



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

September 2019 Newsletter.

Welcome to the September 2019 newsletter from your PLCA committee. We have been busy advocating on our members behalf, and hope this keeps you up to date with what's been going on in 3225 and greater Bellarine.

Destination Queenscliff.

Hassell's have once again been commissioned by Queenscliffe Council to prepare a draft plan for the area at Shortland's Bluff and the Recreation Reserve.

Hassell's brief was essentially to design 10 cabins (5 of which are new), a new kiosk/toilet and operations buildings for inside the Recreation Reserve. They were also required to provide re-development plans for the Ocean View Car Park and the adjacent "Bullring" ship viewing area. Their brief indicated the 3 commemorative cypress trees at the "Bullring" may be removed.

A community open house and a series of dedicated briefing sessions in early August for specific local groups was undertaken by Council consultants along with a Council sponsored 'Survey-Monkey' on-line survey. According to the Mayor, the community engagement process has resulted in some 400 residents responding to the proposals. PLCA lodged an extensive written submission by Council's deadline. QCA and QEF also submitted a joint submission. Many of the issues raised by the community groups in their submissions were similar. The PLCA submission can be found at:

[Destination Queenscliff PLCA Submission \(PDF\)](#)

Council indicated that based on community feedback a Concept Plan would be developed to guide Council decision making and for further community comment. PLCA and other groups are currently awaiting the next phase of the process (based on public engagement) and further direction from Council.

Issues of Concern with the Latest Destination Queenscliff Plan

Given the concerns with past redevelopment plans for Shortland's Bluff, a Community Steering Committee (as per the 'Queenscliff Hub Project'), is being asked for, along with a rethink of some elements of the plan including the following:

1. The proposed lawn area in front of the car park, and a re-configured smaller car park, would mean people could no longer drive to the edge of the current Ocean View lookout, and look directly seaward and along the beach as they can presently do. In effect, cars would be set back further than they currently are under the consultants plan. PLCA believe the proposed green area could instead be relocated to the eastern end or behind the current car park. Also the potential loss of 3 commemorative cypress trees in the "Bullring" is a major concern.
2. Another concern is the inclusion of a new roundabout at the entrance to the Recreation Reserve and its impact on traffic flow and car parking at the kiosk – particularly during busy holiday periods.
3. The number of cabins to be crammed into a relatively narrow strip in the Recreation Reserve between the Monahan Centre and existing kiosk. Also, the incompatibility of cabins with local

sporting events taking place at the Recreation Reserve. Concerns with deliveries in and out of the Monahan Centre have also been raised.

4. The number of other new operational buildings along the inner boundary of the Recreation Reserve and the combination kiosk and public toilet. Ideally, we think the toilet and kiosk should be separated.
5. No commitment to the removal of exotic pest plants and replanting with natives at Shortland's Bluff, indeed no remediation has occurred since Council assumed management control of the area. A replanting program is badly needed to improve this rundown area.
6. Rezoning of Ocean View Car Park from Commonwealth Land to PPRZ. Council have initiated a process with the State Government to rezone this land and the community know very little about this important planning process.
7. Heritage Victoria have recently listed the Queenscliff Lighthouse Reserve, Ocean View Car Park and the "Bullring" following a recent application from a local resident. This heritage listing now needs to be recognised in any planning for this historic area.
8. Queenscliffe Council is required to undertake a new Marine and Coastal Management Plan for its coastline. Ideally this should be undertaken with the local community before any new plans for our coastline are developed.

The Association also believes other Council Plans need to be released to allow an overall view of what is happening in the Shortland's Bluff area. These include Council's long waited, and yet to be publicly released Fort Queenscliff Business Plan (Deloitte's \$230,000 study commissioned some 2 years ago). In addition, actions emanating from Council's controversial Caravan Parks Strategy, particularly those relating to the Recreation Reserve and Victoria Park (Queenscliff's Botanic Park) need to be released. At the time of writing detail of the Hesse Street South Reactivation Plan, which Council have budgeted \$1.3 million this year, has not been released. These works also link directly link to the Destination Queenscliff project, Ocean View Car Park and Shortland's Bluff.

Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape Project.

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 made a submission to DELWP some months ago. At this point, the first Public Consultation stage has been completed and the program is now at the 'Declaration of the Bellarine Peninsula as a Distinctive Areas and Landscape' stage. PLCA and other submitters have yet to see this "Declaration".

Of note, is that on the 17/9/19, Minister for Planning The Hon. Richard Wynne MP declared Torquay, Jan Juc and surrounds as Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The next step for the Surf Coast is Statement of Planning Policy for the region to guide development controls and settlement boundaries.

The Association is following this process closely and will keep members updated as more information becomes available.

The Bairnsdale Ulcer:

News that the Bairnsdale Ulcer ('Bairnsdale Ulcer') is on the rise raises concerns amongst our community.

You are welcome join members, at our PLCA Member Meeting on 18 October 2019 to hear Professor Paul Johnson, Deputy Director of Infectious Diseases Department at Austin Health speak. Professor Johnson is the lead medical scientist and member of the team which received 1.5 million dollars from the National

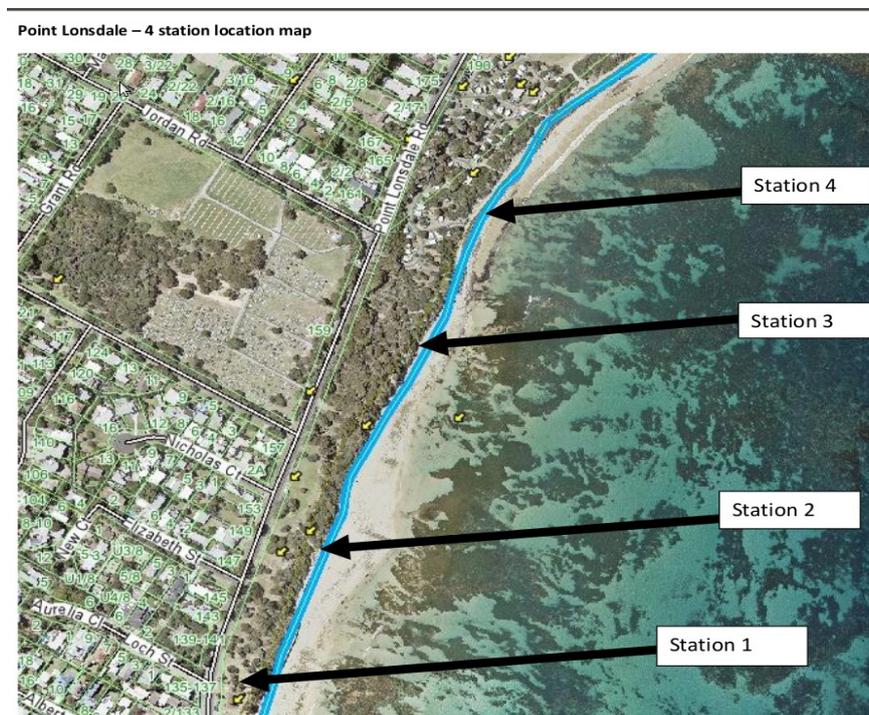
Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to further the research not only into the method of infection transfer, but also into treatment for this disease on both the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas. Professor Johnson's team also have a particular interest in Point Lonsdale, and the incidence of the ulcer here. This talk should provide all those present with a better understanding of the disease, its spread and treatment.

While *Mycobacterium ulcerans* infection – or Buruli ulcer as it's more commonly known – predominates in West Africa, cases have been increasing exponentially in coastal Victoria, specifically the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas, with 275 cases recorded in 2017.

Twenty years of collaborative research has identified mosquitos as the vectors of the disease to humans and possums as the wild life reservoir. Buruli ulcer is a destructive skin and soft tissue infection that can lead to permanent functional or cosmetic deformity. Treatment for it is complex, requiring multiple antibiotics for prolonged periods and occasionally reparative surgery.

Pick My Project – Outdoor Gym Locations:

As a result of the successful nomination to the Pick My Project by the Rotary Club of Queenscliff for outdoor gym equipment to be erected along Point Lonsdale foreshore and in Princess Park Queenscliff, the Borough of Queenscliff have recently invited tenders for the installation of this equipment at 5 sites in the Borough. Four Point Lonsdale locations are depicted below:



The chosen Queenscliff site, requiring a 108 m² concrete pad with rubber surfacing, is in historic Princess Park, near the existing Children's Playground in Tobin Drive.

The Association believes the installation of appropriately located outdoor gym equipment is a good idea for our ageing resident population, however member concerns have been raised about the location of the equipment and size of the slabs required for their installation. We believe there must be further consideration of the locations to maximise usage whilst ensuring minimal environmental impact including damage to the foreshore, precious parkland and visual clutter. The gym equipment should instead be installed in appropriate non-sensitive areas that does not result in the destruction of foreshore vegetation (including our moonah trees), and adverse impacts our precious parkland. We believe further consultation and deliberation by Council is essential, via a proper considered community consultation process.

Coastal Erosion Primary Dune and Beach in Lonsdale Bay.

Following recent storms and high seas at Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff the Association is concerned with rapidly deteriorating condition of the south-east facing dune system in Lonsdale Bay extending some 300 metres east (Queenscliff side) of the existing rock seawall.

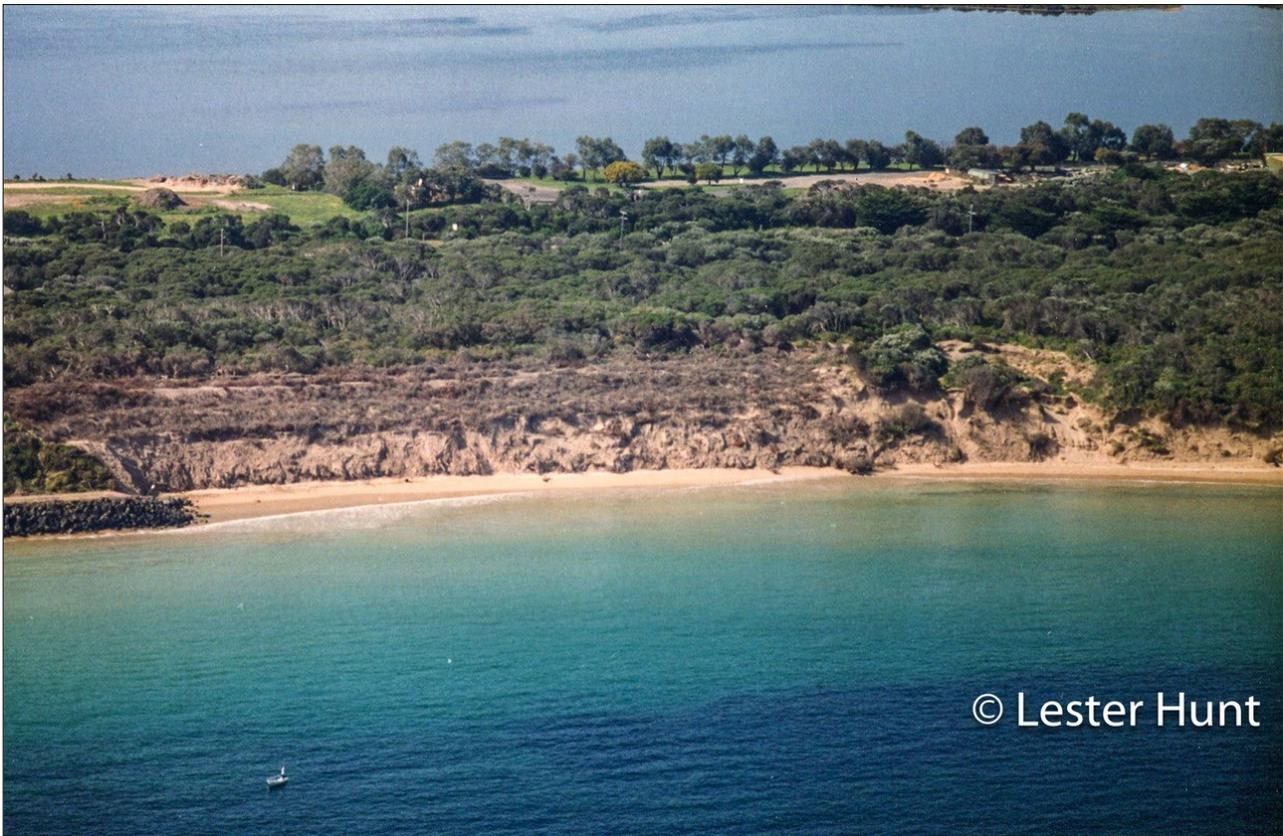
The unprotected dune system in Lonsdale Bay has recently experienced undercutting and severe slippage resulting in much of the adjoining headland disappearing, the cliff face retreating and woodland trees collapsing toward the beach.

The Association has written to the The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP - Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change; The Hon. Lisa Neville MP – Member for Bellarine, Minister for Water, Police & Emergency Services, the Borough, and DEWLP about this issue and asking them to investigate.

The Pictures below tell the story.

(Thanks to member Lester Hunt for providing these excellent photographs – including the image from ~30 years ago.)

c1990: Scanned image:



December 2017:



September 2019



Borough of Queenscliffe CEO Departure and New CEO Martin Gill Appointed:

The Association has written to the outgoing CEO Lenny Jenner wishing him well, he is due to leave the Borough in early October.
(From the Borough's website:)

At the Special Meeting of Council held on Thursday 15 August 2019, the Borough of Queenscliffe Council unanimously resolved to appoint Mr Martin Gill to the position of Chief Executive Officer. Mr Gill, who will commence employment on 7 October, brings well over a decade of local government experience to the role.

Mr Gill was selected from a long list of applicants from across Australia as part of a rigorous recruitment process that included multiple rounds of interviews. Council also appointed Elaine Carbines, CEO of G21, as independent member of the selection panel.

Mr Gill has extensive experience in local government in both Victoria and Tasmania, most recently as a General Manager at Meander Valley Council in Tasmania. Mr Gill is looking forward to introducing himself to the community.

The Association is looking forward to meeting with Martin Gill at the earliest opportunity.

Point Lonsdale Light House Reserve Update:

(From written response provided by BoQ to PLCA Public Question, at Ordinary Meeting 22 August 2019).

Council has continued to work through the information required to secure permit approvals for the works for the stage 1 Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve project. This includes Statutory Planning Permits, Heritage Permits, Aboriginal Cultural approval and Marine and Coastal Act Consent.

This will necessitate independent review and assessment of the heritage impacts of the work proposed on the reserve in conjunction with Heritage Victoria. Discussions have occurred, and will need to continue to occur with the Wadda Wurrung community (Registered Aboriginal Party) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to ensure that any additional information required for those consents are also completed prior to the final delivery of the work.

Borough Kerbside Recycling Update:

(From written response provided by BoQ to PLCA Public Question, at Ordinary Meeting 22 August 2019).

A report detailing the impacts of change to the global recycling market was presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on September 2018. Council resolved to vary the terms of the recyclable material processing contract (held by SKM) in an effort to provide continuity of the recyclable material collection service.

Council's recycling contractor SKM has been widely reported to be facing financial issues. They have again recently closed their processing facilities resulting in the Borough of Queenscliffe's kerbside recyclable material being diverted to landfill. Council is currently working through the contractual processes to respond to the failure of the processing contractor.

Council has investigated a number of alternative processing options for the Borough's kerbside material. It is evident that the recycling collection and processing industry is set to rapidly change due to the failure of SKM (that is the contractor for 33 Councils in Victoria) as a recyclable materials processor. It is anticipated that recyclable material will continue to be diverted to landfill for a number of weeks while the industry moves to create processing capacity.

The State Government has announced short term financial assistance to Council's to assist with the additional costs of diverting the kerbside material to landfill. Council is also advocating with other Councils to encourage other tiers of Government to have a more active role in facilitating sustainable solutions to the market failure of recycling in Victoria and the nation.

Once recyclable material processing capacity is achieved there is still need for a manufacturing industry to utilise the sorted recyclable material. Moving forward the most important things residents can do to support recycling is to firstly avoid buying products with unnecessary packaging and secondly when purchasing goods selecting products containing recycled material.

Council will communicate to the community through local publications and its website as council learns more about the future of recycling and initiates new recyclable material processing arrangements.

<https://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/council/news-and-notice/news/item/recycling>

As far as the City of Greater Geelong Council controlled 3225 area is concerned, at a recent Combined Bellarine Community Association meeting Bellarine Ward Councillors were asked about the situation on the Bellarine. A trial site was suggested for the Bellarine utilising extra recycling bins (4 or 5). Part of the problem, explained by Bellarine Councillors, was that the 'cross-contamination' of recycling all in the one bin. We have yet to hear anything further.

City of Greater Geelong News.

At recent CoGG Council meetings, many Public Questions have requested the Council declare a 'Climate Emergency' for the City of Greater Geelong. Additionally a petition of a similar nature with over 1,500, signatures was presented at the Ordinary Council meeting on the 27th of August by Cr. Sarah Mansfield. The petition came from a group called 'Break Free Geelong'. The Council have determined to deal with this at the 24th September 2019, Ordinary Meeting.

Please note, any GoGG Council Meeting can be viewed live online (or archived past meetings) here:

<https://webcast.geelongaustralia.com.au/video.php>

Geelong Post Office:

At a recent CoGG Meeting, the Council resolved to sell the iconic Geelong Post Office. Many spoke passionately warning against this decision, including Queenscliff residents, using the experiences of Heritage Buildings in Queenscliff as an example.

Point Lonsdale Surf Live Saving Club News:

The PLSLSC are extremely excited about finally commencing the process of constructing a new home for the club in the very near future. Work is now underway to get the necessary planning hurdles overcome, so demolition of the existing clubhouse can start. The club has been careful at this particular milestone of the redevelopment to ensure unnecessary delays are avoided.

The club envisions that the process will commence before the end of the 'busy' season in November/December. The club also assures the community that it will be 'business as usual' during the reconstruction.

Upcoming Member Meetings:

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

15/11/19 – The Hon. Lisa Neville MP. State Member for Bellarine. One 3225, Bellarine Peninsula Planning Statement, Queenscliff Hub.

13/12/19 – Bellarine Community Health – updates inc. Eric Tolliday Units.

10/1/20 – PLCA Annual General Meeting. Guest Speakers TBC.

Kind Regards;

David Kenwood

PLCA V/President, on behalf of the PLCA Committee & Executive.