



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

September 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](#)

BCH CEO Resignation

Bellarine Community Health (BCH), the key provider of community health services on the Bellarine Peninsula, is today (10/9/20) announcing the upcoming retirement of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Shane Dawson.

Mr Dawson's three-year contract with Bellarine Community Health has been completed and he will finish his role as CEO at the end of October. Mr. Dawson has made very significant contributions to Bellarine Community Health over the past three years, and has provided leadership and vision through some difficult and challenging times, working tirelessly to rebuild community trust and confidence in the organisation.

The Association would like to thank Mr. Dawson for his service to the community as CEO of BCH.

The BCH Board chair, Ms Fay Agterhuis (*Editors Note: PLCA V/Chair*), announced on the 15/9/20 the appointment of Mr Garry Ellis as the interim CEO of Bellarine Community Health. Mr Ellis will take over from retiring CEO Shane Dawson. Mr Ellis was appointed to the Board of BCH last year, but has resigned from his position to take up the role of interim CEO.

Mr Ellis has more than 30 years of experience as a finance professional in the health and community service sectors, and recently retired from full time work.

His most recent role was as Chief Financial Officer of genU, providing experience working in the NDIS and Aged Care environments on a relatively large scale. He is very familiar with the operations of community based programs and activities, which fit well with the model of Bellarine Community Health.

An extensive, nationwide recruitment process for a new Chief Executive Officer will now be undertaken.

(Editors note: From BCH Press releases.)

Queenscliffe Hub Project.

The PLCA submitted a submission (based on member issues) to planning application 2020/030 'The Hub' here: [The Queenscliffe Hub Submission](#)

To summarise, the main issues of concern raised by members of the Association are:

- The Facade/exterior of the building. Our view it is not in keeping with the historic Queenscliff 'Free Library' building, and the [Queenscliff Post Office](#) either side. Not to mention the Historic 'Vue Grand' Hotel across the road.
- The lack of Public Toilets, available when the building is closed. The Association has had complaints from traders nearby, who are flabbergasted at this.
- The removal of the 'Agonis' and 'Flowering Gum' trees. Many visitors and local love the shade, and serenity, these mature trees provide – particularly on a warm day.
- Lack of a Landscape Plan.
- Lack of a Traffic Management Plan.

Following a plea by local groups, including PLCA to save the shade trees in the front of Field Park, including the bicentennial flowering gum, and 24 hour access to public toilets in Queenscliff's main street a Hub Steering Committee was convened on 18 September at which it was agreed the 2 front trees would remain and Council was instructed to find a solution to address the main street toilet concerns.

Funding of the new toilets will fall outside the \$5.75 million available for the Hub. Some new visuals of the infill development in relation to the historic Queenscliff Post Office and the Library Building were also shown by KTA (Architects) at the request of local groups. Council have called the matter 'in' and will send the matter to a planning review meeting to be followed by a special October Council meeting. The current council have had legal advice and have been advised that they can deal with this matter despite being in care-taker period.

Following various public engagement stages a number of alterations to the original Melbourne based KTA plan have taken place including the deletion of the stand-alone verandah, a redesigned new entrance, inclusion of an auditorium/meeting rooms, more space for the museum and library, retaining Field Park's much loved shade trees and hopefully resolving the toilets issue, which is a significant concern to some traders and groups in Hesse Street.

2020 Queenscliffe Borough Elections

The 2020 Victorian LGA elections are to be held by postal voting. At close of nominations, three former Councillors have nominated, out of a total of 11 (alphabetically):

Mr. Ross Ebbels	Ms. Amanda Hoysted	Ms. Susan Salter
Mr. Donnie Grigau	Mr Geoffrey Matthews.	Ms Isabelle Tolhurst.
Mr. Michael Grout	Mr. Rob Minty	Ms Zelda Walters
Ms. Fleur Hewitt	Ms Jacqui Pierce	

2020 City of Greater Geelong Elections

At close of nominations, the three former Bellarine Councillors have nominated, out of a total of 10 (alphabetically):

Ms. Naomi Adams	Mr. Jim Mason	Ms. Elise Wilkinson
Ms. Stephanie Asher	Mr. Tom O'Connor.	Mr. Cory Wolverton
Mr. Micheal Fairweather	Mr. Steven John Simmonds	
Mr. Tom Harrison	Mr. Tim Sullivan	

2020 Victorian LGA Election Time lines:

<u>Open Nominations</u>	17/09/2020 at 9am	<u>Election Day</u>	24/10/2020
<u>Close Nominations</u>	22/09/2020 at 12pm	<u>Results From</u>	30/10/2020
<u>Ballots Posted</u>	From 06/10/2020	<u>Last Day For Results</u>	13/11/2020
<u>Postal Votes Due</u>	23/10/2020 at 6pm		

Borough of Queenscliffe & CoGG 3225 ‘Meet the Candidates’ Webinars.

The Combined Bellarine Community Association (CBCA), PLCA and the QCA will be running online Webinar ‘meet the candidates’ meetings.

One community webinars will be held for the Borough of Queenscliffe Election; on Monday 12 October at **6.45 pm for a 7pm start.**

Two community webinars will be held for the CoGG Bellarine Ward:

At **6.45 pm for a 7pm start.** on Monday 5 October will be predominately for the ‘northern’ Bellarine (generally north of the Bellarine Highway) and at **6.45 pm for a 7pm start.** on Thursday 8 October for the “southern” Bellarine (generally south of the Bellarine Highway, which includes Point Lonsdale).

All webinars will be recorded and the recording will be available on line a few days after each webinar.

All candidates will be invited by the CBCA to participate in the webinars and will be given the opportunity to have their say followed by a moderated Q&A session.

People are asked to indicate their interest in joining in one of webinars by emailing the CBCA comb.bellarine.community.assoc@gmail.com and indicating which webinar they would like to join. The CBCA will email you the webinar link closer to the webinar date.

Do you have a question for the candidates? You can email the CBCA your questions in advance and we will send them to all candidates before the webinars. Please include your postcode with your question to help us manage grouping of any common questions or themes.

Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct.

The Association is pleased to see some remedial works at the precinct over the last few months. The unsightly Graffiti on the P1 huts, has been painted over, and temporary fencing has been erected.

The Precinct has received an expanded citation in Appendix 3c in the Lovell-Chen heritage review documents, and The Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct was included on the Victorian Heritage Register on 19 December 2019 (VHR H1517).

Additionally, the lighthouse has had a face-lift as part of on going maintenance of the lighthouse.

Bunny Woods and Rip View Woodlands

In our last newsletter, we described the unauthorized construction of bike trails (BMX/pump tracks) in two of the last remaining stands of Moonah woodland on the Point Lonsdale foreshore. Since then, there has been focus on repairing the damage by our Council, council and outdoor staff, together with Bellarine Catchment Network (BCN) and a Working For Victoria conservation team provided by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP).

In the Bunny Woods, a Lend Lease crew removed some bike jumps, ramps and corner banks, and the BCN supervised conservation team remade and replanted the edges of several walking tracks with woodland plants from our community nursery.

In the Rip View Woodlands, where new bike trails have been created to the south of the long-established Humps and Bumps, a stunning variety of orchids have been identified by Brett Diehm, a horticulturalist who lives locally.

The new trail blazers did damage several woodland trees, shrubs and ground covers, and impinged on areas where these orchids are growing. Council staff and the BCN crew have now erected temporary fencing to limit access to these areas.

In addressing the issues some Councillors and council staff have engaged in conversations with several of the bike track builders and users. Discussion included balancing the needs of bikers with the protection of our remnant woodlands, as well as options for building a new bike trail facility in a Borough location less damaging to our fragile coastal environment. Moving forward, we see at least four issues Council will need to manage:

1. Collaborate with DEWLP on management of these foreshore areas, as we must continuously demonstrate BoQ is a capable coastal manager.
2. Communication with bike riders and affected stakeholders in order to identify an alternative area in the Borough for a new bike trail, and source funding for this project in the next budget. We understand a number of sites are being considered including adjacent to the current Skate Park (which needs refurbishment and upgrading). In the short term ,additional ,temporary jumps and track are to be installed adjacent to the small course on the Point Lonsdale school hall grounds.
3. Ensure the remedial work is not wasted time and money as the new plantings and repaired pathways need on-going inspection and maintenance until it is clear the damage is not repeated, new plants survive, and weeds do not invade.
4. Improve signage to reduce the risk of this cycle of damage and repair reoccurring, as has happened in other municipalities. For example restrictive “No Bike” signs and low level interpretive Moonah woodland signs could be placed at both ends of the walking tracks in each of the Borough’s remaining Moonah woodlands, as education and regulation are two important elements in reducing undesirable human impacts.

1. *Humps & Bumps – shows impact of biking in a Moonah woodland.*
2. *Maroon Hood Orchids in the Rip View Moonah Woodlands*
3. *Remedial work and new sign in centre of Bunny Woods (as yet there are no signs at entrances!).*



(Editors Note: Thanks to committee member Michael Grout for this update.)

Sale of Council Land in Murray Road

The Association understands that settlement of the sale of Council land in Murray Road is linked to the receipt of a planning permit i.e. the conditions of sale provided 18 months for the planning permit process and decision.

A planning permit application has been made by Human Habitats on behalf of Mantello Holdings. The application was for the subdivision of land into 13 lots, which is generally in accordance with Council's approved Development Plan for the property. No price has been disclosed so far for the sale, nor do we know what the Council will do with the proceeds when the sale is finally completed.

3225 Boundary Issue West of Fellows Road

It was reported at a recent meeting that the Borough Mayor recently met with the new Local Government Minister, The Hon. Shaun Leane MP, regarding the boundary issue and told him of the history of the long running ‘One 3225’ matter.

The new Minister had relatively good knowledge and interest in the Borough. The Essential Services Commission will look at the re-alignment of the boundary and will work through the financial implications. It was important for parties to understand all the financial implications first i.e. the pros and cons to give residents a clear picture and park figures of what the cost may be. ESC investigation might point out some directions given the complex questions involved including boundary shifts.

Data analysis problems with a split Point Lonsdale:

The Association supports amalgamation of all of Point Lonsdale into one LGA area. The present boundaries, make it very difficult to obtain meaningful, valid data from Point Lonsdale. Given the current global pandemic, it also makes sense. Officially, there have only been 2 known cases of COVID-19 in the Borough of Queenscliffe. Which includes Point Lonsdale, but not the West of Fellows Rd. That portion of Point Lonsdale is in the CoGG, which has had 363 cases. In this instance, the Association feels that it’s very important to get a true, and correct, data set for Point Lonsdale, given the large over 70 population of the village.

Another similar example occurred with the recent CoGG North Bellarine 50M pool scoping study data. The Association asked our local Bellarine Ward councillor, Cr. Jim Mason about, the data which was submitted on P372 of CoGG Ordinary Council Meeting 24/3/20, Agenda, P18 of associated report:

A huge 15.7% of Point Lonsdale residents are members of Bellarine Aquatic Swimming Centre, which the second highest on the Bellarine! Does that data include the BoQ Point Lonsdale? Or just those in CoGG 3225?

The subsequent reply from a CoGG Officer:

In preparing the scoping study we worked from data sources that did not make a distinction between BoQ and CoGG populations. I have attached the page from the ABS data that indicates the area we mapped to arrive at the Point Lonsdale population and demographic data.

In relation to the member / user information, the information we received stated that 429 members of BASC and Splashdown were from Point Lonsdale. We have not applied a scrutiny to whether this is Point Lonsdale in or out of the Geelong municipality. We then obtained population data from the ABS website for Point Lonsdale (as above) it stated the 2016 population was 2684. This equates to 15.7% of the population as being members.

Furthermore, our local primary school cannot obtain meaningful data for future planning and enrolment purposes, for the same reasons.

Point Lonsdale Royal Park Developments

At a recent meeting between the PLCA and the Mayor and Borough CEO, it was indicated that new caravan waste dump facilities are being considered at the Recreation Reserve in Queenscliff, and Royal Park at Point Lonsdale.

It was also mentioned that Council were conducting a risk study on the Royal Park oval fencing and due to cost considerations of some \$60,000 were considering the option of not repairing the oval fencing and removing the existing steel fence altogether. We have been advised that sporting clubs have been consulted about the proposal.

Mention was also made of upgrading toilet facilities and potentially locating the Moremac sales office to Royal Park for sporting club use.

The CEO referred to the recent Caravan Park Study for Royal Park and possible locations near the existing pavilion/BBQ shed. The proposals will require a community engagement process and DELWP coastal consent will also be required.

Borough of Queenscliffe Coastal and Marine Management Plan.

At the recent Borough Council Ordinary Meeting (17/9/20), an issues paper was presented for a new and updated Marine and Coastal Management Plan.

The Borough of Queenscliffe manages a significant proportion of the coastal Crown land located within the municipality. The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to preparing a Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) as required under the new legislative framework of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (MaCA). The intent of the CMMP is to identify and define on ground actions associated with the future management of coastal Crown land. This issues paper has been developed to help scope the key challenges faced by the Borough of Queenscliffe including and analysis of how these challenges might be addressed as part of developing a CMMP.

The Council voted to endorse the Coastal and Marine Management Issues Paper for the purposes of community consultation. The Association looks forward to providing input to the process.

Borough of Queenscliffe Heritage review.

At the recent Borough Council Ordinary Meeting (17/9/20), a Heritage Review document was presented, from Heritage Consultant Lovell-Chen, in 3 separate parts:

1. Volume 2 – Thematic History; [Click here: [Heritage Review Appendix 3a](#)]
2. Volume 3 - Individual Heritage Overlay Citations; [Click here: [Heritage Review Appendix 3b](#)]
3. Volume 4 – Precinct citations; [Click here: [Heritage Review Appendix 3c](#)]

The Heritage Review 2020 provides an updated assessment and record of the existing heritage features of the Borough of Queenscliffe. The document will assist decision making associated with heritage matters and advocacy in other forums such as VCAT.

At the September Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to:

1. Adopts the Heritage Review dated 2020, prepared by Lovell Chen, subject to final corrections and refinement by Council officers and Lovell Chen.
2. Delegate officers to seek authorisation from the Minister to prepare a planning scheme amendment to the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme to reflect the recommendations of the Heritage Review 2020.
3. Instruct officers to prepare a work plan that outlines how the remaining elements (Stage 2) of the Lovell Chen report will be actioned. The plan should, include the following objectives:
 - Finalise assessment and review of the 153 additional places identified in the Heritage Review
 - Identify the changes to the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme required to update heritage control
 - Develop a recommendations paper for Council
 - Completion of Stage 2 work by September 2021.
4. Allocates \$40,000 from Council's unallocated Cash reserve, in addition to the remaining project funds, to fund Stage two of the Heritage Review project.

The Association is extremely pleased with this outcome, and looks forward to making strong and well versed submissions when and where appropriate.

The Association's position is that we would not like to see any of the existing Heritage Protections watered down, indeed we will be advocating for further toughening when and where necessary.

Permit Requirements for Clearing Vegetation near your home.

Clearing trees, bushes and other plants near your home is a common activity in many parts of Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff. But depending on where the vegetation is located, you may need a permit to remove it. The Victorian Government has recently changed the rules around when you need to get a permit to clear vegetation near your home, and these changes mean many homeowners in the Borough will need a permit to clear vegetation.

See here: [Clearing Vegetation new Government Rules](#) (Editors Note: Information taken from BoQ website)

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

After a few months of delay, things are starting to move again at a good speed. The structural steel has now been erected and the building is really taking shape. Unfortunately, due to a number of factors we are not going to be in the building in time for summer. While it is disappointing to be 'homeless' again for another year - in light of the COVID-19 Crisis, we are remaining positive and treating it as a blessing in disguise. This season we are taking a back to basics approach and ensuring that we focus on our purpose of keeping the community safe on our beaches. We are really excited for the building to come together and look forward to it become a 'hub' for the communities of Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff.

Updates on the build can be found here: <https://clubhouse.plslsc.com.au/updates/>

(Editors Note: Thanks to Charlie Pitney PLSLSC President for this update.)

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, or at best a new normal, soon. We want to see you all back in the Borough, as soon as safely possible, – your neighbours miss you and our businesses need you!

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. We would also like to thank Carmel Christensen, Editor of the RIP for all her ongoing support.

David Kenwood - President, Point Lonsdale Civic Association.

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