



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

September 2024 Newsletter



Above: Mid Winter week day streetscape. (PLCA supplied)

We now have 2898 houses in the Borough (census 2021) and the council are telling us we will grow by a further 800 homes by 2051 (refer G21 report) - that's an increase of 28%. In population terms that is more than 1680 new residents and at least 1,000 more cars.

Where are the cars to go?

We are only talking about the everyday locals, not the peak season holiday makers and day trippers who, as we all know, add to the population, and add to the existing parking congestion making it really tough for anyone but the quickest to get a park

With the number of tourists over holiday periods etc the population can rise to close to 20,000 on a given day. The parking problems of Point Lonsdale main street are becoming worse.

How many of us have sat having a coffee and seen:

- Cars doing U-turns to get a spot;
- Cars doing the loop just waiting for that "unicorn" empty parking spot to appear?
- Someone almost hit;
- Patrons of coffee shops moving so drivers and/or passengers can get out of their cars?
- Patrons on the road waiting for coffees -in car at Disabled Parks?

If this growth is going to happen, we need to start planning now and not wait for the growth to happen. It is

time for us to show that we can be a future capable Borough.

What do we need?

More car parks somewhere.

Better allocation of parking (for supermarket, post office, beach access);

Acknowledgement that many of our residents are in the older age brackets - they need ease of access and protection- they don't necessarily need disabled parks just access to parking in proximity to shops and facilities.

Parking is an amenity issue and a streetscape issue.

Planning needs to be forward thinking and holistic.

Listen to the broader community and deliver the services . Build the toilets and deliver the services and streetscape that locals and visitors both want and deserve.

The entire area needs a Masterplan from the Lighthouse precinct to the Springs. The streetscape needs to be updated to suit current trends and the expectations of locals and visitors.

If it is going to be done, address the entire streetscape, and include it all, from the Springs to the Lighthouse and while we are at it address the toilet issue at the same time. Only one block of toilets to service the whole strip. Why encourage tourists to the area by having tables and BBQ's but no toilets.

We can do better!

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.

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

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

Please click the **Online Membership Renewal Form** from link above to renew; **Online Application for Membership** if you'd like become a member. . 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](#)

[Application for Membership](#)

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.

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

Local Government Elections.

Local council elections will be held in Victoria by post this October for all councils except Moira Shire Council.

Your vote matters. Local council elections are your chance to choose who you want to represent your community on the issues that you care about.

Borough of Queenscliffe.

The roll closed at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. Candidates confirmed are:

Di Rule	Helene Cameron #
Rob Minty*	Peter Jewell
Ralph Roob	Isabelle Tolhurst*
Donnie Grigau *	Ross Ebbels*
Brendan Monahan	Lucille Colombo
David Orford	(* Sitting Councillor; # Past Councillor)

City of Greater Geelong – Murradoc Ward.

The Portarlington Community Association (PCA) will hold a 'Meet the Candidates' meeting on Sept 26th, 7pm, Parks Hall, Newcombe St, Portarlington. The Association encourages CoGG 3225 residents to go along.

Candidates confirmed are:

Kate Lockhart
Rowan Story.

The Association wishes to thank retiring councillors, Cr. Michael Grout (BoQ), and Cr. Jim Mason (Bellarine Ward CoGG) for their service to the community. The Association has found both councillors to be very accessible and approachable with any sort of LGA issue we had.

PLCA, QCA & CBCA Present Meet the Candidates Meeting (Borough)

As we usually do at Local Government election time, the Association, along with the Queenscliffe Community Association, and the Combined Bellarine Community Association are running our 'meet the Candidates' meeting. Invitations have been sent to each candidate.

It will be held on;

Friday, 4 October 2024, at Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall, Bowen Road

6.45pm for 7.00pm start. Presentations from candidates plus Q&A's.

The Association believes it is important for all potential candidates to meet the Community, and answer question put to them by the Community, in an open forum.

Borough Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) / Narrows Bike Park / Golightly Park Upgrades / Murray Road Shared use Path. *(Thanks to Borough CEO for kindly providing the update Mr. Martin Gill)*

The Association asked the Borough CEO about 4 local issues. The answers are below:

1. Council's preferred option for Murray Road Shared Use Project based on the recent options provided by Council and the outcome of the latest survey?

"I am providing an update in the Council agenda on 25 September.

.....Council received 181 responses and is preparing a response and information about the survey that will be shared with the community in the next few week"

2. Narrows Bike Park including funding and timeline.

"We have developed the concept design and are working with the Department of Transport and Planning to get sign off and the okay to undertake some further community consultation.

We are working with Sport and Recreation Victoria with a plan to apply for funding through the next round of the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund which opens in early 2025."

3. What Council proposes to do to upgrade camping facilities at Golightly Caravan Park?

"Council has not determined what it will do at Golightly at this point".

4. Finalisation of the Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) after some 3 years?

"Following the review of submissions and discussions with DEECA, Council is planning to formally consider the CMMP at the ordinary Council Meeting in December 2024.

If Council resolves to adopt the CMMP at that meeting it will be sent to the Minister for Environment for approval".

CMMP – further update:

The Association understands that the Borough's CMMP Steering Committee will meet on the 20th of September to consider a Council Officer's response to the 11 submissions Council received from the public some months ago. Any

further decisions in respect of the CMMP process will likely be in the hands of the new Council, however, some issues to consider include when will we see updated versions of:

1. Borough Open Spaces Management Plan - which includes key exempted coastal areas that are exempt from the CMMP such as the former High School site, the Recreation Reserve and Camp Wyuna; and

2. Borough's Toilet Strategy.

The Borough CMMP is apparently a rolling plan that has to be measured and updated every 5 years. It also has to be approved by State Government. Given the large considerable number of recommendations in the CMMP report the community needs to understand what the costings will be for each year of the 5 year plan, what the priorities will be for the new Council and how this will be monitored over the life of the plan.

Community Batteries (*Thanks to Borough CEO for kindly providing the update, Mr. Martin Gill*)

The Association asked a series of questions, to the Borough CEO about this issue. The answers are below:

1. Has there been any progress on the exact sites for the Community Batteries?

“Mondo is investigating six (6) sites, but will only use four locations, with a preference to have two in Queenscliff and two in Point Lonsdale”.

2. If so, when can these sites be made public to the community?

“We are waiting for advice from Mondo about the timing of any announcements”.

3. Also will there be a planning process so the Community can have input?

“There will not be a formal planning process, the infrastructure is exempt under the planning scheme.

There maybe other regulatory approvals required, but these may not need formal community engagement.

Mondo may need to enter into a lease with Council and this may present an opportunity for informal engagement undertaken by Council.

However, Mondo has been speaking to residents surrounding the preferred sites”.

4. Is there scope to have one larger battery in a discrete location rather than 4 in different locations?

“No, the grant has been awarded to Mondo to install four neighbourhood batteries to help implement the State Government initiative.”

The Association notes that there may be suitable sites in CoGG 3225, but the scope of this project means they will be not considered.

200-204 Point Lonsdale Road ,Point Lonsdale (Redevelopment of the Springs BP Service Station Site).

The Association has written to Council to enquire if there were any VCAT challenges to the Planning Permit issued for this site. The Council have replied that there were none.

Queenscliffe Planning Scheme Amendment C40quen.

Council has worked with people in our community on Fisherman’s Flat planning issues for the last four years, and was mindful that previous BoQ Councils have worked toward improvements in the Fisherman’s Flat Heritage Overlay (HO1) since 2008. Council initiated and supported the process that resulted in the Planning Panel’s 26 August 2024 report containing very specific recommendations about corrections and improvements needed before submitting the C40quen planning amendment to the Minister for Planning. The motion below moved by Cr Grout and unanimously passed at a Special Council Meeting on 17th of September 2024 seeks to prepare the C40quen documentation in line with all Panel recommendations, then bring the finalised documents to Council for adoption and submission to the Minister for Planning in the required time frame. This ensures Council sees the final version that goes to the Minister.

That Council:

1. Receive the Panel report for planning scheme amendment C40quen and accepts all recommendations in full.
2. Direct that a final package of amendment documents for C40quen be prepared, incorporating and having regard to all recommendations made by Panel in the legal time frame.
3. Having reviewed the amendment documentation, consider C40quen for adoption at the Ordinary meeting of Council scheduled for November 2024.

Helicopter Take Off and Landing Site for McDonald Road.

Following a VCAT Appeal lodged by the owner of 6 McDonald Road against Queenscliffe Council's 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 has not been determined.

Since the beginning of the year there have been 3 VCAT Hearings - a Compulsory Conference, Practice Day Hearing and a Preliminary Hearing. The 2 day Tribunal Hearing, which was to have taken place on the 23rd and 24th of September has now been rescheduled for 28th and 29th of November.

The Association would like to thank the Barwon Heads Association who have spent many hours working on this matter with local associations, and in particular Mr Colin Bridges, BHA V/President.

Moremac Development – Handover of Public Open Space to City of Greater Geelong Council

The association wrote to CoGG concerning timelines for the handover from developer to Council. The Council's response is below:

Handover to Council has been taking place progressively as the development occurs. CoGG has accepted the handover of the open space areas adjacent to the constructed waterway as highlighted below, plus the Town Park in the centre, and a section of roadside vegetation adjacent to the Bellarine Highway. (see below)



The full waterway is expected to be handed over early 2025 – provided it is demonstrated that the waterway is operating in accordance with the permit conditions.

The conservation reserve is expected to be handed over late 2025 early 2026.

The Association intends to watch this matter as it evolves.

Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Update

Based on the August 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 is funded by Regional Development Victoria and the Borough of Queenscliffe. Stage 1 of the project is nearing completion.
- 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.

The Association understands that the scope of works for \$1 million Stage 2 works changed in early 2024 and now includes much needed repairs to some of the former coastal military installations and power to the 4 P1 Huts. Temporary power has recently been provided to the Board Riders Club (former Engine Shed), however further delays to the works schedule are expected due to the need for sign off on a Cultural and Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

There is still no word on completion of the toilet rebuild, which is a separately funded Council project. At the August 2024 meeting Cr Tolhurst advised she was stepping down as the Chair of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Project Control Group due to the Council Election Caretaker Period.

The Association suggests that given the site's recent listing by Heritage Victoria that a Masterplan based on the 2 Landscape Plans already completed for the site be finalised and that future works also include internal refurbishment of the 4 P1 Huts so that they can be used by local groups.

Please remember to support our local Traders in both Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. If we don't use we may lose them, and keep warm!

David Kenwood – PLCA President.