



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

Welcome to the July 2019 newsletter for 2019, from your PLCA committee. Whilst it's winter, we have been busy advocating on our members behalf, and hope this keeps you up-to-date with what's been going on.

Reminder: New Residents in Point Lonsdale.

We all have noticed the large number of new houses constructed in both the 'The Point' & 'Golf Club' Estates. The Association in particular, would warmly welcome more residents from 'The Point' & 'Golf Club' Estates joining the Association. We would like to point out, that the Association has an excellent working relationship with CoGG Bellarine Ward Councillors, to advocate on your behalf.

We are constantly in contact with our CoGG Bellarine Ward Councillors, and directly meet with them on a regular basis as part of our involvement with the Combined Bellarine Community Associations. Indeed, CoGG Bellarine Ward Councillors attend some PLCA member meetings, as do Borough Councillors.

We would kindly ask that members forward this Newsletter to residents from 'The Point' & 'Golf Club' Estates, for their consideration. Or alternatively attend a member meeting, our next being on 20/9/19. We all agree we have chosen to reside in this pristine location, that should be preserved into the future. Joining the PLCA, and taking an active stance in the issues that effect us all, is one way we can all help to assure this.

Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape Project - Public Engagement Now Open

The Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape project that is underway by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in collaboration with the City of Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliffe and the Wadawurrung People.

The Association is working on a submission to DEWLP, and is concentrating on the following Key Submission Statement Headings:

1. Green Wedges.
2. Cohesive planning across BoQ/CoGG.
3. Town Boundaries.
4. Height Limits.
5. 'Coastal Village' - (Point Lonsdale) amenity, character, and a definition to be incorporated in the statement.
6. 'Historic Coastal Village' - (Queenscliff) amenity, character, and a definition to be incorporated in the statement.
7. Heritage protections/Historic Maritime Protections/Historic Military Protections & strengthening them where appropriate across the Borough/3225.
8. Protection for Natural Environment.
9. Density (Housing).
10. Amenity (Noise).
11. Strong Legislative Protections around the SPP (Statement of Planing Policy)

The Association also has had feedback from the Macedon Ranges Residents Association, who began this process sometime ago. For the most part they are "disillusioned" with the process so far (*Editors Note: The Macedon Ranges Council have not endorsed the exhibited 'Statement of Planning Policy' as yet.*).

The Association urges members to submit feedback to the DELWP website, to ensure we have a community led SPP on the Bellarine.

Questions of Public Health - Aerial Spraying for Control of Mosquitoes

In response to publicity of an alleged cancer cluster in Barwon Heads, with speculation that it may be been caused by aerial spraying for mosquitoes, the PLCA wrote to both the Queenscliffe Borough Council and the City of Greater Geelong, seeking advice on the mosquito spraying program undertaken in and adjoining the borough. These questions are important to allay the potential for concerns following the recent publicity of a cluster of serious diseases affecting residents of Barwon Heads.

The response from Mr. Gareth Smith, Director, Planning, Design and Development, CoGG, reads -

“Thank you for your questions around the mosquito control program and products used. The City takes pride in the program it delivers and has always been open about the methodology and products used.

While we empathise with people affected by serious diseases, the recent analysis by the Chief Health Officer does not indicate a higher rate of cancers in Barwon Heads when compared to the rest of Australia.

The City of Greater Geelong works with the Borough of Queenscliffe on mosquito control as many of the key breeding sites affected the residents of both municipalities. This has always been a key public health program particularly when the Mycobacterium ulcers outbreak began in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. Some of the key research outcomes came from work done by the City and the Borough. Although still no conclusive cause of the spread, insect bites are certainly implicated which reinforces the recommendation for regular mosquito control for this as well as Ross River Fever and other arboviruses.

Mosquito control activities typically begin in August through to April, though breeding occurs all year round. Wetlands and water conditions are monitored for breeding over a two week cycle and is dependent on rainfall, temperature, high tides and wind directions. If the conditions result in significant larvae developing then approved larvicides are applied. Not all water bodies have the potential to breed mosquitoes as the larvae need calm sheltered areas of water to develop into adults.

The City uses Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti) and s-Methoprene for mosquito control that are approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The products are in a pellet form and are dropped from a helicopter flying at a low height over areas that can't be reached by ground based application. Helicopter application has occurred since 2005 and is one via an EPBC Act permit which only allows aerial treatments between August 15 and March 15 every year so to protect endangered birds that migrate to the wetlands in winter months.

Within the Borough, the main breeding sites are: Murray Road, Drains, Point Lonsdale (Ground Based). Swan Bay Perimeter wetlands to Burnt Point (Aerial). Swan Island (Aerial). Wetland pockets along the railway line (ground based). Within the COGG the main sites adjacent to Point Lonsdale are: Swan Bay Perimeter wetlands (Aerial). Hollywood Estate Drains (Ground Based) and Lake Victoria Perimeter wetlands (Aerial).

These sites are monitored and treated during daylight hours with communities advised of when the annual program starts and to expect treatments to occur through the season.” (end quote).

The Bairnsdale Ulcer:

Borough residents and visitors to the area, should be aware that Bairnsdale Ulcer attacks have jumped from 182 cases in 2016 to 340 in 2018, and this compares to only 89 cases in 2014.

Ulcer cases have been reported in dogs, cats and even an alpaca. To combat the disease, Barwon Health and CSIRO are looking into the links between possums, mosquitoes and soil types.

The Association have arranged guest speakers on this very important community topic, and we are pleased to advise that at the PLCA Member meeting on 18/10/19, Professor. Paul Johnson will speak about about Bellarine Ulcer. We are also hoping to get a prominent local GP who is an expert on the subject, along too.

BoQ 2019/20 Budget, Implementation Plan, Rating Strategy & Long Term Financial Plan

On 24 April QBC's financial officer conducted a one-hour slide presentation at 6pm (approx. 60 slides) immediately prior to Council's ordinary meeting at 7pm. Subsequently there was no time for any public questions or clarification of the detailed information presented. The budget presentation included a largely State and Federally funded \$13.5 million capital works program including:

- \$3.507 million for Destination Queenscliffe - local community still hasn't seen version 3 of the Hassell Master Plan or the Fort Queenscliff Business Plan.
- \$1.667 million for Queenscliff Sport and Recreation Reserve Precinct.
- \$1.383 million for Hesse Street South works. – new car parking adjacent to the Bowls Club, undergrounding of the overhead power lines, drainage/storm water upgrade and a new walking path.
- \$1.035 million for Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve.
- \$750,000 for Queenscliff foreshore improvements.
- \$698,221 Annual Asset Renewal Program (property, plant & equipment, infrastructure).
- \$500,000 Queenscliff Hub (project continuing into 2021/22, total cost \$5.75 million).
- \$435,691 for Project Management resourcing.
- \$255,500 Point Lonsdale Tennis Club - improvements to courts and lighting.
- \$30,000 to Point Lonsdale Tennis Club to fund future works . *(Editors note: these are the funds that were meant for lighting and repair in the last budget.)*

In addition:

- A 2.5% rate capping for residential ratepayers (plus annual property revaluations going forward);
- An increased pensioner rebate on rates. (Increased by \$50 to \$120 P.A)

Waste Charges:

(From BoQ June 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda, P41)

Waste charge	Property type	Current charge	Proposed charge	Increase/(decrease)	
				\$	%
Kerbside waste charge	Residential & Tourist Accom	\$170.60	\$184.65	\$14.05	8.2%
Green waste charge	Residential & Tourist Accom	\$37.40	\$40.20	\$2.80	7.5%
Public waste charge	All ratepayers	\$99.75	\$90.45	(\$9.30)	(9.3%)
Additional set of bins	Optional	\$225.00	\$230.00	\$5.00	2.22%
One additional bin	Optional	\$112.50	\$115.00	\$2.50	2.22%

Capital spending program is heavily weighted towards Queenscliff, however projects for Point Lonsdale include much needed drainage and storm water improvements for Simpson Street and upgrading works for the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve.

On the 30th of May approximately 9 speakers made individual and group submissions to Council in relation to this years budget based on recent information supplied to residents and ratepayers. The PLCA submission can be found here:

http://www.plca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PLCA_2019_20_budget_submission.pdf

Queenscliffe Heritage Review – Have Your Say

Consultant Heritage Adviser, Peter Lovell, and a number of Councillors were in attendance at a public meeting held in the Town Hall on 22 May 2019 at 7pm which discussed Council's latest heritage review. Peter Lovell undertook the original Urban Conservation Study for the Borough in the early 1980's which was updated in 2009 (however it was thought the later review was not actually adopted by Council).

Mention was made that public submissions can be made to the latest review and that an issues paper would be produced, many of the suggestions and comments made by residents on the night were also recorded. Peter Lovell indicated that much had changed in Queenscliff since the original study was completed, and

suggested amongst other things that some of the urban character controls in the planning scheme needed to be simplified and heritage provisions strengthened.

PLCA have recently written to Council suggesting their 2004 draft Significant Tree and Vegetation Register should now be completed as a stand alone reference document to complement the current heritage review, however no funding has been allocated in this years budget.

Fishermen's Wharf Rebuild and Bridge Street Traffic Changes

The rebuild of the Fishermen's Wharf is now well underway with a new supporting steel wall being constructed by marine contractors at the end of Bridge, Bay and Beach Streets, Queenscliff. The rebuild of the wharf, Cayzer's slipway and the dinghy basin will accompany other planned works in the harbour area including alterations to Larkin Parade and Bridge Street. Following resident concerns 3 meetings were held with Council officers at which changes were agreed resulting in a better outcome for Fishermen's Flat ratepayers.

Fishermen's Co-operative building

Some concerns with the planned re-development of the former Fishermen's Co-operative building in Wharf Street, which is to be shared between the Queenscliff Music Festival (storage and office space for QMF) and the Queenscliff Maritime Museum (Museum Space) have recently been voiced. The former fishing industry building has asbestos and some residents and others have concerns about the proposed redevelopment plans.

Queenscliffe Cultural Hub – update:

The fourth Steering Committee meeting was held on the afternoon of 10 May at Queenscliff with The Hon. Lisa Neville (Member for Bellarine) again chairing the meeting. The Steering Committee undertook an inspection of the Queenscliff Historic Museum and the Queenscliff Library before having a joint meeting with the Project Control Committee at the Queenscliff Uniting Church where presentations were made by Roger Grant from Tourism Greater Geelong and Bellarine (latest innovations in Visitor Information Centres) and a presentation from the Geelong Regional Library. The Funding Agreement between Queenscliffe Council and State Government is expected to be finalised shortly which will enable a Project Manager and an Architect to be appointed to the \$5.7 million project.

PLSLSC News:

The Club have commenced the relocation of club office and storage requirements to a temporary leased offsite storage facility.

During the recent Federal election, both the incumbent Federal member for Corangamite (Sarah Henderson Lib), and ALP candidate Libby Coker, together with minor parties all gave the Club an election pledge to fund the remaining funding shortfall of \$600,000. This means that the PLSLSC have achieved the \$5.4M target and can undertake final steps in preparation to start the project (after a long hard 11 year journey!).

The Club are now in the final stages of ensuring that they have secured the Federal funding commitments; namely, the Building Better Regions Grant \$650,000 and the \$600,000 election pledge. The Club are continuing to finalise the design and fine tune value management initiatives with the preferred builder. Meanwhile the Club are looking forward to finally start demolition works this Winter.

Finally, the Club can assure the community that there will no reduction in the Clubs water-safety efforts during the Clubhouse build.

VEC Submission “Have your Say’ Review into the Borough of Queenscliffe.

After response submissions and a Public hearing, a preliminary report was released on Wednesday 3 April 2019 with the following options for consideration:

- Option A (preferred option)

The Borough of Queenscliffe consist of five councillors elected from an unsubdivided electoral structure.

- Option B (alternative option)

The Borough of Queenscliffe consist of six councillors elected from an unsubdivided electoral structure.

After due consideration, the VEC recommended in it's report to the State Government Government Minister for Local Government as required by the Local Government Act 1989, that the Borough of Queenscliffe continue to consist of five councillors elected from an unsubdivided electoral structure.

City of Greater Geelong Report/Bellarine News.

Southern Bellarine Coastal Trail:

On the 21/7/19, the Ocean Grove Community Association, in conjunction with other supporters, including the Borough & PLCA (*Editor's Note: The CoGG did not contribute financially*) ran a very successful Southern Bellarine Coastal Forum. Several PLCA Committee members were in attendance at the sell out event.

The Forum presentation documents & visual presentations are here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2crepav>

The Association would like to thank the OGCA & in particular OGCA'[s Noel Emselle, for organising this insightful Forum. We would also like to thank the presenters, who gave up their time free of charge, to present workshops at the Forum.

Planning (Roads):

Ocean Grove:

Grubb Rd upgrade – Regional Roads Victoria will present options around September this year, and note some options will not involve duplication.

Presidents Av/Orton St – Traffic lights to come! Construction to commence after the Summer 2020 peak period

Drysdale:

Drysdale Bypass proceeding ahead of Schedule. Community groups report that the consultation and feedback, from Construction Project management has been pleasing.

Barwon Heads:

Up-to-date statistical data gleaned from Bluetooth trackers over the last Summer Peak will help establish future traffic planning for Barwon Heads village. Of note, the crossing at IGA Barwon Heads was used by ~1,000 pedestrians per hour in the peak period.

Anglesea to Queenscliff:

Consistency of Speed zones with all connector roads.

CoGG Community Focus Council meeting

9 July 2019, 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM

Indented Heads Community Hall,
opposite 326 The Esplanade, Indented Head.

Upcoming Member Meetings:

20/9/19 – Sencia (The Point) will speak about their Development at The Point.

18/10/19 - Prof. Paul Johnson will speak about about Bellarine Ulcer.

Please watch your inbox for further details.

Kind Regards; Rob Minty - PLCA President, on & behalf of the PLCA Executive.