



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

PO Box 28 Point Lonsdale VIC 3225 Reg. No. A0017883S

Email: plcasecretary@gmail.com Website: www.plca.org.au

Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

Annual General Meeting - Minutes: 6 January 2023

Time of Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday 6 January 2023
Venue: Point Lonsdale Primary School (63 Attended).

1. **Welcome and Introduction by President Mr. David Kenwood.**
2. **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners.**
3. **Welcome to Councillors & CEO Attending.**
4. **Apologies.** R. Macauley, K. Jackson, M. Hunter, Cr. Ross Ebbels, Cr. Fleur Hewitt.
5. **Matters arising from 2022 AGM Minutes.** Nil.
6. **Minutes of last Annual General Meeting – 7 January 2022**

***Motion:** That the minutes of the 2022 AGM be confirmed as a true record.*

Moved: Joan Lindros

Seconded: Lynne Furness

7. Reports

a. **Annual Report – President Mr. David Kenwood**

***Motion:** That the Annual Report by the President be received.*

Moved: Rob Minty

Seconded: Lynne Furness.

b. **Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Mr. Andrew Rogers**

***Motion:** That the Treasurer’s Report be endorsed.*

Moved: Andrew Rogers

Seconded: Rob Minty

8. Election of Office Bearers and other Committee Members:

(All positions now declared vacant & Guest Chair (Mayor Tolhurst) to take meeting chair)

- a. *No other nominations have been received – therefore the following nominated for respective Office Bearer positions, are elected;*

PLCA President: Mr. David Kenwood

Vice – President: Ms. Fay Agterhuis

Secretary: Mr. Laurie Mooskatt

Treasurer: Mr. Andrew Rogers

(Election by Ballot will follow if there are more than one nomination for each position, otherwise those nominated are duly elected.)

(Guest Chairperson, Mayor Tolhurst to vacate the chair, President will now take chair.)

- b. **Motion:** *That for 2023 the of ordinary committee member positions be 6:*

Moved: Michelle Jepson

Seconded: Andrew Rogers

- c. *No other nominations have been received – therefore the following Ordinary Committee members that have been nominated are elected:*

1. *Ms. Lynne Furness.*
2. *Ms. Michelle Jepson.*
3. *Mr. Rob Minty.*
4. *(No other nominations received)*
- 5.
- 6.

(Election by Ballot will follow if there are more than one nomination for each position – otherwise duly elected.)

9. Annual Subscription for 2024/ Subscription Due Date/2024 AGM Date:

- a. **Motion:** *That the annual membership subscription for the 2024 year be \$10 per person*

Moved: Fay Agterhuis

Seconded: Rob Minty

- b. **Motion:** *That the annual subscription due date for the 2024 year be 5 January, 2024.*

Moved: Joan Lindros

Seconded: Lynne Furness

- c. **Motion:** *That the 2024 Annual General Meeting be held on January 5 2024.*

Moved: Lynne Furness

Seconded: Andrew Rogers

10. Introduction of Guest Speakers:

A warm welcome to Borough of Queenscliffe Mayor, Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst & Borough CEO Mr. Martin Gill.

Mayor Tolhurst & Mr. Gill will speak about Borough Priorities for 2023.

Cr. Tolhurst spoke first, regarding Council Priorities – which include:

- Creating an Environmental Advisory Group.
- Continuing design work for Point Lonsdale bike park and youth activity precinct.
- Establishing a Disability Lived Experience Reference Group.
- Implementing our Coastal and Marine Management Plan.
- Finalising our Active Transport Strategy.
- Progressing our Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP).
- Preparing next FY Budget and Annual Plan.
- Maintaining our strong financial position.
- Integrating community feedback from Budget Survey to inform decision making.
- Consider our asset renewal needs.

2023-24 Budget Consultation - Insights about our community's priorities for the next financial year included.

- Respondents on average wanted Council to spend more on assets, facilities and public spaces, as well as environment and waste. Notable project suggestions included installing more footpaths, upgrading public toilets, planting more trees and protecting our coastline.
- Statutory planning and local laws was the only category in which participants suggested Council slightly reduce expenditure.

Mr Gill Clarified some points raised by the Mayor regarding the Bellarine DAL process:

- State Government meeting with council regarding next steps.
- Intention is Minister will go through policy, and reach a threshold to make Ministerial planning scheme amendments – for everyone's Planning schemes.
- Then local policies that will handed back to LGA's – note this is CoGG, BoQ, Surfcoast, and Bass Coast.
- Money runs out in June 2023 – to do this work. (*Editor's Note: Surfcoast and Bass Coast in regards to S/C and Bass Coast DAL process*).
- Money that was there, was used by DALSAAC committee process.
- No commitment for further funding.
- PLCA and other Community Groups need to lobby for more funding.

Questions from the Floor:

1. Queenscliff Harbour has announced they are selling of the Harbour, and on the board it mentions 'an expansion of the Harbour'. Have you noted that? Have you sought clarification? Do you know where that expansion will be?

Mr Gill: We have a meeting scheduled soon with the Harbour CEO We were not aware of these plans, until the last moment. We can then advise later next week.

1a. Does Defence come into consideration here, the location of the defence facility, Swan Island, and the potential for the harbour to be bought by an international buyer?

Mr. Gill: I can't speculate to that. I'm sure defence will have a say on what happens on that site.

2. We have observed an increase of tourists – day trippers coming in – as well as from The Point development – which is putting pressure on residential area along the front street. I was wondering whether the Transport Strategy is also going to look at increasing Car Parking for people wanting to use the Foreshore?

Cr. Tolhurst: It really focuses on active transport – a connecting network for cycling, walking – using wheels. It does not address car parks - it's to get people off the roads.

Mr. Gill. No it certainly doesn't. Transport Strategy's and philosophy's are moving away from carparks to walkable neighbourhoods. An interesting issue for smaller towns like Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff. Outside of peak season you can encourage walkable neighbourhoods, but we still have deal with it in peak season. It's a good observation, it's an observation that other people have made to us. We meet with Department of Transport twice a year, and we have a meeting early in the year – and we are going to talk about pressures on the arterial network – but we have not really thought about car parking.

Cr. Tolhurst: And the extent to which the maybe the biggest part of the strategy (Editor's Note: Active Transport Strategy) which you see on the draft goes out that addresses traffic is a proposal to lower speed limits across the Borough. So that's probably the most significant

impact on car and motor vehicle audits is captured in the strategy so far.

3. As a local resident, I am concerned about the intersection of Point Lonsdale Rd and Lawrence Rd, particularly during the summer season – it's becoming a traffic burden – I'd like to see traffic lights installed. During Summer there is traffic left right and centre, sometimes it takes 5 or 10 minutes to get across the road.

Mr. Gill: So two things on that. The active transport strategy does actually have some recommendations around that intersection and how to make sure that we're promoting bicycle and pedestrian priorities as well. And the second thing, is I'll take that because the Department of Transport manage that road, so we'll all take that to the next meeting to them as an idea, suggestion, which we did. We didn't talk about traffic lights, but we did talk about both the how intersection functions just generally, Given the increase of traffic that has already been mentioned, so we'll take that to them.

As you as you know, we've tried to separate the pedestrian crossing, pushed a bit down the road, but the nature of us as human beings is we're going to try and go the fastest way. Now we have to look at other solutions

4. Just a quick one, whilst you are on the issue of traffic lights, that bike track between Queenscliff and Geelong, that first major road crossing on Portarlington Rd – I ride that a lot - When you come around to see the railway line there, there's a bush right in the corner. And that one is really dangerous. So I've witnessed about at least two near misses there. Because there's no indication as bike riders come around, there's no visibility for the cars coming back from Portarlington to Queenscliff right near the railway line. So, if that's not in the plan (*Editor's Note: Active Transport Strategy*), someone should have a look at that site, it is seriously dangerous.

Mr Gill: I can take that up with the Department of Transport as well...

...Go out and have a look at visibility for bike riders, and cars as well.

4. I'm concerned about the management of Royal Park Caravan Park. Mainly, people are coming here after 60 years plus, and it's almost self managed, because the people come in and we camp, and there is little supervision... (*Editors Note: Questioner inaudible at this point*)

....So at the moment we have been told we can't re-book until later in the year, and that there are rumours that there might be a ballot. And so a lot of people have that concern, we'd love to know what's happening?

Mr. Gill: Council have made some decisions around Victoria Park, and in Queenscliff. And prepared policy for that particular park. And in that policy there is talk about equity, of access, and looking at the state government policy and guidance around that. So certainly for Victoria Park, there's a view that we need to manage, because we've lost a number of sites that manage access to that site. And so the councillors in adopting that policy talked about looking at mechanisms that would enable other people to use that site. Now, they haven't done the same thing for Royal Park at this point in time. But I can certainly understand why. You know, in a small Borough, everyone talks...

(Editors Note: Original questioner inaudible at this point)

Mr. Gill: Certainly the focus hasn't been on Royal Park from this Council. However, you will see across Victoria, there's lots of discussions about equity and access to Caravan Parks. And so I think it'll be an ongoing discussion. As as you know, in this post COVID environment, there's a shift [in the] way people holiday, there's more pressure, as we've talked about more pressure on these local areas. So there's a notice that the state government's looking at how it manages and sets policy for Crown Land, and that will have an impact on people like us, that manage that Crown Land.

4a. Original Questioner: A Guy came in today and wanted to camp site right next to me, because his

caravan would not fit on the site, he rang people, then he had to go to Queenscliff, and this is extra work if people are not allotted camps....(Editors Note: Original questioner inaudible at this point)

Mr. Gill: Thank -you...

4b. Additional Questioner: I was going to say a similar thing..The Sites at Royal Park vary hugely in size. People have bought to fit sites, and if they get given what does not fit, there is going to be...

Mr. Gill: They are important things for us to understand, absolutely.

5. Thank – you for the wish list and priorities. Priorities are one thing, delivery is another matter, but increasingly, it's been probably a move towards operational, increasingly, it's been a move to increasing operational matters, both of you have a preference in terms of delivery, working with community or not?

Cr. Tolhurst: Absolutely. My preference is to work with community, I think, I made that evident at the start, and I don't think success or the delivery of our plan is possible without it. We are a small Borough, full of knowledgeable, experienced people. And I think if we don't tap into that, it's to our own demise. I think it's absolutely key.

6. We as, campers come down here in January, we spend a fair bit of money, in the community, we appreciate everyone's involvement and decisions. But we just need some clarity to be told by council workers, that nothing's going to be done. Or the lack of information that we're going to receive will be informed by mid-year, that's fine. But if you as a council make makes a decision, to not allow people to come in or go on a ballot system, we need to know what's gonna happen, so we can plan our future just as much as you want to plan your future.

Mr. Gill: Absolutely. And that's a reasonable comment. What I will say too, is that council if decision tomorrow to do something, it wouldn't be in place by next summer, they'll always be at least 18 months, because we need to give everybody an opportunity to make plans as exactly as you say. So at this point council has made any decisions. So next summer, it'll be pretty much I think, similar to what's happening. And then the following summer, maybe something.

7. Is there any reason why we can't re-book?

Mr. Gill: We still are making some operational changes. So we were looking at to try and think about how we use the sites, how we invest in some of the sites, and also how we actually fix our booking system, because it's not so great. So, the only reason I think at this point in time is to really make sure that that we get it right, because of what's happened over the last couple of years with COVID, and with some other decisions, there's a lot of uncertainty that comes through the year. So last year, certainly for the Victoria Park Campers, there's a lot of uncertainty as both COVID and cancelled decisions changed things all the time. So if we leave it to a later in the year, it gives us a bit more chance to be certain, and to make sure the offer can stand.

Cr. Tolhurst: And sorry, this might be related, to tack on to the point around giving notice, I think we wanted [that] any change will be developed with consultation with our community as per our changes to Victoria Park policy were, and that involves the feedback from residents and Ratepayers and Campers as well. So we think a better outcome is always reached by by doing business that way. And it would be no different for the changes, any future changes to our Parks.

8. I was just going to say, does that mean that when you are talking about or thinking about discussing about these changes, you're going to actually get in touch with the people who have been there for over 60 years, Campers that are basically Clayton's locals, that know the park, that have looked after the watering of the trees and gardens, taking graffiti off, picking up broken glass off the foreshore, and everything you're going to actually talk to those people and then discuss what's best

for the park?

Mr. Gill: So, in 2020, I think it was, 2021, we did a bit of an operational management review. And as part of that we do go out and speak to make park users there. Maybe you did not get caught up in that. But certainly we've got over 400 responses. And a lot of those were from people who use the parks, in they filled in surveys and things like that. So, the idea is, we'll make sure that if you want to know what's happening, send us an email and then there's a list that we're collecting, a database which is that anything that happens we send you an email - that would be my advice.

8a. Original Questioner: So, it has happened before; we were asked to send emails people have sent emails and we've got nothing. I mean, most of us that have been in that Park for 50 years, we've done no survey – no ones has said anything. Or, asked us any questions.

Mr. Gill: There was a group from Royal Park, that I spent some time with last year, they were from the southern end. And they were very instrumental in getting the plan done for that Southern Toilet, and the tidy up of that Southern Toilet. And we've received lots of information from them about exactly the things you're saying, the commitment families have made to these parks and might lose parts, the length of time you spent there. So I'm assuming that's a broad view, the 12 months of campers there, but we've just obviously need to be better at making sure we're hearing from more people from Royal Park.

8b. Original Questioner: [comment] It's a very tight knit community. It's a very family orientated Park. Like I said, some of us are fifth generation. So it's it is a very deep rooted very sentimental part. So any changes that would be lovely, if you could actually talk to the people that are there and have been there.

8c. Just on that issue, I know that the state government's policy is to open up and make it more equal, unfortunately, for the tenure of those that have been there a long time so that more people could come. And we're turning people away at this stage, because this was a red hot issue in Victoria Park, as well. And you've mentioned Golightly [Park]. So when these people are asking, why can't we book, and do we have a future? And you're having to say to others, well, sorry, you can come in this year, because you know, the demand is too high?

Mr. Gill: Certainly with the Queenscliffe Tourist Parks this year, we did. We've been pretty busy. And we there were people that we couldn't accommodate. There's people who've been trying to get into February that we can't accommodate who are coming down for other events, and we're trying to push them to other parks. So we're noticing a little bit, but certainly occupancy was very, very high for this period, and has been, so I can't give you stats off the top of my head, but I could certainly go back and and talk to the team about how many people they are knocking back, but it's usually a few.

8d. Original Questioner: You mentioned Golightly [Park], how quickly would you move on that to what you sort of loosely discussed?

Cr. Tolhurst: Yeah, I think it's a discussion that's underway. We'll be using the operational review that happened last year, as well as drawing on community knowledge and experiences of campers. But essentially determining, creating a business case for what the future of Golightly [Park] looks like. So we'll explore options that are going to yield Council a good financial return, because returns on that have stagnated somewhat. But that also is a good experience for Campers, and is amiable, and clean, and makes I guess what some of the recommendations, or maps rather, the trends we're seeing and have noted in caravan and camping across the state and country.

9. [Golightly Park] I look forward to those surveys, Mr. Gill, we represent 35 sites there, we have never had a survey, no one has spoken to us, we do look forward to be participants as a key

stakeholder in the [Questioner inaudible]....

Mr. Gill: Thanks, Mark. And I did recently reread the submission you made in 2018. But really on top of what the Residents Association, and there views for it, and I think; Did you come and speak to the budget – yes I think you did...

Original Questioner: 2020 it was....

Mr. Gill: So we're well aware of the views of the residents association.

10. Can you take through the CMMP process, as it's an important planning document, so we can get some ideas on when things are going to happen, and what we might see at the end of it?

Cr. Tolhurst: Yes, so at the moment, we've got our well, she was the former portfolio of the Environment holder, Cr. Fleur Hewitt, was chairing those meetings, and currently a Project Steering Group - is the correct terminology - has been appointed to go through the past CMMP's, to understand the feedback that we got from DEWLP on the document, our first iteration of the document. So at this stage, it's about collating, examining the whole of the past work, putting together the things that are missing, we've got this great breath of community members on it as well. And that will take us the production of that will lead to issuing a draft in October, which will be put to public for consultation. But yes, there are quite a few steps, but eventually Ministerial approval so it's early days, but we have a really good base to work off and some really good heads in the room to support the process. And Martin if you'd like to add anything..?

Mr. Gill. No not really.

11. Martin. The Point Lonsdale Reserve [Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct]. So we've got a grant that we're tidying up the huts with, and whenever money runs out, what is your vision for the go forward position, do we then apply for more grant money to go on to stage two, or three or four, for the project, and the outcome, at the end?

Mr. Gill: You'll be pleased to know that a couple of local residents actually secured money for stage two this year. So, State Government in its 2022/23 budget, included a million dollars to come back to the Reserve. So we're working with with DEWLP, and some representatives from the former reference group or reference group, sorry, I'm just getting that scope, right. So that we can roll into, after we finish this work, start rolling into the next stages. I think that that what we're looking at with the with the money is probably a bit of a focus on heritage remediation, continuing to look at some of the some of the heritage items there that are integrated, bringing them back up to scratch, and more generally, making it more accessible across the site. So, the good news is there's there's more money coming away. And then that we'll see is through till the end of 2024. And then obviously, council needs to start to think about what it might do next. The same MP that Mayor Tolhurst has referred to is going to include some wording around putting together a plan for future steps. So '25 onwards. And they'll come out for community consultation, some of those principles, will come after community consultation for feedback later this year.

Cr. Tolhurst: And I'd just like to add, Andrew, there is a lot of work to do on the site, but the million won't cover in its entirety. So I think we're definitely eager to start the process of seeking more grant money to undertake more work, while the million is being spent once the scope of that grant has been finalised. So, we see it as a, you know, there's very much work beyond the million, and a vision to get it to re-adaptive use, so that it's very much a community space, that honours those heritage maritime and defence values.

12. Can I ask a question while we're on money? Can you tell us what's happened to the 3 million from the sale of Murray Rd Land?

Mr. Gill: It's still in the bank of the person, that's buying. So, settlement is in February, this

year, so all going well, it's non conditional now, that the sale money will come into Council's possession this year.

We have a policy about money that we get from sale of the Council property. And that says that if it is reinvested, it needs to be reinvested in things that make an income for council. So it's does not go to normal infrastructure upgrades, or renewal projects, it actually has to go into a project that generates income for Council.

13. Whilst we are on Murray Rd, the Active Transport Policy, might cover some of this, that I wondered what was happening with the pretty terrible condition in the Rail Trail. Now early on, I was hoping [it] was going to happen, and nothing's happened. And it's actually getting more dangerous, because it's getting more use, which we're promoting active use of our things. And I think it's pretty ordinary, living in the general area. And just wondering where it was at?

Mr. Gill: We certainly agree with you that it's pretty ordinary. There was a design that was approved, generally by parts of the community, and council couple of years ago, as you probably know, we received some feedback following that from some other residents. And from DEWLP, that maybe it wasn't the best idea. So we've gone back to the drawing board. The Active Transport Strategy has picked that up. And it's it's risen to be one of the top two priorities, and that document, and Council last year, asked us to present them a number of options. And we're working through some three design options at the moment, which will go to Council, then they come back to the Community as part of the ATS, and then we'll go through the process again.

13a. Original Questioner: It's a slow process until someone gets seriously injured, and then it will go up further will it?

Cr. Tolhurst: We have had discussions, nothing that's been formalised by any decision or action yet, I appreciate that, but about interim solutions to slow traffic and particularly in the busy season, you're totally right, that an accident can happen, and that would be catastrophic for us, and for the community...

13b. Original Questioner: ...It's very close to happening..

Cr. Tolhurst: Yeah. And so yeah, we're looking at we can look at some temporary measures that discussion has been had certainly 'RATIO' - the organisation who pulled together the ATS, the active transport strategy, indicated that can be sought, and quite affordably, and you can have some little power, speed reduction or mitigation techniques and things like that. So it is a live conversation, and certainly a priority of both the strategy, and of Council.

14. My interest is mainly Queenscliff. I'm hearing lots of long words, lots of talk of consultation. The word I'm hearing above all this slow, slow, slow consultation meetings, and very little action and look at priorities priority to me means you really go for something at the top of that list. I look at the tree in the playground in Lonsdale [Lonsdale Foreshore Playground], and I tell myself now, why did that tree not come down, within three weeks just before the summer season, to me having been involved in private enterprise, that's just intolerable. I cannot see any amount of consultation, arborists and safety experts that could not take place within a week, and have the chainsaws in three or four days later. So that kids can play in a playground?

Mr. Gill: I could slowly bore you with a very long response to that. But I think the simplest way to say it is, as you know, our community holds a diversity of views, a very, very strong diversity of views. So there are people that are equally upset about the tree being considered for removal, when the arborist report came in. So ,to manage those two polar positions, we need to go through the process. And in this case, process involves getting State Government permission to remove the tree, as per the arborist recommendation. And that took time, though, the Council did some fantastic work. It could have taken eight weeks, the Councillors worked very hard to make sure it only took two weeks. It's just the process.

15. Many municipalities and towns have very active tree increasing policies, I wonder if Queenscliffe is planning to increase this tree cover. This really needs to be started now, there's going to be a benefit by the time as temperatures rise. And I wonder if we have a plan here to increase dramatically our tree cover?

Mr. Gill: So thank you, Joan. So the last four years, we've had a rolling program of 100 trees, new trees planted per year, last year cancel, increase that to 200. So 200 trees have been planted over the last 12 months. And another lot will be planted in autumn as rains again. I think it's a...

15a. Original Questioner: ...That's very small number in comparison to what I see in other places....

Mr. Gill: ..We are a very small Borough...and there is not a lot of places to plant trees, that's the other thing. We've got to be mindful that most of our public spaces, are dual use, shared spaces. And that space is where vegetation is strong, like Ocean Road, you can plant and you wouldn't see the planting in there, because it happens deep into it. So, there's lots of trees being planted. There's not many spaces to plant them, but we're certainly conscious of that. And the council has committed to increasing the number of trees planted.

15b. Original Questioner: There are many opportunities in some streets to make them greener and cooler. And I think every opportunity should be looked at, and not be so satisfied with a couple 100 trees.

Mr. Gill: Certainly not self satisfied, not with the community...

15c. Additional Questioner: I reinforce that, I'd say why don't you go to a thousand trees, I can see lots of spaces...

Mr. Gill: Send me through a map of all the spaces...where we can plant those trees. Thank-you.

Cr. Tolhurst: For example, with the playground in removing the trees that were deemed dangerous, or that needed to be lopped down to quite a low base, it's the condition that DEWLP, the condition applied to the removal of those endemic indigenous trees, was to plant another 60. So, a ratio of one to 10, we have to take down six we have to plant 60 trees, so there are those exchanges and we're certainly trying to not reduce any kind of kind of canopy cover...

15d. Additional Questioner [comment]: There is a Park opposite me, that's hardly got a table in it, you put a wonderful table - a great table thank you - but no trees to give it shade.

16. We had a vegetation plan, for the foreshore, about five years ago, it died....

Mr. Gill: The plan, died or the trees died?

[Questioner inaudible]...We haven't replaced them and have not done anything about it, it was a little copse of trees, planted on the foreshore near some of the tables that are regularly used. The idea of that was that they grow into a little copse of Moonah Trees, as our contractor comes and chops the top of them every three months, because they want to do something. They don't grow very well. We've got a vegetation plan.

Wouldn't be nice to actually see that happen?

And I raised that question. And someone said, yes, that was a plan, but we can't quite really find it. I think it was bit sad, because, as there was a consultant, there was a reference group. A lot of the works we've done, but we have no, absolutely no, maintenance on the Point Lonsdale, foreshore. And trees are a big issue.

But there's another question for the CEO, we stood here about four years ago, when you first arrived

Mr. Gill: 3...

.....you had visions of consultation, community involvement, engagement, and getting things done. Has your vision changed? Well, we'd like to help you. We really would like our community to be vibrant, comfortable, happy, progressive. We can help you if you wish..

Mr. Gill: The community helped us on the 'Q' [Queenscliffe] Hub, the community is helping us with Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve...

Original Questioner:...you know what I'm talking about...

.....the community helped us with the amenities block in Queenscliff, the community helped us put together the council plan, the community helped us put together community vision. The community is involved. I've received seven emails from the QCA, this week alone. That's an involved community, and a community that we are responding to!

Original Questioner:...I hear words, the actions would be better.

17. I would just like show of hands, who knows [of] 'Ballara'. Not Many. 'Ballara' I think Andrew, is probably the more resident expert here. But he should speak on this. But it is a marvellous bit in the centre of Point Lonsdale, it is a fantastic biodiversity of plants, and so forth. And it is the Alfred Deakin holiday estate.

Andrew has been working hard with a group, maybe he could just quickly speak on this because I think as a community, we need to really get behind protecting this area. And somehow through the council, whether it's community money, community volunteers, whatever. But we really need to get together, and protect this area maybe Andrew ..

Mr. Gill: If you can, before Andrew jumps in, we just let you know. So, Minister Plibersek is aware of it. She's interested in it. And she's asked her department to investigate an emergency listing. So there is action naturally occurring. And Libby Coker [MP] has been a very strong advocate for that. So and that's because of the way this community responded, and also people outside of this community who had an interest in heritage. So there is action happening that goes back to both points, emergency, in federal government terms, means you know, at least six months.

Original Questioner: For those who don't know, this was a bit of a blindside and thing that sort of came out of that out of the blue very quickly. There's been a lot of going on behind the scenes, which is fantastic. But it wouldn't be an absolute tragedy, if we couldn't save this is total site, somehow....

Additional Questioner: The property is, as Deakin's children have reproduced, it's now owned by, I think, eight owners who are tenants in common. And the problem is, with anyone that has a family farm, a family generational farm, eventually someone wants their slice of the pie. And it's very valuable property. I think it's 13,000 square meters of land. And, so, it's an enormous development opportunity if it sort of was subdivided.

Now it does have an overlay on top of it, at the state level. But the legal advice that has been obtained, says well, that can effectively be challenged, provided the key, environmental and heritage elements are retained. So, it was going to VCAT, the family, or parts of the family, I should say, did a submission to Minister Plibersek, to get emergency listing, because that effectively freezes the ability of VCAT from making a decision. So, at the moment, as you said Martin, quite right, it's got a lot of fantastic support from the local community. A lot of people here, have signed the petition, and the family, as you would expect from a political family, has very deep roots into the bureaucracy,

and politicians, and they're busy beavering away in the background and make sure Tanya Plibersek hopefully makes the right decision, but I think a decision will be made soon.

So the recap things have been pushed back until May, I think that's what's happened, and at the moment it is still in Canberra, awaiting a decision made by Federal Minister.

So that's for the emergency emergency listing, that's what provides the protection. That doesn't give a formal listing, that means it gets into the proper process, because they're only they're only 120 National Heritage properties in Australia. So this would be 121, I think. The issue, is what is it meant to be? It needs to be adaptive reuse is very important, how all the family stuff gets teased out. But the main thing is to stop the property being broken into parcels and sold off.

So the garden is fantastic, if you don't know [where] it's on, the corner of Kirk rd, near where the war memorial is. It's worth having a look at that place, and the Brooks [property]. So, the Deakins and the Brooks were the family members, then Alfred Deakin's daughter married one of the Brooks boys, and they had property together, and the other one, 'Ariipa', which is next door. It's amazing what they've done there, but properties sits together as the the 'lungs' of Point Lonsdale. I commend it to the house to have a look at both.

18. The large trees that were planted, and grew and had to be cut down a couple of years ago on the Queenscliff foreshore near the caravan park, that were planted. It's like the Yeah, like the Avenue of Honour, the big trees. There was talk years ago when they were dangerous, they were talking about cutting them down, that they were going to cut them, and then carve them into some sort of memorial for those guys that they were there to represent. That wasn't done. And I know that Queenscliff got a huge grant to re-green, talk was a couple of years ago that that money was going to go to planting new trees in honour of those fallen soldiers. That still hasn't been done. So I'm just wondering if that's going to happen?

Mr. Gill: So there's there's limits to what we can do on that site, that was listed by Heritage Victoria, as State Site of Significance, in 2019, as were a couple other sites. So anything we do there now has to be in accordance with Heritage Victoria's vision for the site. Having said that, when we took the trees down, we've stored all the timber, so we've got all the timber, so if we do get to a point where we know what we're going to do on that site, we can reuse it for things.

At the moment, I've been in discussions with the RSL, with the Wadawurrung, and with Heritage Victoria, about what the next steps will be for that site. And then, at some point in this year, who I think will come out back out to the community, and say this is what we need to do, we want you to have a think about it.

19. Original Questioner: Because trees would be good there, because there's a lot of tables and chairs. There's a lot of picnic area users at the moment. It's so damn hot when the sun comes out. There is no shade at all. It'd be nice to have something.

11. Next Annual General Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, 5 January 2024

Next General Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, 24 February 2023 – Speaker Ms. Alison Marchant MP.

12. President Closing Remarks & Thanks.

13. Meeting Closed. 9pm.