



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

December 2022 Newsletter & Notice of AGM

The Point Lonsdale Civic Association hereby gives notice of its 2023 Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Friday January 6th 2023**, at 7.30 pm, at **Point Lonsdale Primary School**, in the Learning Common.

Our guest speakers at that meeting will be BoQ Mayor, Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst, and CEO, Mr. Martin Gill to talk about "Key Council priorities in 2023", followed by a moderated Q&A session. All councillors have been invited, so it will be a great opportunity to meet your local representatives.

Please download and review/print/return if required, the following documents for the AGM; **please note the Online renewal form and application form for new members:**

[Committee Nomination Form](#)

[Minutes of PLCA 2022 AGM](#)

[Appointment of Proxy Form:](#)

[Online Membership Renewal Form \(Renewal\)](#)

[PLCA 2023 AGM Agenda](#)

[Online Application for Membership \(New Members\)](#)

(For Postal Newsletter recipients ONLY: Please contact the Secretary for Appointment of Proxy Forms, previous AGM Minutes, and Committee Nomination Forms – if required. There will limited hard copies available on the night to collect.)

2023 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2023 is due by the date of the AGM, being 6 January 2023. The **subscription amount for 2020 is \$10 per person.** Donations are welcome and 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 – however as we have lost Bendigo Bank facilities in Queenscliff, EFT payment, rather than cheque (which we have to bank in Ocean Grove) are preferred.

Please click the **Online Membership Renewal Form** from link above. You will be directed to a Google Form, complete it, then hit 'Submit' – and you'll receive further instructions on EFT bank details, to complete your EFT payment:

Alternatively, use PDF form below; print and scan and email to us, or deliver at a meeting, or post.

[Print out Membership Renewal Form](#)

The PLCA bank account details are:

Account Name: Point Lonsdale Civic Association

Account Number: 131346017

Bank: Bendigo and Adelaide Bank

Description: Surname and Initials of the member must be shown

BSB: 633108

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.

New Members: Click link above, **Online Application for Membership**, and fill in online and hit ‘submit’ - and you’ll receive further instructions on EFT bank details, to complete your EFT payment.

Or, use PDF form below; print and scan and email in to us, or deliver at meeting, or post.

[Print out Application for Membership Form](#)

New Committee Members Required!

The Association still desperately needs new committee of management members to help out. All the current committee members are passionate about 3225, but we do need some extra help to lighten the load for all of us. There are many issues, in particular in CoGG 3225 that we need to start to address. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary for further details: plcasecretary@gmail.com

New Mayors/Local Member.

Following the Borough Ordinary Meeting in November, a new Mayor was elected. Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst was elected unopposed for a 1 year term. Cr. Fleur Hewitt was re-elected as Deputy Mayor for the same period.

Meanwhile in the City of Greater Geelong, Cr. Trent Sullivan (Bellarine Ward) was elected Mayor, and Cr. Anthony Aitken (Windermere Ward) elected Deputy Mayor, with both serving until the next LGA elections in 2024.

Finally, after the recent State Election, Labor Candidate Ms. Alison Marchant has been elected as our representative for Bellarine. She will be sworn in on the 20/12/22, as the State Member for the Bellarine.

The Association wishes all the newly elected officials the best, and will meet with them as soon as we can arrange it, to discuss 3225 issues.

Bellarine Distinctive Area Landscapes Legislation.

Following recent Ordinary Council meetings at the Borough (23/11/22), and City of Greater Geelong (22/11/22), both Councils as RPE's (Responsible Planning Entities, under the relevant Act) have been presented with, and endorsed, the final Final Draft of the Bellarine DAL's Statement (Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) - October 2022) for the Bellarine Peninsula Declared Area under the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program. On behalf of the Association, we congratulate both Councils

To briefly recap:

- Both Councils endorsed a submission to the phase 3 consultation on the draft SPP in 2021.
- The Minister for Planning appointed a Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) to consider submissions on the township boundaries in December 2021.
- Both Councils participated in the SAC hearing in April – June 2022.
- The SAC ultimately recommended that town boundaries not be ‘protected’ settlement boundaries.
- In response, the Minister for Planning accepted DELWP’s advice to not accept the SAC recommendation – which briefly – advised to not have present rigid town boundaries.
- The Minister, having considered submissions and the SAC report, released the final SPP for endorsement on 7 October 2022. The SPP includes protected settlement boundaries for all townships. This includes a Permanent Settlement Boundary for Queenscliff, which was not the case in the past.
- The Councils are both Responsible Public Entity (RPE) under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and are required to endorse the SPP. RPEs are bound by the objectives and must have regard to strategies in the SPP when making decisions within the declared area.

- Although the existing settlement boundary for Point Lonsdale remains unchanged, a new settlement boundary will be introduced for the township of Queenscliff and a green buffer will be established for Sand Island.
- The environmentally sensitive land around McDonalds Road and Burnt Point, which is zoned RCZ, will remain outside the settlement boundaries for Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

The Association notes that at the Geelong Council Meeting; ‘Key Matters’, Item 12, Page 220, City of Greater Geelong Council Meeting Minutes - 22/11/22:

“At the time of endorsing a submission to the draft SPP, Council wrote to the Minister for Planning to request a detailed implementation plan, a written response to submissions provided by way of a public report and clarity on the role of an RPE and how to use the SPP. Ideally, this information would have been provided alongside a request for Council endorsement. This information has not been provided.”

and Item 16, Page 220, City of Greater Geelong Council Meeting Minutes - 22/11/22:

“It is recommended alongside Council endorsement of the SPP, the Mayor write to the Minister to request greater clarity on how the SPP will be implemented, the role of RPEs and to request that DELWP lead and resource the SPP implementation, including any changes to zones and overlays resulting from the SPP. ”

This point about SPP implementation has been also been made in the past to DEWLP, by the CBCA (Combined Bellarine Community Associations) at various times during the consultation phase.

The endorsements will now go to DEWLP, then ultimately to the Governor-in-council, who will approve the Phase 3 Draft as the final in legislation.

It's hoped the DAL/SPP along with a new Southeast Bellarine Biolink Masterplan and Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMMP) for the wetlands and coastal strip west of Point Lonsdale will provide an extra level of environmental protection for our region.

Kirk Road Roundabout

The Queenscliffe Council has advised the end of the 12-month trial for temporary roundabout at the corner of Kirk Road and Winterley Road. Council then requested feedback from the community, and at the November Ordinary Meeting council resolved:

Councillors Grout / Hewitt

That Council notes the ending of the trial roundabout at the corner of Kirk and Winterley Roads, Point Lonsdale, and the reversion of the intersection to a T-intersection with additional measures to be undertaken to improve safety and reduce traffic speeds.

From the Minutes:

Cr Grout noted that many road users have not been happy with the temporary roundabout at this location. However, many local residents do see the traffic speed and safety on Kirk Road as a problem to be resolved. He stated that there is a need to look at more effective traffic measures and hopes that this issue will be addressed in the Active Transport Strategy for Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff. In the short term however, we do revert to a standard intersection, and he is happy to move the motion.

The Association notes from the Council report presented on this matter;

10% - Wanted a permanent Roundabout;

26% - Wanted a raised Intersection;
64% - Wanted the Intersection reverted back to a standard intersection.

As we went to print, the roundabout has been removed.

Historic Ballara.

The historic holiday home and gardens of Australia's second Prime Minister Alfred Deakin in the middle of Point Lonsdale is under threat of auction and potential subdivision.

Ballara, remains in the hands of Deakin's descendants. However, it is now under imminent threat of being broken up. One of the 8 owners has sought an order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for the property to be auctioned. The application includes a valuation that is based on an 8-lot subdivision plan. This could lead to a substantial loss of important Australian heritage. VCAT is due to hear the matter at the end of November.

VCAT has deferred the matter until April at which time further submissions will be considered. In the interim, it is understood further discussions are continuing with the Commonwealth Government about possible options for the property.

Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct

In 2018, the Victorian Government allocated \$0.5m to remediate nationally important military and maritime heritage at the Point Lonsdale headland. Due to delays in delivering this project, a \$300k shortfall was incurred with re-cladding and re-roofing of the 4 former Toc-H huts. The PLCA is advised this shortfall will be provided from Council's surplus reserves. Originally planned for completion in October 2022, the project will now be completed in February 2023.

We further understand the \$1 million State Government grant (announced by the Hon. Lisa Neville MP), for the Point Lonsdale Headland intend for repair and remediation of heritage infrastructure will be delivered by a community-led group. This is a welcome development which would see a major project implemented in collaboration with locals. The PLCA strongly supports the concept of the Council leveraging of the well-established skills off the local community.

Vale Peter Haffenden.

It was with sadness we learnt of Peter's passing in October.

Passionate about the environment and First Nations history, he Co founded and was President of the Friends of Buckley Park for 33 years. Peter was a great advocate for the environment and cultural values of Buckley Park and was adamant that one of our regions last wild coastal areas remained wild and untouched. .

He instigated reports on cultural heritage, geomorphology and vegetation setting a precedent for land managers and like minded groups in understanding values and importance of our natural areas and landscape. Liaising with politicians, land managers, community groups locals and visitors he became a voice for environmental issues and has left a legacy for generations to come.

Peter was adamant that one of our last wild coastal areas remained wild and untouched.
Peter was also an active, and long-time member of the PLCA, consistently advocating for environmental and cultural issues in the Borough/3225/wider Bellarine.

His presentations at member meetings and in public were passionate and inspired others to advocate for the environment and the history of the Borough/3225.

He will be greatly missed.

Southeast Bellarine Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) Update

The City of Greater Geelong has recently approved a new 10 year coastal strategy to enhance a 5 kilometre x 200 metre wide stretch of marine and coastal reserve that extends from Point Lonsdale to Collendina near Ocean Grove. The plan has been developed in close consultation with Wadawurrung traditional owners, land management group, landholder group and a community representatives group which included PLCA. This area is part of Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast which is now recognised as a State Significant Landscape extending from the eastern tip of Queenscliff through Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve, the mouth of the Barwon River and beyond to Breamlea. The CMMP, which is awaiting final approval by State Government, will be followed by a Southeast Bellarine Biolink Master Plan which encompasses a wider area including Lonsdale Lakes wildlife Reserve, moonah woodland and private land.

Queenscliffe Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) Update

The Association understands that following the completion of Stage 1, Queenscliffe Council has recently appointed a consultant, a project steering committee (with community representatives) and a project working group to finalise our CMMP. The plan is expected to be completed before the end of 2023 with a draft available around mid year for public consultation. It's hoped it will align with the recently completed CoGG and Barwon Coast CMMP's.

Queenscliff Boat Ramp.

As part of the boat ramp rebuild pre-Christmas dredging will take place to deepen an area west of the newly installed boat launching ramps for a kayak launching facilities. Fabrication of the facility, which includes another pontoon, is underway with installation expected to take place in February 2023. A short term option for kayak users will be to use the existing boat launching facility. Construction of a much needed rail crossing, chicane and path linking Hesse Street North, Bellarine Rail Trail and the Boat Ramp has been delayed and is now not expected to be completed until the New Year. A number of other promised actions such as signage, overspill parking areas and 42 replacement trees for those lost during construction are also underway.

Helicopter Landing and Take Off Site for McDonald Road.

The Association along with a number of other civic groups is concerned about the impact of a private helicopter operation at McDonald Road adjacent to the environmentally sensitive international RAMSAR bird treaty area of Swan Bay. A planning review meeting took place before Queenscliffe Councillors, to consider the planning permit application on the 7/12/22.

At the next Ordinary Meeting, on the 14/12/22, the Officer recommendation was that a permit be issued, subject to a number of conditions. Council at the meeting, however, decided to defer the decision to a future meeting.

As we go to press, no other information was available.

Point Lonsdale Playground Tree Removal.

As a result of a Council Arborist's report at Point Lonsdale Foreshore Park (playground), a tree at the playground was identified that needed proactive maintenance before the summer period. This could have included bracing and cabling works, or removal.

The Council subsequently indicated that the preferred option was tree removal.

As a result a fence was erected around the playground, as a permit was need to perform works on the tree in question, and initially this was thought to be not be possible before Christmas.

The Association and others wrote to the Council and asked if remedial action could be taken before the busy summer period, as we were concerned playground users may circumvent the fence in order to use the playground.



(Editor's note: Below is from BoQ Council CEO)

A permit to 'take' the Moonah at the playground and for the trimming of other trees was issued to the Borough by DELWP on Friday 9 December 2022.

The permit included a requirement for Council to plant Moonahs in nearby Coastal Moonah Woodland communities to compensate the works on the trees in the Playground and Royal Park.

These trees need to be planted by 30 June 2023.

Council is pleased to have resolved the matter so the playground could be opened for Christmas and the holiday period. Council is also pleased to be able to undertake planting of new Moonahs in areas where we can minimise future use conflicts.

As we went to press the tree has been cut back (see picture below).



In closing we wish our Members and Friends, a very Merry Christmas, and joyous New Year. Please enjoy our wonderful coastal environment, and perhaps, before contemplating a trip shopping outside of 3225, think about shopping locally and support our local traders – and it's much better for the environment!

We have 3 great member meetings coming up in 2023; January 6/1/23 AGM with Mayor & CEO as guest speakers; February 24th our new Local State member, Ms Alison Marchant MP, will be our guest speaker; and on the 24th of March we have rescheduled Ms Angie Poole to talk about the Southeast Bellarine Biolink Masterplan Project. Please come along with your questions. We apologise for cancelling our December member meeting at short notice due to the unexpected illness of our guest speaker.

Merry Christmas!

David Kenwood – PLCA President.