



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

June 2021 Newsletter

2021 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2021 is now due. The subscription amount for 2021 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.

Please print the Membership Renewal Form from link above, fill in 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.

[Membership Renewal Form](#)

[Application for membership](#)

Borough Aged Care Review.

A positive, appropriate outcome for our Community following BoQ's Aged Care Review

Residents will be delighted to know that at its Meeting on 28th April Council rejected the consultant's recommendation that Council transition from providing aged care services. It voted instead to maintain the current subsidised Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) service and review provision of the service once implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety take effect in July 2024. All councillors spoke in support of the motion which was passed unanimously.

Thank you to the 103 clients and 111 members of the community who provided input to the review and to the many, many residents who lobbied Councillors and Council officers in support of maintaining the current excellent and much appreciated quality support service to our vulnerable frail elderly residents .

For more details access the BoQ website to watch the debate on video and/or the minutes of the meeting and/or read the consultant's report.

(From Minutes BoQ Ordinary Meeting April 2021, Page 20 – 21)

“The Council Plan strategic objective 1 to enhance community wellbeing by providing a safe environment where people are involved, healthy and active in recreation, arts and culture contains a specific strategy to support older residents to live safely and independently. The Implementation Plan for 2020–21 contained an initiative to Review Council’s Home Care Services.

The genesis of this initiative was the federal government decision to remove block funding allocated to Councils for in home care, and introduce a model promoting a competitive market place. Council commissioned a review by Everybody’s Business, consultants experienced in the aged care sector to provide advice on how to proceed. The report is attached at (Appendix 2).

The consultants conducted extensive surveys of both recipients of the service and the broader community, and despite the overwhelming community sentiment in favour of Council continuing to provide the service, concluded that Council’s capacity to provide a competitive service in this market place was limited and not sustainable. They recommended that Council transition from providing the service.

Council officers do not support the recommendation of the consultants at this time. Our community is characterised by its commitment to support our older residents and accordingly the officer recommendation is for Council to continue to provide a service until or unless it is no longer possible. Officers do recommend a further review of Council’s Home Care Services after implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, due in July 2024.”

Councillors Grigau / Grout

That Council:

1. Note the report; and

2. Review Council’s Home Care Services after implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety in July 2024.

Carried unanimously

Council Plan 10 year Vision. (Editor’s Note: From BoQ Mr. Martin Gill. The Association thanks Mr. Gill for his input.)

Council recently held Community Panel workshops for the development of the 10 Year Community Vision document.

The Vision will be circulated for community input and feedback in July.

The Community Panel workshops for the Council Plan will commence in July.

The work of the Community Panel has been informed by the +240 responses to the Community Vision and Council Plan survey and initial open workshops with community groups and local schools

Redevelopment of 200 - 204 Point Lonsdale Rd.

The Borough recently were notified of a Planning Permit Application at 200 – 204 Point Lonsdale Rd. This is the BP Service Station site.

The planning application for the proposed development, consists of buildings and works associated with the construction of a two storey building comprising four (4) shops and twelve (12) dwellings on the site. The site is approximately an area of 2,465m².

At the recent BoQ June Ordinary Meeting, the Council voted to request a briefing regarding the development.

The Association is still evaluating the proposal, and on first blush, appears to have a presence not-in-keeping with the Urban Amenity, and Streetscape, that we all love, and closely guard, in the Borough.

In addition, the proposed development if successful, will mean no fuel available in 3225 on weekends and the cessation of trading by the current mixed business operating at the BP Service Station, both of which are highly valued by local residents, and visitors/campers to Royal, and Golightly Parks.

Planning Application Documents here: <https://is.gd/hh5AQQ>

Borough of Queenscliffe CP 029 'Use of Council Facilities'

At the recent BoQ June Ordinary Meeting, CP 029 'Use of Council Facilities' draft was presented to the Council.

Of particular note on Pg. 4 of the Draft Policy it states:

Usage

Council deeply takes responsibility for the Health and Wellbeing of the community. Accordingly, it will not undertake leasing or licencing of its facilities where it believes there is unreasonable public risk or community detriment associated with the usage of the facility.

In particular, Council will not lease or licence its facilities where they will be used for gambling purposes, other than activities such as 'Bingo nights' where the amounts of funding are notional and where loss would not lead to distress. Where historical lease arrangements have allowed gambling, leases will not be renewed on expiration if gambling is to continue.

Equally, Council would expect potential tenants to adhere to the principles of human rights and of gender equality in their operations.

The Association believes this may have implications for the Queenscliff Bowling, Tennis & Croquet Club, who lease their premises from the Borough of Queenscliffe.

The Draft Policy was not ratified by Council, but was referred to a Public Consultation process, to be advised.

BCH News. (From BCH Chair and Association V/Chair, Ms. Fay Agethuis)

The Board of Directors of Bellarine Community Health announced that they have appointed Mr Garry Ellis to the position of CEO for a 2 year contracted period beginning July 1.

In their media release the Board stated "The Board takes their responsibilities seriously and in appointing Mr Ellis are committed to continuing the intensive work underway to address the impact of 2 years of significant deficits. Mr Ellis has played a key role in delivering on the BCH turnaround strategy during his time as interim CEO. He understands the organisation and the steps needed to rebuild and maintain our position as the health provider of choice on the Bellarine.

Mr Ellis, a former BCH Director was appointed to the position of interim CEO on the retirement of Mr Shane Dawson in mid-2021.

In what has been a busy month at BCH, Board elections were also held, and the successful candidates were Ms Lucy Simms and Mr Mark Harris. Both bring a wealth of skills and experience to the Board.

Bellarine Community safety.

Community safety is always high on the agenda and at the quarterly community safety meeting held in Drysdale members were advised of statistics relevant to our local LGA's. We can report that recorded offences in the Borough of Queenscliffe have decreased by 13.3%. This figure is largely driven by the decreases in property and deception offences and justice procedures offences.

Queenscliffe is a low crime LGA which often means that single incidents can affect the rate of change between reporting periods. Property damage recorded an increase, and this was mainly driven by criminal damage including acts of vandalism at Point Lonsdale P.S. An increase was also recorded in the Burglary/Break and enter category with offenders often targeting homes during Covid restrictions when owners were unable to visit their properties.

In March the [bSafe](#) website was launched and this acts as a local hub to keep residents informed on community safety advice. We encourage members to check it out and follow the links. Police report the "coffee with a cop"

initiative is proving to be a positive form of engagement as well as a vehicle for raising community safety issues and concerns.

Royal Park & Golightly Caravan Parks *(Editor's Note: From BoQ Mr. Martin Gill)*

The draft 2021 – 2022 Budget includes funding for

- a review of Tourist Park operations and management structures
- the design process for a toilet facility upgrade at Royal Park.

New Crossings at Ocean Rd & Pt. Lonsdale Rd. *(Editor's Note: From BoQ Mr. Martin Gill)*

Following input from PLCA representatives and other community members the designs have been completed, tenders have been let and the work will be completed by early August

Recreation Reserve updates - New electrical infrastructure/updates. *(Editor's Note: From BoQ Mr. Martin Gill)*

The design process for the electrical infrastructure upgrade at QTP is complete and the project to construct will go to tender for works to be completed in October 2021

The proposed QTP amenities block replacement building has been granted a planning permit and Marine and Coastal Act consent. The work to construct will go to tender in July.

Progress on the Queenscliffe Hub. *(Editor's Note: From BoQ Mr. Martin Gill)*

The project is on track to meet the 50% construction complete milestone due on 2 August 2021.

Bellarine Distinctive Area Landscape (DALs)

The Bellarine DAL's is now at a Stage 2 (completed) position. The Stage 3 public engagement process will commence soon (end of June – according to here: Bellarine DALs) on the Draft 'Statement of Planning Policy' that was a key part of the Stage 2 process.

A Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Standing Advisory Committee for the Bellarine SPP has not been confirmed as part of the next stage – as was the case during the Surf Coast DAL's process (see below).

Please note that the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Standing Advisory Committee report does NOT have to be made public during the process that the Minister undertakes in his decision making.

The Surf Coast DAL's Standing Advisory Committee hearings are now closed. We learned during the DAL Standing Advisory Committee process that:

- There were around 3,000 submissions.
- Council strategies, housing affordability were among the many issues raised.
- Little specificity re actual provisions to be employed to retain township characteristics.
- Developers are highly organised, well represented legally (QC's), cross examined expert witnesses.
- Surf Coast seem to have no strategic plans for development.
- Spring Creek is a highly contentious area.
- Many, many environmental implications were brought to the panel and some themes are only just at the infancy of research, as to the true outcomes in a bio-diversity context.

The Association is watching this carefully. We will endeavour to bring you more information regarding the Bellarine DAL as we get updated.

Queenscliff Boat Ramp Upgrades.

Following extensive consultation Better Boating Victoria (BBV) have finalised their redevelopment plan for the Queenscliff Boat Ramp which has been approved by Queenscliffe Council. To enable the first phase of the landside construction to commence, which includes 3 new boat launching ramps, new vehicle lanes and a reconfiguration of the car parking layout, the boat ramp will be closed until the end of August.

Carry Forward Capital Projects include:

- \$2,400,000, Queenscliffe Hub;
- \$606,000, Queenscliff Sports and Recreation Precinct development;
- \$424,000, Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve upgrade;
- \$121,000, Hesse Street streetscape improvement work (including an additional \$75,000 allocation in 2021–22 budget);
- \$52,000, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program – upgrade work at the intersection of Stokes and Bethune streets (including unsafe sections of shared trail);
- \$40,000, Princess Park Kiosk toilet upgrade – design work.

New Capital Projects

- \$300,000, Royal Park changing rooms upgrade – design work based on the tourist park master plan (design the proposed facility and subsequent changes to caravan park layout);
- \$156,000, proposed ICT upgrade work, a new corporate system, Office 365, and enhanced ICT security (The total cost of the project is \$433,000 over 3 years);
- \$70,000, two electrical vehicle charging stations;
- \$60,000, Royal Park oval upgrade – scope and design (fencing, irrigation and lighting);
- \$50,000, Hesse Street footpath link to Queenscliff Boat Ramp;
- \$40,000, Weeroona Parade toilet renewal – design work based on condition assessment and Council's toilet strategy;
- \$20,000, Toc H toilet renewal, end of life replacement of asset as per Council's condition assessments and toilet strategy. \$180,000 in 2022–23 year; and

The Point Discharge in Lakers Cutting.

As you are no doubt aware, works are underway to install the final set of pipelines under Bellarine Highway to complete the seawater loop for the Moremac “Point” residential development at Point Lonsdale effectively allowing water to flow from Lake Victoria through the canal development and discharge into to Lakers Cutting and Swan Bay. The timeline for the final connection will be later this year.

The Association is concerned about the potential nutrient level of the water discharge into Lakers Cutting, and subsequently the Federally listed RAMSAR Swan Bay Reserve. Swan Bay forms part of the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park.

The Federal Minister at the time the Hon. Peter Garrett, approved the water discharge – provided nutrient level did not exceed prescribed levels. The development at the time approvals were given was owned by Stocklands, who subsequently on-sold the canal development to Moremac.

We also note the problems the development has had recently with algal blooms in the canal waterways.

The Association wrote on the 20th of April to the following Member, Mayors, Councillors, & Officers:

Ms. Libby Coker MP – Federal Member for Corangamite;
Cr. Stephanie Asher – Mayor CoGG;
Cr. Jim Mason; Cr. Trent Sullivan – CoGG Ward Councillors for Bellarine;
Cr. Ross Ebbels – Mayor BoQ; & Mr Martin Gill - CEO BoQ.

And asked;

- 1. Is there current monitoring of nutrient levels in the canal system and Lakers Cutting?*
 - 2. If there is, how can the community be assured that the discharge does not exceed current Federal guidelines?*
 - 3. If there is current monitoring, and nutrient levels exceed prescribed limits, can the community be assured the final connection will not be made into Lakers Cutting, until levels are at an acceptable level?*
- Finally, we would requested if Ms. Libby Coker MP could forward this correspondence to the Federal Environment, Minister, The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, to bring this issue to her attention*

Ms Coker's Office advised the Association (Correspondence dated 4/6/21):

*Libby is very concerned with the issues you have raised and asked us to look into the matter in detail.
In keeping with your request, we have forwarded your letter to the Minister for Environment.
We also discussed the matter with the Borough and engaged the Parliamentary Library to provide further research advice on the agreements undertaken – That research should be completed by 11 June.
Libby will be placed to come back with a fuller response in the near future.
In the interim, if there is anything else you would like to add to your letter please feel free to email or call.*

To date we have only had an acknowledgement of this correspondence from CoGG Councillors.

The Association has **NOT** received a substantive reply from out CoGG councillors

We are following this up, in particular with CoGG, but are finding difficult to cut through!

We encourage members to write, or telephone the 3 Bellarine Ward Councillors and ask why the community has not received a response!

PLCA Guest Speakers

The Committee works hard to select speakers for our member meetings. The speakers chosen provide not only interest and information for members but also offer an opportunity to keep those Lockdown brains active. In the past we have had Prof Paul Johnson and Dr. Mike Birrell speaking about the buruli ulcer and their research here in Point Lonsdale, Brett Diem alerting us to the rare and endangered orchids at Rip View Woodland, Barry Lingham on the annual bird tourists to Lake Victoria and surrounds and Tim Adams on sustainability in our homes.

It is now during the annual recess that we start to plan for the rest of this year and next, and with this in mind we would like to consider who or what you would like us to include in this upcoming planning process.

Please send suggestions and if possible contact details to the PLCA Secretary (plcasecretary@gmail.com) and we will endeavour to include as many we can.

Proposed Development - Former Post Office Site, 49 Newcombe St Portarlington (From Portarlington Community Association President Geoff Fary)

There is considerable community concern about the proposed erection of a five level residential and retail complex on an iconic and sensitive bay-facing site at 49 Newcombe Street, Portarlington. CoGG have decided to oppose the issue of a permit at forthcoming VCAT hearings. Originally a public garden, the site was acquired by the Commonwealth (via the PMG) for the erection of a post office in the 1960s. It was subsequently sold into private ownership by the Commonwealth (Australia Post) in 2004.

There is a strong view in the community that the land should be returned to public ownership - to protect the coastal feel and lifestyle of the town. Such a move would immeasurably enhance tourist potential and bring commercial benefit to traders. The PLCA understands the developers are open to offers of around \$3.5 to \$4.0 million for the site, and objectors are actively exploring the establishment of a Community Trust Fund to contribute towards such a re-acquisition.

As the land has passed from public gardens/open space into private ownership through a series of actions of the Commonwealth, we believe the Commonwealth has a moral obligation to make a meaningful financial contribution towards its return to public ownership.

Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club News.

The builder has now completed the new Clubhouse works, and handed the building to the club. PLSLSC will be progressively moving into the building and setting up operations for the coming summer over the next couple of months. The Official Opening Celebration is likely to be scheduled for mid-November. More information will be

provided closer to the date. In other news, in the recent State Government Budget, the Club was awarded \$2.5 million for the redevelopment on the dilapidated Back Beach base.

Point Lonsdale - Ocean Road Works Underway



(Winterley Road)



(Ocean Road new fence construction)

Please take care.

We hope that are keeping well in these difficult times, and if the Association can help you with matters in CoGG Point Lonsdale or the Borough of Queenscliffe, please don't hesitate to email us.

David Kenwood - President, Point Lonsdale Civic Association.