



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

March 2021 Newsletter

2021 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2021 is now 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.

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. Closed for consultation, and due to be reported mid-March.

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Association Member, Dr. K.A. Jackson, who researched, & wrote this piece)

Last month council instituted a review of its aged care services in response to changes (unspecified) as to how the Federal Government provides funding for its Commonwealth Home Support Program (previously known as the Home and Community care (HACC) program.)

This program aims to help the frail elderly, particularly those with limited family or other supports, stay at home and remain connected with their community. It also provides short term restorative care to enable people "to get back on their feet" after accident, illness, surgery or post hospital discharge. The program is very welcome in The Borough given our demographics with 30% of our residents being 70 or older and 5% 85 or older. The services commonly provided are home help cleaning, help with showering or hanging out the washing, transport to medical and other appointments and home handy man type tasks and mowing (the last 2 being contracted out). The service is provided by qualified and experienced Personal Care Attendants who are permanent part - time properly paid council employees. Clients are charged a means tested fee for each service.

Council has suggested that the changes to funding may mean that outside services offer a cheaper service and that in the foreseeable future the locally based council service may become nonviable.

'Everybody's Business' consultancy was appointed to conduct the review. Community consultation was via a survey monkey for current clients and one for the general community with both closing on 28th February. Council

CEO has stated that about 100 clients and 100 community members filled out the survey and while the definitive report has yet to be submitted to council there was overwhelming support for the status quo. We understand that the report will be presented to council on 17th of March.

Finally, the potentially misleading information apparently given by council to the March edition of the RIP needs to be corrected. The figure quoted of \$793,000 as the cost to the Borough appears to ignore the large Federal Government funding. Revised advice from council suggests that council picked up the tab, as it has done for some years, for about \$150,000 which came from the discretionary funding pool. Many in the Borough will agree that caring for our frail elderly residents should be seen as a high priority call for the use of some of the \$900,000 discretionary funding.

The Association believes strongly in the position put by Dr. Jackson. The Borough should keep their highly valued aged care workers performing this vital function in our local community.

Council Bike Park Proposal.

As Council's proposed Bike Park program continues, The Association, and other organisations have suggested a good location would be the vacant bush area around "The Springs" Skate Park, which offers shared toilets, better maintenance regimes, improved security and, importantly, is closer for most Lonsdale bike users.

There is also an opportunity to upgrade the existing Skate Park at the same time. It is also a less sensitive location and less likely to divide the community than the former High School site at the gateway to Queenscliff. Other location options include a regional "humps and jumps" facility adjacent to the well-used Bellarine Rail Trail, former pony club site on Council land at Murray Road near Fellows Road or a location west of Fellows Road.

At present Council have no dedicated funding for the proposed Bike Park and its construction is expected to be 3 years away. Despite this PLCA support improved bike facilities for local residents. Following recent community feedback, including a resident petition opposing the use of the former High School site, Council resolved at its March meeting to have Council officers prepare a report setting out the framework for an investigation into the development of a Bike Park in the Borough at its Ordinary Council meeting in July.

On the 24/3 results were released from the Survey Monkey Consultation, results are here: [Bike Park consultation results](#)

(Editors Note – The Association did not provide a submission in the 'Survey monkey' format – but in a written format. We believe that Survey-Monkeys are often problematic and are not the best means of providing a meaningful, purposeful, and well-rounded consultation with the community.)

Queenscliffe Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMMP).

Following Council's recent call for community input nearly 300 residents and ratepayers responded with ideas and direction for the new plan. Many issues were raised including prevention of erosion, pest species removal, maintenance of coastal infrastructure and how differing foreshore precincts should be managed.

The response also highlighted the use of our coast for exercise and for enjoying its natural values. Council will now consult with key stakeholders and then produce a draft plan for public review by mid 2021. Once completed PLCA hope the CMMMP will provide a strategic road-map for use and protection of our beautiful coastline including where any future improvements can be made.

The Association's submission stressed the need for conservation improvements rather than large development plans that previously failed to gain community support.

Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct (formerly Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve).

(Editor's Note: The Association wrote to the Council early in March to seek answers to the following questions:

1. Can we please have an update on the Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct?
2. Does any of the grant funding remaining have time limit deadlines, and if so, what are those deadlines?
3. Will Council rescind the previous 2019 resolution relating to the demolition of some of the P1 Huts?

The Borough CEO, Mr. Martin Gill, kindly provided extremely detailed answers to the above, following the 24/3/21 Ordinary Council meeting – and we thank him for doing so.)

1. Can we please have an update on the Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct?

In October 2019 Council commenced a development approval process to implement Stage 1 of Landscape Master Plan for the lighthouse reserve adopted at the Ordinary Council meeting in January 2019.

In December 2019 an amendment to the Victorian Heritage Register introduced greater heritage controls across the site, including increased controls to protect cultural heritage values.

A combination of the work required to assess the complex cultural heritage layers of the site and the impacts of COVID-19 meant that very little progress was made through the approvals process during 2020.

However, during the assessment work, and through the consultation that did occur with the consultants and relevant authorities, it was made clear to Council that there were concerns about a number of the major components of the Landscape Master Plan, and in particular the location and potential environmental impact of the DDA compliant timber ramp identified as an activity in the funding agreement.

Terra Culture, the consultant preparing the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for Council, provided the following advice to Council in early 2020:

One previously registered Aboriginal place is located within the activity area and it is likely that further Aboriginal archaeological material is present, particularly in the form of shell middens and low-density artefact distributions. There is also the possibility of Aboriginal ancestral remains (burials) to exist within the activity area. As a result, the CHMP must proceed to a Standard Assessment according to Section 62 of the Regulations.

In January 2021, Terra Culture provided the following advice after completing the standard assessment:

... the activity area includes areas that are relatively undisturbed and are located on a highly sensitive landform (proposed location of DDA ramp) which is likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage. Therefore, under Regulation 64(1) the assessment proceeded to a Complex Assessment.

In January 2021 the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation was able to undertake its first on-site inspection as part of the work required to undertake the Complex Assessment and provide advice for the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

The feedback from the Wadawurrung traditional owners following the site visit confirmed the concerns held by Terra Culture, Heritage Victoria and DELWP and went as far as to say that they would not support any sub-surface testing or vegetation removal at the site to undertake the further investigation required to complete the Cultural Heritage Management Plan which would be required to approve the DDA ramp.

This meant that the major activity nominated in the masterplan and subject to the funding agreement could not proceed because a planning permit application could not be assessed or issued.

As a result a request is being made to RDV vary the current funding agreement to remove this activity.

When considering a replacement activity Council was cognisant of the ongoing concerns in the community about a lack of progress on P1 Huts. Council had previously resolved to remove three of the four P1 huts at the Point Lonsdale site, primarily due to the presence of asbestos in the structures. The amendment to the Victorian Heritage Register in December 2019 changed the name of the area from Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve to the Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence precinct for the purposes of the heritage citation. The updated citation was also expanded to include the follow statement:

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?
The Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct including all buildings, structures, objects, ruins and archaeological features and deposits related to the location's strategic role in both defence and maritime navigation and rescue.

A specific reference to the P1 huts was also included

The Point Lonsdale defence camp was erected consisting principally of P1-type huts, which initially accommodated the 7 Australian CRE (Works)

In discussion with the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve reference group following the advice that approval to construct the DDA ramp was unachievable, Council requested a list of other work the reference group would like to see undertaken if Council could successfully vary the grant agreement. The restoration of the P1 huts was nominated as a top four priority.

In addition to the community support, Council has nominated the restoration of the P1 huts as a potential activity in a proposed revised grant agreement because of the presence of asbestos in the P1 huts. While Council has health risk mitigation measures in place, the measures detract from the heritage values of the area and the P1 huts. Removal and restoration of the huts would eliminate the health risk and improve the overall amenity of the site.

2. Does any of the grant funding remaining have time limit deadlines, and if so, what are those deadlines?

The activity in the current grant agreement was required to be completed by 15 March 2021.

3. Will Council rescind the previous 2019 resolution relating to the demolition of some of the P1 Huts?

Council made the following resolution at the Ordinary Council meeting on 24 March 2021:

That Council:

1. Endorses the Request for Variation to the grant agreement for the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve – Stage 1 Project, funded through the RIF Rural Development – Infrastructure Grant program, which includes the following activities:

- *Removal of weed infestation*
- *Clean up of Lighthouse surrounds, including hard and soft landscaping*
- *Restoration of the P1 Huts*
- *Improving interpretative signage*
- *Installation of a sculptural element that recognises the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners historical presence at the site*

2. Amend the Council resolution on the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve – Stage 1 Project made on 24 January 2019:

a) to remove the following bullet points in part 3 of the resolution;

o 3b. Replacement of the northern building with, or redevelopment as, a shelter as part of a picnic / BBQ area, utilising or replicating elements of the existing building;

o 3c. Demolition of the western building and installation of signage or other minor, low scale interpretative element in this location;

o 3d. Demolition of the southern building and installation of a sculptural or other creative interpretative element in this location

b) to include the following new bullet point;

o 3b. Retain and restore the three P1 huts known as the northern building, the western building, and the southern building

c) to renumber the remaining bullet point in part 3 of the resolution

Borough's Climate Emergency Response Plan Update

In late 2020, a diverse community panel developed a vision, eight key pillars and associated actions for our Borough's Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP). Created over five weeks and informed by results from an extensive community survey. Report here: tinyurl.com/3yamfb9v
A wide variety of stakeholder submissions, the pillars detail how Council and community will work together to achieve critical milestones.

The CERP draft will be published this month, and open for community input for three weeks. It will be available online and supported by a webinar to explain the plan and how it was developed.

Reviewing the CERP is a key opportunity to contribute to the future of our Borough and remind Council that action on climate change remains an issue of huge importance to us.

At the Council meeting on Wednesday April 28, the CERP - with community feedback incorporated - will be presented for approval.

PLCA Member Meetings back to Face to Face.

The PLCA member meetings are now back to face-to-face, subject to current conditions set by the Government.

Please rest assured that the meetings are conducted in a Covid safe manner, with sign-on, hand sanitiser, and deep cleaning after. We wish to thank Point Lonsdale Primary School's Principal (and Association V/Chair) Ms Fay Agterhuis for making this possible.

Barry Lingham from the Geelong Field Naturalists will be the speaker for the Member Meeting on Friday 26 March.

Barry's background includes:

- Ocean Grove resident since 1988.
- Member of Geelong Field Naturalists Club, and member of Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve
- Interested in all of nature, ecology and conservation – particularly, birds, plants, mammals, reptiles and frogs.
- Barry is a Retired secondary school teacher (maths/physics)

The title of his presentation is:

Return Tourists- Birds that visit the Bellarine Peninsula every year.

Barry has some wonderful photos of migratory birds visiting the Bellarine each year and it will be interesting to learn if Covid had any influence on their usual patterns.

The meeting will be in the Point Lonsdale Primary School and will be following the Covid regulations so you should feel confident in attending our last meeting before the winter break.

Tim Adams – PLCA Guest Speaker February Meeting

Tim Adams from Sustainability Geelong gave a very informative talk at the Members Meeting on Friday 26 February, the first face-to-face meeting since early 2020.

The presentation focused on small steps for greater resilience in anticipation of future weather events and these include comparing various household appliances before replacing old ones and some of the suggestions, the details will be on the PLCA website – here: [Tim Adams Sustainability Geelong](#)

The report is here: [Tim Adams meeting report](#) (*Editors Note: Thanks to Committee member Ms Lynne Furness for compiling this comprehensive report – the data comparing Sweden, and Australia is very surprising!*)

BCH – Update

It is a busy time at Bellarine Community Health as programs begin to return and more and more people come through the doors, back into the spaces and engaging with services.

At the Board's first meeting for 2021 Fay Agterhuis was elected as Chairperson, Tim Walsh Deputy Chairperson and Rod Slattery as Treasurer. There are currently two elected Director vacancies and a call for nominations for the election will go out before the end of April.

Work is underway on both federally funded projects in Portarlington and Ocean Grove and the Headspace site at Ocean Grove is expected to be open and operational soon. This is located at the BCH Ocean Grove site adjacent to the Library.

At the AGM, the BCH Board announced, publicly, that they would not be proceeding with the redevelopment of the Eric Tolliday units due to the need to address the deficit. Members and residents were advised that alternate partnership and funding opportunities would be pursued to ensure the redevelopment became a reality. Keep watching this space for updates.

The development of a new strategic plan for BCH is beginning and the BCH Community Advisory Group (CAG) have been tasked with discovering what the community wants to see in the next strategic plan. This is the way community engagement should happen and we hope all community members avail themselves of the opportunity to have a say and provide input to the process.

The first Community Engagement Forum will be held at the Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall on Wednesday April 21st from 7-8:30pm. Please watch out for information about further ways you can engage in the process.

Tourist Parks Improvements:

Queenscliff Council are planning to rebuild the large tourist amenities block in the Recreation Reserve at the Ocean View end that will include public unisex toilets, which will be accessible from South Hesse Street. Plans are also in place to install 3 caravan waste dump facilities in our tourist parks and make further improvements to existing facilities around Royal Park including repairs to the oval fencing.

Lonsdale Front Beach.

State Government have recently commissioned consultants Water Technology to review the local groynes proposal (8 of) for Point Lonsdale's front beach. It's understood they will provide expert advice on the most appropriate layout from the headland, extending north along the beach adjacent to the masonry seawall and promenade.

Electoral State Boundary Review:

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Committee member MS Lynne Furness for attending, and supplying this report)

This meeting was chaired by the Honourable Chief Judge Peter Kidd on 16/12/20.

He outlined the Review and re-division that will take place and the triggers for such a process to happen are enrolments more than 10% for 2 months, 2 general elections since the last electorate change.

This is the timeline for the changes to boundaries:

1. Process is to be consultative with written submissions due by close of business on 01 March 2021.
2. On the 29th March 2021 there will be an opportunity for oral submissions.
3. On 30 June 2021 the maps of the new boundaries will be available and there will be a period of 30 days from this release for suggestions or objections to the new boundaries to be made in writing.
4. On the 14 October 2021 the final report will be presented to Parliament and the new boundaries will be in place for the November 2022 election.

There was then general discussion about forecast growth in Victoria . The growth in population in Victoria was curtailed due to Covid but the voter growth increased due to 18+ and citizen changes.

The forecast for the Bellarine is for a 79% growth in voter and population.(!)

Voters in Queenscliffe in 2020 were 2830 and prediction for 2026 is the small rise to 2882.

In 20/21 and 21/22 it is expected to have negative migration. However, voter numbers grow faster given 18+ and citizen changes.

Please take care, and we hope that 2021 presents itself as a better year for all.
David Kenwood - President, Point Lonsdale Civic Association.