



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

December 2023 Newsletter & Notice of AGM

The Point Lonsdale Civic Association hereby gives notice of its 2024 Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Friday January 5th 2024**, 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, Cr. Ross Ebbels, Cr. Michael Grout, and Cr. Robert Minty who will give a short presentations regarding achievements in there respective portfolios and future plans in 2024. This will be followed by a short, 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 2023 AGM](#)

[Appointment of Proxy Form:](#)

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

[PLCA 2024 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.)

2024 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2024 is due by the date of the AGM, being 5 January 2024. The **subscription amount for 2024 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
Bank: Bendigo and Adelaide Bank
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.

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

Mayoral Elections

At the Borough's Ordinary Meeting in November, Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst was re-elected for a 1 year term. Cr. Ross Ebbels 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 October 2024.

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.

City of Greater Geelong – Single Ward Councillors.

As part of the Local Government Act 2020 the City of Greater Geelong Council must adopt a single-councillor ward structure. To achieve this structure, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) panel will consider:

- the appropriate number of councillors and wards for the council;
- the location of ward boundaries;
- the name of each ward.

The proposal from the VEC seeks to distribute population equally amongst all 11 Wards (Option 1 & 2); or 12 Wards (Option 3).

As we went to print it was reported that the outcome will be announced in January 2024.

Queenscliff Boat Ramp.

Rail Crossing and Pathway

Following the rebuild of the Queenscliff boat launching facility it now appears that responsibility for a construction of an "at grade" pedestrian rail crossing on the approach road to the new boat ramp has moved from Better Boating Victoria to Queenscliffe Council. We understand that construction drawings for the crossing have been approved by the rail authorities and construction has now been rescheduled for early 2024. We also understand that BBV's original \$17,000 funding contribution remains in place and that Queenscliffe Council have applied to TAC to help fund both the rail crossing and a pathway from North Hesse Street.

Council have recently erected a number of signs warning pedestrians of the dangers of walking on the road leading to the ramp. Members of the Advisory Group (including PLCA) continue to push various State and Local Government agencies for these and other post construction improvements so they are not forgotten as the project winds down. Construction of the safety crossing and chicane connecting to the Bellarine Rail Trail and the Boat Ramp was originally promised in December 2022.

Bike Park.

The Borough recently announced Tenders for design and construction of a proposed bike park to be located on land adjacent to the skate park:



Borough Active Transport Strategy.

At its Ordinary Council meeting in December Council adopted the revised ATS without the proposed 30 km/h restrictions. It was also indicated that community consultation on the 4 options for Murray Road will begin early in the new year.

Borough Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) (Update kindly provided by BoQ CEO, Mr. Martin Gill)

The next draft of the CMMP will be presented to the Project Steering Committee in December 2023.

If the latest iteration of the draft CMMP is endorsed by the Project Steering Committee, it will be put out for community consultation and review early in 2024.

Simpson St Flooding. (Update kindly provided by BoQ CEO, Mr. Martin Gill)

The proposed works for the upstream catchment management have been completed. This reduces the amount of water reaching the low point during a rain event, but the system still relies on a water pump in Simpson Street to manage flooding.

We had a problem in October 2021 following the significant storm event where we lost power. No properties were damaged but the water on the road did not get away for a few days.

Guest Speakers. *(From PLCA Guest Speaker Coordinator, Ms. Lynne Furness)*

This year we have had a variety of speakers at our member meetings.

At our October Meeting representatives from SES, CFA and Borough of Queenscliffe CEO gave us an insight into the emergency management plans for the up coming summer.

Earlier in the year Angie Poole from CoGG gave us a wonderful presentation on the CoGG's South East Bellarine Coastal and Marine Management Plan and an update on the Bellarine Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) Statement.

At our December meeting Professor Lawrence St Leger gave an insightful talk on the benefits of nature on our health and well being. Lawry provided evidence from research data and science to prove that we can all benefit by interacting more with nature.

In January at our AGM we have invited all of the Borough of Queenscliffe Councillors to give us a short presentation on their portfolios and their plans for 2024.

If you have any suggestions for speakers please do not hesitate to contact me via the PLCA Secretary.
Lynne Furness

Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct

The Association has been provided with an updated from the December Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13/12/23. For the complete report please see P 34 of the Agenda here: [December 2023 Ordinary Meeting](#)

We understand that following completion of recent Stage 1 upgrading works, Stage 2 works will include: mains power improvements across the site, pathway and parking zone improvements, restoration works on the WW1/2 Directing and Ranging Station and WW2 Eastern Search Light, improved pathway to the gun emplacement, restoration works on the lighthouse surrounds and improved fencing and signage across the precinct. We also understand that the toilet block rebuild will be a separately funded Council project.

The Association looks forward to finally seeing completion of this important government funded project and will be closely monitoring progress throughout 2024.

Helicopter Take Off and Landing Site for McDonald Road.

Following Queenscliffe Council's recent 4 to 1 vote to refuse a planning permit application for a helicopter take off and landing facility on a property at McDonalds Road, Council's planning manager has advised that the applicant and helicopter owner has now lodged an appeal against the decision with VCAT. Council's planning manager also reported a Mediation is scheduled to take place in May followed by a Hearing in July 2024.

In total some 28 residents and organisations, including PLCA, opposed the application based largely on environmental impacts, zoning considerations, residential amenity and safety concerns given its proximity to Swan Bay and adjoining residents. A majority of Councillors voted against approving the helipad application despite conditional approval being recommended by Council's planners and government agencies.

The Association is closely monitoring this matter.

The Association wishes all its members and friends a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Please enjoy your break if you are having one, and please be patient, as we experience a massive inflow of holiday makers.

Please remember to support our local Traders in both Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

David Kenwood – PLCA President.