks to Association Committee Member Ms. Lynne Furness for this report.)

Queenscliffe Climate Action Group (QCAG) Update

The Queenscliffe Climate Action Group (QCAG) emerged in late 2019 after large gatherings of locals in Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff expressed concern with the lack of urgency addressing causes and effects of climate change. 1101 residents signed a petition asking Council to declare a climate emergency and commit to developing a response plan in partnership with the community. QCAG also conducted an extensive survey (269 respondents) to capture the community's views about the local impacts of climate change and appetite for solutions. Here are some highlights (full survey results can be found on their website: [Queenscliffe Climate Action Group \(QCAG\)](#)):

- 94% of survey respondents are 'quite' or 'very' concerned about climate change.
- 81% are concerned about the impact climate change will have on future generations.
- 79% would feel proud if the Borough was leading the rest of Victoria and Australia in taking action on climate change and 73% are dissatisfied with the current level of climate action from federal and state governments.
- 79% wouldn't mind having local renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar panels, so they can access renewable energy, and 79% want to incentivise renewable energy for the community.
- 79% want to see improvement to our waste management/recycling systems.
- 71% want trees planted in the Borough to draw down carbon from the atmosphere.

On 19 December 2019, our Council voted to declare a Climate Emergency and to develop a response plan in partnership with the community. Throughout 2020 QCAG has been working closely with Council as they begin to develop their Climate Emergency Response Plan. While this plan will focus on Council operations and buildings, both Council and QCAG are working simultaneously to develop a community-focused response plan. This will live in partnership with Council's plan to ensure all residents and visitors are engaged in preparing for and mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis.

Workshops planned for March 2020 that would have gathered our community together to develop our climate response have been delayed as we tackle COVID-19. In the meantime, Council has been conducting significant research into the Borough's current emissions footprint and is learning from Councils across Australia, particularly coastal communities, who have started a similar journey. While COVID-19 has presented issues and resulted in delays, it has also showcased the resilience and adaptability of our community. QCAG are keen to harness this as we move forward and refocus on the impacts of the climate crisis on our local community.

Unfortunately, the City of Greater Geelong has not taken the lead from the Borough (and Surf Coast Shire – who declared a climate emergency in August 2019), and many other LGA's all over Australia. The Association encourages, in particular CoGG residents, to write to the council urging to follow the Borough's lead and declare a similar Climate Emergency in the CoGG LGA.

New Queenscliff Boat Ramp & Car Park Plans

Following consultation with interested parties including PLCA, Department of Transport have released their final concept design for Queenscliff's Boat Ramp which includes another launching lane, a small craft launching facility, new floating pontoons, a wash down facility, additional car and trailer parking on the grassed open space behind the amenities area and a useful webcam facility.

It is understood a Reference Group of interested parties will oversee final consultation and construction of the project. The finished project will complement the recently completed Fisherman's Wharf Precinct, which features a new harbour walking trail with 5 interactive stations including a replica fishing shed at the end of Beach Street sought by local civic groups as part of the harbour revamp.

Plan details available here, click on the map: <http://www.plca.org.au/current-issues/>

2020 Queenscliffe Borough Elections

In its 2019 review the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) acknowledged that the Borough of Queenscliffe is unlike any other local council in Victoria. The Borough has existed for over 150 years and is the only local council to have remained intact following amalgamations in the 1990s. The Borough is also the smallest in geography (just under 11 square kilometres) and population size (around 3,000). It has a significantly high number of non-resident voters and faces pressures that do not apply to most other councils.

The Borough of Queenscliffe is formed by the seaside villages of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, as well as Swan Island. The Borough of Queenscliffe is an unsubdivided (no wards) municipality consisting of 5 Councillors who represent all the voters over the term of Council.

Councillors are elected through a proportional representation voting system and since 2008 serve a four-year term. The 2020 general election, a Postal Ballot, for the Borough will be held on Saturday the 24th of October. The current Councillors elected in October 2016 or after are:

Cr Bob Merriman
Cr Susan Salter

Cr Ross Ebbels – Mayor
Cr Robert Minty

Cr Boyce Pizzey - Deputy Mayor

At the time of writing one sitting Councillor has unofficially indicated he will not be standing for another term. If you are interested in becoming a Borough Councillor you need to start thinking about it soon. Day to day management of the electoral process is undertaken by the VEC. Candidates must submit their nominations in person to the Election Manager before the close of nominations. Nominations close at 12 noon, 32 days before the election day - 22/9/20. Elections for the Borough, this election cycle, are held by postal voting.

Queenscliff Ferry Terminal Upgrades.

Following the completion of the large black 2 storey ticketing and administration office at the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal, Searoad Ferries have signalled they will shortly commence construction of an even larger ultra modern terminal building thought to be some 11 metres high.

The new building, which exceeds the 8.5 metre permitted height of other Queenscliff buildings, is located adjacent to the shoreline will replace the existing terminal building and includes a public pathway along new rock causeway running parallel to the beach.

Because the new building was included in an earlier 2013 Implementation Plan no further planning approvals are required from the Borough of Queenscliff. Searoad Ferries are also the recipient's of 2 government grants totally some \$15 million to assist with their expansion plans which include new terminals at Sorrento and Queenscliff.

Point Lonsdale Surf life Saving Club – Ocean Road Clubhouse Rebuild.

The clubhouse project is progressing well in spite of the Covid-19 crisis. The slab has been laid, marking a really exciting step for the PLSLSC and anyone who visits the site will be able to get a feeling of the footprint of the new building. Despite the progress, some delays have meant it is becoming less likely the building will be completed in time for this summer. The Club are still hopeful, the building will most likely be completed in February or March 2021.

Work has separately started on developing a plan for the operation of our new clubhouse. The club are really excited to create a community hub which will be able to be used by many local groups and will be embraced by the local community as a welcoming and inclusive venue. *(Editors Note: Thanks to Charlie Pitney PLSLSC President for this update.)*

City of Greater Geelong /Combined Bellarine Community Associations Update:

The Combined Bellarine Group has been working on a Bellarine wide submission to the Bellarine DAL's phase II engagement. It included specifics on the special place that Queenscliff is – which formed part of a 'coastal historic town' definition in the submission. Point Lonsdale was also mentioned in the context of the Point Lonsdale Maritime & Defence Precinct.

Meanwhile, in CoGG the C395 Settlement Strategy Panel Report has been released here:
[CoGG C395 Panel report](#)

Of particular concern is how Ocean Grove will be dealt with as a result of this report. Please read below, from the Ocean Grove Community Association, for more information: *(Editors Note: Emphasis has been added by your editor.)*

Late in 2019 the City of Greater Geelong exhibited Amendment C395 to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme to incorporate its previously adopted Settlement Strategy into the Planning Scheme. This Amendment has major implications for the Bellarine because the Settlement Strategy proposes to direct the vast proportion of the City's future urban growth away from the Bellarine to other areas, particularly the newly designated growth areas to the north & west of Geelong. The Settlement Strategy proposes indicative long term settlement boundaries around all Bellarine towns as shown in existing Council adopted Structure Plans for each of the towns.

*Speculative developers & landowners with an interest in land outside the current Ocean Grove settlement boundary lodged submissions with the Council objecting to this Amendment & requesting further outward extensions of the boundary to provide them with an opportunity for yet further residential development. The areas affected by these submissions include land to the north & west of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve (including Oakdene winery), land fronting Bellarine Highway north of the existing growth area & **land east of Banks Road**. The Council referred these submissions to an Independent Panel appointed by the Minister of Planning, as it is required to do pursuant to the Planning & Environment Act. The Council & the developers/landowners made detailed presentations to the Panel & the Panel has now made its recommendations back to Council for its consideration.*

The Panel has strongly supported the Council's Settlement Strategy & the overall planning policy intention of directing growth away from the Bellarine. On the issue of the future location of Ocean Grove's settlement boundary, the Panel has recommended it be addressed in detail as part of the Government's current Distinctive Areas Landscape (DAL) project which has recently been the subject of a detailed Discussion Paper available for public comment (now closed).

The Ocean Grove Community Association has been conducting an "Enough is Enough" campaign which advocates that permanent town boundaries be applied at their current location with no opportunity for further urban sprawl & has made a detailed submission during the DAL consultation process. The Association's on line survey has so far received over 4200 signatures in support of its campaign, which it believes indicates strong community stance on the boundary issue.

The next crucial stage in the planning process to determine the future direction of planning for the Bellarine will be the release in coming weeks by the Government of a draft Statement of Planning Policy to be the subject of further public consultation.

(Editors note: Thanks to Phil Edwards Chair of the OGCA, & Committee member Ian McCartney who penned this).

We hope that you are all travelling well during this very stressful time, in particular our Melbourne based members who now face further restrictions due to the COVID-19 situation. We certainly feel for you all here, and hope things can get back to normal as soon as safely possible.

Finally, we would also like to thank the Queenscliffe & District Neighbourhood House for use of their Video Platform to conduct our Committee of Management Meetings during the current pandemic situation.

David Kenwood - President, Point Lonsdale Civic Association.

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