



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

December 2024 Newsletter & Notice of AGM

The Point Lonsdale Civic Association hereby gives notice of its 2025 Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Friday January 3th 2025**, at 7.30 pm, at **Point Lonsdale Primary School**, in the Learning Common.

Our guest speaker at that meeting will be BoQ Mayor, Cr. Di Rule who will give a short presentation regarding; “ *What does a re-imagined Borough look like after 12 months?*”. At the conclusion, a short, moderated Q&A session will be held. Also confirmed to be attending are Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst and the BoQ CEO Mr. Martin Gill.

All Councillors & CEO have been invited (*Editor’s Note: as of our publishing deadline, the other Councillors have not made contact with the Association*), 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 nomination for committee, member renewal form and application form for new members:**

[Committee Nomination Form](#) (Print and post)

[Minutes of PLCA 2024 AGM](#) xx

[Online Committee Nomination Form](#)

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

[Appointment of Proxy Form:](#)

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

[PLCA 2024 AGM Agenda](#)

(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.)

2025 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2025 is due by the date of the AGM, being 3 January 2024. The **subscription amount for 2025 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

Following the recent Local Government Elections, PLCA congratulates all the newly elected Borough of Queenscliffe Councillors including our new Mayor Di Rule and the Deputy Mayor Brendan Monahan. We look forward to once again working with the Borough Council as they deal with a multitude of local issues including the upcoming 4 year Council Plan, completion of the long running Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve project and the latest Coastal and Marine Management Plan.

Meanwhile in the City of Greater Geelong, Cr. Rowan Story (Murradoc Ward – which takes in CoGG Pt. Lonsdale) was elected.

Cr. Stretch Kontelj (Kardinia Ward) was elected as Mayor, and Cr. Ron Nelson (Barrabool Hills Ward) was elected as Deputy Mayor.

The Association wishes the newly elected officials all the best and we hope to meet with them as soon as possible to discuss 3225 issues.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing and retiring Councillors, who served the Borough/CoGG Point Lonsdale over a considerable period of time: We wish those Councillors all the best for the future, and thank them for their many years of service to the 3225 community.

In the Borough of Queenscliffe, Ross Ebbels – former Mayor; Rob Minty – former Deputy Mayor; Michael Grout – retiring Councillor and from CoGG retiring Bellarine Ward Councillor Jim Mason.

Other ex-Bellarine Ward Councillors, Cr. Trent Sullivan and Cr. Elise Wilkinson were elected to the newly created single-wards of Leopold and Connewarre Wards respectively.

Rip View Woodland Repairs

Following a recent PLCA letter it's encouraging to see a recent article in the Bellarine Times entitled "Restoration lined up to address informal bike jumps" indicating that the Borough of Queenscliffe will soon undertake a full-scale restoration of Lonsdale's Rip View Woodland Reserve which aims to improve overall safety for residents and protect the reserve's native vegetation from man-made bike movements. As readers will know the area was used as an illegal bike park over a long period of time resulting in considerable damage being done to the moonahs and other vegetation as users created their own jumps tracks throughout the northern section of the reserve. We also note that the Borough Council will soon begin working with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to create a dedicated bike jump track near the existing skate park in Point Lonsdale, so bike users will have somewhere to go.

Murray Rd Shared Use Pathway. *(From BoQ Website – No further information was available)*

Based on the feedback we received from the community, including residents of the precinct and regular Murray Road users, Council will not be installing speed humps and lighting as per the proposal presented during the recent consultation. We had 181 people respond during the consultation with majority raising concerns about the proposal as presented.

Council remains committed to our original objective which is to complete the missing link along the Bellarine Rail Trail and improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians along Murray Road.

Council will engage with the community again once we have reviewed our options.

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

This year we have had some excellent speakers including early in the year Professor Paul Johnson with an update on the Buruli Ulcer and more recently Tracey Carter from Geelong Tourism giving us an update on the expected tourism trade during the summer.

2025 will see the New Year kick off with the Mayor and other Councillors in attendance, giving us an overview of their vision for the next 12 months and how they will support the Point Lonsdale Community.

If you have any suggestions on topics or speakers you would like to hear in 2025 please don't hesitate to contact the Lynne Furness via the Association's Secretary.

Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct

Based on the CEO's November 2024 Council report there are currently two projects underway at the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve. These projects are known as:

The Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Development – Stage 1.

Stage 1 funded by Regional Development Victoria and the Borough of Queenscliffe is nearing completion following external improvements to the P1 huts some time ago. Stage 1 work also includes gaining the necessary approvals for the installation of the Wadawurrung sculptural element. This is understood to be an interpretive sign (subject to Cultural Heritage Management Plan approval) recognising Wadawurrung connection to the site.

The Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Development – Stage 2.

Stage 2 is funded by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Works for Stage 2 of the project commenced in the first quarter of 2024. A revised scope of works for the \$1 million grant now includes remediation of more of the former defence structures and power to the 4 P1 Huts. Temporary power has recently been provided to the Board Riders Club (former Engine Shed). Structural engineering and heritage advice has been obtained as part of the planned defence structures remediation process and project managers will incorporate this work into a revised landscape plan for the site which will be used to gain approvals for Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP), Heritage Victoria permits and Marine and Coastal Act consent. Once the timeline for obtaining these permits is known an updated project timeline will be provided to Council.

There is still no word on completion of the planned \$160,000 toilet rebuild, which is a separately funded Council project. As readers will know this ageing facility, which lost its roof in the October 2021 storm, is in a fairly desperate state of repair. We understand CHMP approval is also required before this work can begin. It would seem a further \$1 million grant will be needed to fit-out the 4 P1 huts to bring them up to a standard where they could be used by local groups.

Planning Scheme Amendment C40 Queen Fisherman's Flat Heritage Review

Following a lengthy planning process which included a report by Council's consultant's Ecology and Heritage Partners, considerable research and feedback by dedicated local residents and a recent Planning Panel appointed by the Planning Minister to hear submissions, Queenscliffe Council have finally resolved to adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C40 Queen (with a number of recommended amendments) and forward it to the Minister for Planning for approval and incorporation into the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme.

A number of Fisherman's Flat residents were in the Town Hall to witness the passing of this important amendment by the new Council. It's hoped the amendment will further strengthen the heritage values of this unique part of Queenscliff and become a template for others. Fisherman's Flat (HO1) is the first of the Borough's 11 heritage precincts to be reviewed by Council. Queenscliffe's Strategic Planner, who managed the amendment process, has recently resigned so we are not sure how other precinct reviews will be managed going forward.

Helicopter Take Off and Landing Site for McDonald Road.

Further to the VCAT Appeal lodged by the owner of 6 McDonald Road against Queenscliffe Council's 2023 decision to refuse a permit for a helicopter take-off and landing site on his property a Preliminary Hearing was held on the 15 July attended by all parties involved in the application. The outcome of the Preliminary Hearing was an 18 page VCAT Order dated 14 November restricting the permissions required under the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme for the use of the subject land proposed in the application to Clause 52.15. In other words the parties objecting to the application to use the land for a helicopter take-off and landing site cannot use the provisions of the Rural Conservation Zoning, the Environmental Significance Overlays, the Significant Landscape Overlay, Clause 65 provisions or any other sections of the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme that apply to the land. The question of whether the provisions of the recent Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy are relevant to the Tribunal's determination in this proceeding is a matter to be determined by the Tribunal at the final hearing.

Since the beginning of the year the parties - the Applicant, Queenscliffe Council and 5 objectors - have attended 4 VCAT Hearings, these being a Compulsory Conference, Practice Day Hearing and a Preliminary Hearing and a further Practice Day Hearing. The final 2 day Tribunal Hearing, has been rescheduled to the 4th and 5th of February 2025. On 13 December 2024 the responsible authority and the respondents lodged their revised submissions in line with recent VCAT Orders. Expert witness evidence may be called by some of the parties involved.

At its ordinary Council meeting on 11 December 2024 Queenscliffe's newly elected Council revisited its original refusal to grant a permit at 6 McDonald Road made on 25th of October 2023 based on advice from their lawyers and recent VCAT Orders. On a motion put by the Mayor, Councillors voted to close the meeting to the public. Those in the gallery were asked to leave and no public questions relating to 6 McDonald Road from community members were permitted during public question time. The Mayor declared a Conflict of Interest given she has a professional relationship with the applicant and one other Councillor had left the meeting over another matter, leaving only 3 Councillors to vote on an Officer recommendation.

On a 2 to 1 vote Council reversed its original decision and resolved to advise VCAT that it now supports the granting of a planning permit authorising the use of the land at 6 McDonald Road, Queenscliff for a helicopter landing site. Approval was conditional on 6 requirements including the type of helicopter, number of flights per month (maximum of 6), hours of operation 7am to 7pm and that take off and landings can only be from a westerly direction.

The Association wishes all it's 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 large inflow of holiday makers. Please remember to support our local Traders in both Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

(Editor's Note: On behalf of the Committee, the Association wishes David well, on his retirement as President. Thank-you for your many thousand's of hours in the service of the 3225 community)

David Kenwood – Retiring PLCA President.