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

Winter/June 2025 Newsletter

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 below. 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 below, **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

Online Membership Renewal Form (Renewal)

Online Application for Membership (New Members)

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 – we just don't have the personpower. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary for further details: **plcasecretary@gmail.com**

Borough Bytes Council Newsletter.

The Borough has made the decision to no longer print and distribute the Borough Bytes. The copy you received with the final rates notice was the last to be printed.

However, Residents and Ratepayers of the Borough are able to opt in to receiving news by email, or by contacting the Council Office to have a printed copy sent to your address. Contact the Borough to register for either a printed copy to be mailed to you, or go to the website to register.

Borough of Queenscliffe.
PO Box 93, Queenscliff, VIC 3225.

Or visit:
50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff, VIC 3225

Or Call:
03 5258 1377.

Or Email:
info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

Toilets – Loch st and Dog Beach Car park. *(Thanks to BoQ CEO, Mr. Martin Gill for providing answers to our query about costings for both toilets.)*

At the December 2024 Ordinary meeting, the Mayor put forward, and was subsequently adopted to, among other things, trial temporary toilets opposite Loch st in Point Lonsdale, and the Dog Beach. Usage was monitored, and costing were also supplied to Councillors.

The Association welcomed this development, and have advocated for some sort of toilet at the Dog Beach and in particular, in Point Lonsdale between the existing facilities opposite the shops on Point Lonsdale Rd and Golightly Park ablution block.

The Association feels to that the Loch st temporary toilet, the location is sub-optimal – being situated right on the roadway, this means that traffic heading South along Point Lonsdale Rd approaching the toilet, may not see pedestrians (or small children who may run out on the road) as it's a blind curve. Also, according to members/residents nearby, the emptying is required nearly every fortnight in peak season, and the odour whilst doing this maintenance task is powerful.

The Association feels a better location for the Loch st toilet is adjacent to the BBQ area, off the roadway.

The Association recently asked the Borough CEO, Mr. Martin Gill, about the costings for both toilets for our Newsletter:

Q1. Loch st and Dog Beach Temporary Toilets, and compostable toilet option, are you able to please give costs provided to Councillors as per the March Meeting Minutes Pg. 38?

A. $22,000 (1 March – 2 May)

Borough Draft Council Budget

The Association is of the opinion, that this year's budget is pretty basic. We have looked at the draft budget and make the following comment.

The position will not change-the council has set its priorities - just balance the books the best way you can. Four years is the timeframe unless we can turn it around.

The explanation and presentation given to the community via the Budget briefing, was very good and clearly presented the state of the budget landscape they are working in. It was also expressed at the budget briefing, that 4 years is the timeframe to turn it around.

The full Draft Budget paper is here: https://tinyurl.com/boqfullbudgetpaper
The shorter slide show as presented to the public at the Draft Budget Public Meeting is here:

https://tinyurl.com/boqbudget

Key figures:

Income - Note: Rates increase of 3% in line with State Government rate-capping policy.

Key Highlights:

- Property Valuations down 7%. *(Pg 5 . BoQ Draft Budget document)*
- Rates & Charges income $9,192k *(P 46)*

- Grants operating $1,305k *(P 55)*
- Grants capital $813k, which ceases after this year. *(P 55)*
- Other income $716k *(P 55)*

Total income $14,354k *(P 36)*

Expenses.

Total expenses $13,743k *(P 10)*

This produces a surplus of $611k for the year. Taking our grants capital and there is a loss.
Going forward the projections are deficits with no grant's for capital items. We are not getting ahead and going backwards. Financial reserves are dropping.

Funding has been put aside for: (Note: Projects carried forward denoted #; Annual asset renewal projects marked !)

- Upgrade of facilities at Golightly Park - $272k
- New works including $300k for new cabins at the Recreation Reserve.
- Royal Park Oval Upgrade – Irrigation, scope and design - $32k
- #Point Lonsdale Maritime & Defence Precinct - $813k,
- #Toilets at Point Lonsdale Maritime & Defence Precinct - $200k,
- #Royal Park Oval Upgrade – Amenity, scope and design - $90k
- #Rip View Beach Access Renewal - $114k,
- ! Building Asset Renewal Program - $200k
- ! Road, Footpath and Kerb Asset Renewal Program - $155k
- ! Drainage Asset Renewal Program - $100k
- ! Open Space Asset Renewal Program - $140k

Note: No money set aside for 'Ballara' – as has been promised.

Capital budget is $3m with no new projects and using cash reserves ($958k) in a lot of cases, and another $813k from existing grants.

In the current environment the council has produced a basic budget. The major question and solution that needs to be explored is the Borough's reliance on grants both operational and capital grants to balance the books. Going forward only operational grants have been budgeted for (question will they still be received and for what amount)

The projections show us in deficits going forward.

Our questions are:

- How is the council going to develop a cost structure that does not rely on grants?
- What is the true position on reserves (not already committed on projects) going forward for the next 3 years?
- What strategies are being developed to enable the Borough to survive

Mondo Battery Sites.

Following a Victorian State Government announcement in March 2024, Mondo has been working in collaboration with the Borough of Queenscliffe and Queenscliffe Climate Action Now group to plan and deliver four 100kW / 205kWh 'Neighbourhood Batteries' in the Borough.

Mondo is a renewable energy specialist and a commercial subsidiary of the Victorian Distributed Services Network Provider, AusNet. Mondo is also delivering seven batteries on Phillip Island as part of the same funding program. Six batteries have already been installed on the Island.

The Borough batteries will store locally generated solar energy during periods of low demand and discharge energy during high-demand periods, helping to balance the two-way flow of electricity required by modern energy systems. As the batteries are trading on the wholesale electricity market, no residents or businesses of the Borough will need to change their retail electricity arrangements. It is also important to note the batteries will not be providing back up

power to nearby properties during power outages. These batteries will take some pressure off the grid and therefore allow for future private panels to be installed.

The batteries are roughly the size of a public phone booth (see below) and will be coupled with a switchboard to manage the safety and metering aspects of the installation. The batteries will act as “solar sponges,” soaking up excess solar energy for later use, helping to facilitate the transition towards renewable energy sources and supporting the community’s Climate Emergency Response Plan.

This is a battery installed on Phillip Island and the Borough batteries will be the same.

Planned Sites:

Mondo together with the Borough and QCAN have reviewed more than 25 possible sites to ensure we comply with local expectations, limits associated with environmental protection, cultural heritage and coastal limitations. Two sites have been selected for the batteries and now additional technical, heritage and environmental studies are underway to confirm the locations. The two sites are:

- Queenscliffe Recreation Reserve carpark, Mercer Street
- Bowling Club on King Street, opposite the junction with Learmonth Street

Details of site arrangements for the second two batteries should be confirmed in the next few weeks and shared in local media and social media, plus contact with near neighbours and in coordination with site owners.

Battery Safety

The batteries will utilise the stable lithium-iron phosphate (LiFePo4) battery chemistry, have multiple protection systems, a fire suppression system and remote monitoring. This is very distinct from battery fires that are commonly witnessed in homes and usually associated with domestic devices like scooters, e bikes, power tools or other battery powered devices.

The planned battery is the Evo Flex Series and more information on the battery can be found at: FLEX Series 100 KW / 205 KWH TO 1 MW / 2 MWH Commercial & Industrial BESS

Mondo is working closely with the CFA Safety Team in Melbourne to ensure the batteries are planned and delivered safely and this will extend to collaboration with local CFA command as plans are refined.

More Information

For people seeking more information Mondo will be hosting the fourth week of informal drop-in sessions on the 11th and 12th of June at the two Borough IGA's. Please email Mondo at community@mondo.com.au for more information on the drop-in sessions or visit the Mondo project webpage at:

https://www.mondo.com.au/projects/queenscliffe

Mondo will soon host an additional Public Information session to fill in more details of the project and arrangements for the event (date/time/venue) will be published in the local media.

Royal Park Upgrades. *(Thanks to BoQ CEO Mr. Martin Gill for providing answers to our query about the Royal Park upgrades)*

Incorporated in the 2025/2026 Annual Draft Budget, an upgrade for Royal Park was announced.

From the Budget presentation documents:

Royal Park Oval Upgrade – Amenity, scope and design - $90,000

Planning and community stakeholder engagement for the renewal of Royal Park caravan park's northern amenities block and the provision of basic sporting infrastructure to support the use of Royal Park oval.

The Association asked the CEO more about the scope of the upgrades:

Q. (In regards to the) Royal Park Oval Upgrade - From the draft budget documents I understand that is an Amenity, Scope and Design figure of $90k. What is actually being planned/scope for the Oval please?

A. We are upgrading the northern amenities block and looking to include a changeroom facility to support greater use of the oval for organised sport. Through the upgrade we will re-position the amenity block.

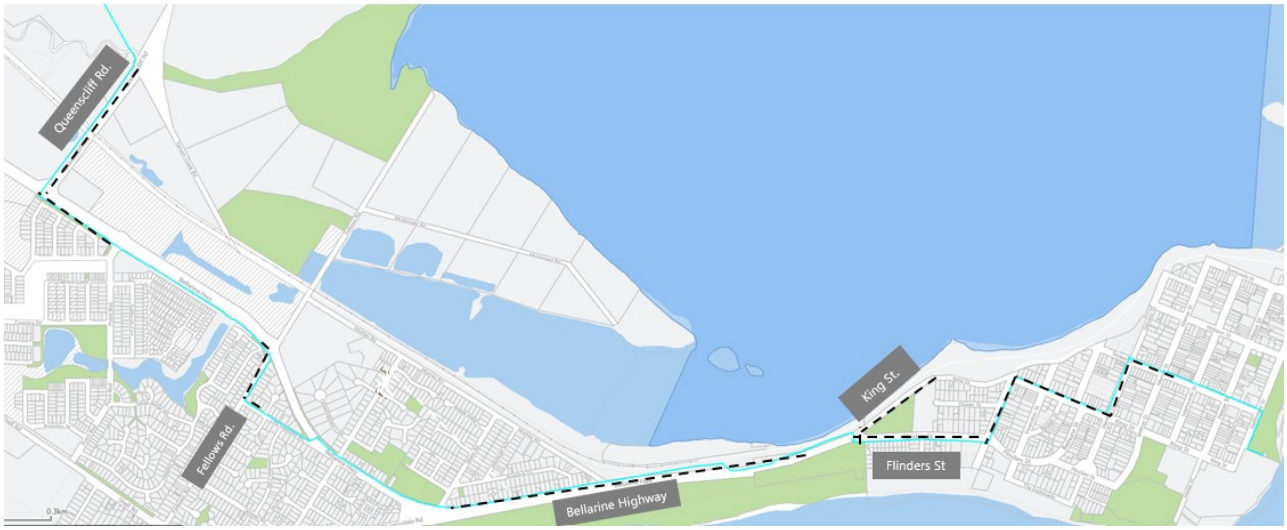
Queenscliff Boat Ramp - Kayak Launch Facility Upgrade

Following persistent and ongoing problems with the kayak launching facility at the recently completed boat ramp rebuild, interested stakeholders were recently invited to attend an onsite meeting with Borough engineers to discuss the situation. It appears that Borough are now looking at alternate options to improve these kayak launching facilities. It also seems the Victorian Fishing Authority have been involved with BoQ to reach agreement on a budget to address the issues. We understand that Better Boating Victoria are longer involved and discussions with the VFA are proceeding with users being advised of any outcomes in due course.

Queenscliff Feeder (water) Main Upgrade *(From Barwon Water https://tinyurl.com/barwonwatermain)*

Barwon Water is currently planning improvement works to the Queenscliff Feeder Main (water supply) along sections of the Bellarine Highway and into Point Lonsdale. These works will help increase year-round water capacity, ensuring Barwon Water can continue to provide high quality, affordable and secure services to our customers.

The Queenscliff Feeder Main (6.3 kilometres long) is the sole source of water supply for the customers in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale and therefore it is crucial that it is in a good and reliable condition to maintain the current service levels and avoid future unplanned service interruptions to these towns.



CERP – Notice of Motion by Council.

A notice of motion was received from Cr. Brendan Monahan on the 20/5/25, and tabled at the May 28 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

He requested: (From Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 28/5/25)

That Council:

- Requests a comprehensive report be prepared and presented to the August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting to inform the review of the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP); and
- Requests that the report include, but not be limited to, the following matters:

1. Financial

- A breakdown of all costs associated with the CERP over the past five budget cycles (ie from 20/21 – 2024/25).
- A detailed outline of allocations included in the 2025/26 draft Council Budget.
- Specific budget allocations, including associated staff and consultant costs, programs, projects and initiatives.
- A detailed outline of costs incurred in assisting Queenscliffe Climate Action Now (QCAN) including meetings, staff hours, administrative support, project assistance, etc.
- A summary of community grants – applied for and received – and their outcomes.
- A full review of all State and Federal grants or programs and their detailed outcomes.

2. Community benefits.

- An evaluation of tangible benefits, directly attributable to CERP expenditure, including the return on the investment made to the Borough of Queenscliffe community.
- A summary of measurable environmental and/or social benefits delivered by CERP and related initiatives.

3. Legislative

- An overview of how the Borough of Queenscliffe's climate emergency actions and initiatives compare with existing State and Federal legislation and strategies.
- Identification of potential duplication, overlap or redundancy with Council's climate actions and those undertaken by higher levels of government.

The Motion was moved 4 -1 against.

Fisherman's Flat Heritage Review

Council has received advice that Amendment C40quen was approved by the Minister for Planning on 27 May 2025 and provides strengthened heritage protections into the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme relating to Fisherman's Flat.

The amendment implements the recommendations of the Heritage Review of Places in Fisherman's Flat Urban Conservation Precinct (HO1), Fisherman's Flat, Queenscliff, Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, October 2024) with the following changes to the Planning Scheme:
- Amendment to the Schedules to Clause 43.01 (Heritage Overlay).
- Clause 72.04 (Incorporated Documents) to update the Fisherman's Flat
- Urban Conservation Precinct Heritage Design Guidelines.
- Introduce a Statement of Significance for Fisherman's Flat.
- Inserting the review report as a background document in the Schedule to Clause 72.08; and
- Consequential changes to Heritage Overlay map and schedule.

Bellarine Community Safety Updates

(The Association is a member of this group chaired by Member for Bellarine Allison Marchant and attended by Police command and Department of Justice and community organisation representatives.)

Water police now have a permanent crew working out of Queenscliff which has been reported as a positive for our community during peak times and for monitoring boating and jet ski behaviour.

eScooters and eBikes are an issue of growing concern as they become more prevalent on local streets, footpaths and roadways. Police are running sessions in local schools about safety and regulation with more to come.

Should you wish to access more information about regulations applicable to this new group of motorised vehicles head to the VicRoads website.

Reminder: Dial 000 if you need police for an incident happening NOW. Use the 131444 number if it is to report something that has already happened. No police at the station, they will be out patrolling doing their Job.

BCH News.

There has been lots happening across 3225 since our last newsletter and as the cold weather approaches, we all need to think about staying well and cold and flu free, if we can. That does not mean staying at home and not socialising. There is lots to do if we know where to look. Movies in the daytime at the Uniting Church, sessions at the Neighbourhood House, clubs aplenty.

Did you know that Bellarine Community Health has opened their Ageing Well Hub at Drysdale?

This service aims to help older community members connect with My Aged Care, a free federal government-funded service supporting older people and their carers to navigate the aged care system. It is free service and operates on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10am and 12noon at Drysdale and Portarlington. The BCH team are looking forward to welcoming more locals and visitors to the BCH Ageing Well Hub, supporting them to age well and helping them reap the benefits of staying connected with the community. Maybe consider becoming a volunteer too.

On the flip side BCH's new Youth, Child and Family site is now open in Ocean Grove and already a hub of activity.

Helicopter Take Off and Landing Site for McDonald Road.

The Association has nothing new to report on this matter, as we go to print, however we are monitoring it closely.

Headstone Project.

At its April Meeting the Borough Council passed a motion to fund $17000 to a local group for installation of 14 Headstones on 14 ex-military unmarked graves in the Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff Cemetery. This is a Federal Government nation-wide project. The graves identified are from serving members of the military who fought preWW1, and are therefore not covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs which was formed after Federation.

There are about 20 graves to have been identified in the Queenscliffe Cemetery, but under Victorian Law, it is the responsibility of families to upkeep graves. This being so, it may be that the Borough is only funding approximately 14, because descendants of these families have been contacted and permission given.

Bellarine/CBCA ***(Combined Bellarine Community Groups)*** **Report.**

1. *Plan Victoria Forum, Geelong 9/5/25*

Following a Keynote speech about Plan Victoria from the the Minister of Planning, The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny, also in attendance were all the State Local Members for the Geelong region, including Ms. Alison Marchant MP, State Member for Bellarine. Following that, 45 minutes of questions were asked from attendees.

Of note:

- 128,600 (51K in Greenfields alone) extra houses for CoGG/BoQ.
- 2050 projections; an extra 600K population (GoGG).
- Greenfields areas in Bellarine cannot grow due to Bellarine SPP/DAL town boundaries now defined.
- Work has been completed by Plan Victoria, now implementation work by relevant councils for Planning scheme amendments to incorporate these new initiatives into local Planning schemes.

The Association will wait for Planning Scheme Amendments to be exhibited, to understand the implementations for 3225 – meaning both LGA's.

2. *Breamlea*

Community Meetings have taken place around the imminent closure of much loved Caravan Park Shop and Post Office. Postal Pods are now being offered to residents for mail and small parcels. However, there will be limited shop facility from December - until Easter.

3. *Bellarine Peninsula Bus Review*

The 2025/2026 Victorian State Budget indicated that funding has been set aside to conduct a review of bus services on the Bellarine. The review is likely to continue through until the end of 2026 and community input will be sought so keep your eyes open for announcements regarding opportunities to engage.

Ballara *(From the Committee for Ballara).*

The Committee for Ballara would like to provide a brief update regarding the future of the property.

While the VCAT deadline set to initiate the sale process has not changed, discussions with the Commonwealth have not been able to progress due to caretaker conventions. Now with the recent election concluded, discussions have resumed with the Commonwealth Government about the funding requirements for Ballara's possible purchase and future adaptive re-use.

The significant funding commitment that has come from the local community and the Queenscliffe Council has provided a strong and positive indication to the Commonwealth of Ballara's heritage and environmental importance to the community.

While at this time, there is no definitive information available, the community will be informed as discussions with the Commonwealth become clearer. The PLCA's continued interest in
keeping the community briefed about Ballara is greatly appreciated.

Please remember to support our local Traders in both Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, particularly as we head into cooler, quieter months. Before you head into Geelong, or even Ocean Grove, ask yourself could I have purchased this locally, and supported a local business?

Lynne Furness – PLCA President.