Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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PLCA Facebook

Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

June/Winter 2026 Newsletter

2026 Annual Subscription Payment and Donations

The annual subscription payment for 2026 is due by the date of the AGM, being 9th January 2026. The **subscription amount for 2026 is $10 per person (rising to $20 in 2027)**. 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. Please note: We no longer accept cheques as payment method.

Please click the **Online Membership Renewal Form, our preferred method of renewal** from links 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 Application for membership - print out

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

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, our preferred method of renewal/new subscription** and fill in online and hit 'submit' - and you'll receive further instructions on EFT bank details, to complete your EFT payment.

Our Preferred methods of renewal are online – below.
Online Membership renewal (Renewal Online Application for Membership (New Members)

New Committee Members Required!

The Association still desperately needs new committee of management members to help out. In particular, we require someone with an interest, or has a finance/bookkeeping background, or just interested in helping out with Treasurer duties.

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**

Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct.

The Association is frustrated by the lack of any master-plan for the site, an issue that has dragged on for nearly a decade.

The Association has sought - and gained a meeting with State Member Alison Marchant on the 27th of March.

The following are meeting notes; the Association understands the status of proposed PLMD Precinct improvements is as follows, subject to clarification from Council.

1. Status of Point Lonsdale Marine and Defence Precinct (PLMDP) Improvements?

Project and CHMP delays due to changes in scope including to access paths and structures. Pier access path and in-ground power not now in scope, range station viewing platform is in. The project now targets the heritage protection purpose for the grant, and designs done.

Note: 45% spent on engineering, heritage, landscape designs - about $550k remains for works.
To be confirmed - CHMP has now been lodged with DEECA.

2. Status of P1 Buildings ?

BOQ have said they expect the potential users to pay for further improvements to P1 Buildings. Note: This is Crown Land with overlays so there are several constraints and requirements.

The Victorian Government will be interested in contributing, but BOQ must first prepare a PLMD Masterplan. The BOQ/Org will then need to apply for grants, and these often require dollar for dollar contributions.

3. Status of PLMD public toilet? (Note: Walls degraded and roof blew off in 2019 - rendering facility not fit for purpose. The toilet requires new a facility and new in-ground services that requires CHMP. Funds are allocated for renewal in recent BOQ Budgets, concepts drawn, but no works as yet.)

To be checked, if the lodged CHMP will enable trenching for power and services to toilet.

4. Status of PLMDP Masterplan? (Note:DSE, BOQ and community developed a Masterplan around about 2012. RDV, BOQ and community developed Tract Landscape Plan in 2019. PLMDP site is listed by Heritage Victoria.)

Overriding need is for a PLMD Masterplan as Government cannot provide funds without this.

Note: Stage 2 reports, Tract Plan 2019 and Masterplan from around 2012 provides content, including use, development and management, to prepare a PLMD Masterplan.

5. On-going Management of PLMDP?

It has been said publicly, that the BOQ may not manage the site into the future. As BOQ is site manager they should include this in the Masterplan, then formally write to Victorian Government re taking over the site.

Editor's Note: The Association has contacted the CEO to request further information on this issue – from Council's perspective, and historic 'Ballara', but did not receive a response as we went to print.

Fort Queenscliff Divestment and Sale of land in Queenscliff.

The Committee would like to update you regarding the proposed divestment of Fort Queenscliff.

So far, Association representatives have attended 5 meetings to discuss the divestment and sale of Queenscliff Fort and west Swan Island, including an invite to the only Roundtable Meeting of about 25-30

representatives from various groups and Libby Coker and Richard Marles Federal Government representatives, at the Queenscliff RSL on the 29th of April.
Some points from that meeting include:

Swan Island west divestment to the golf club suits Defence i.e. it's compatible with existing Defence facilities on the island. The bridge will continue to be a shared facility. Defence Minister Richard Marles MP said "Defence want the golf club to be there"

At the roundtable, it was stressed that 93% of Fort Queenscliff is currently heritage protected under the EPBC Act provisions.

An A4 sheet entitled "Delivering the Future Estate" listing all the heritage protected buildings and land at Queenscliff Fort was made available at the meeting. Only 3 buildings within the 7 hectare Fort site are not protected.

The divestment from Defence Estate to Federal Finance Department has no timeline and nothing is happening quickly, however not a lot of people need to be relocated from Queenscliff Fort. Defence are taking their time to get divestment right, to this apparently complex issue. Defence personnel indicated they are spending hundreds of millions on sites around Australia not in use by Defence. Defence hope to make $3 billion from the sale of 67 sites but after costs, $1.2 billion savings were mentioned.

The 67 sites including Queenscliff Fort are of "no intrinsic value" to Defence i.e. the sites are not fit for Defence purposes. Queenscliff Fort process include Cadets to be relocated plus other personnel.

In terms of community consultation - Libby Coker mentioned a select working group being formed - and pop ups to provide feedback. Politicians indicated that they keen to hear from the Community, and they stressed the Fort is a great opportunity for Queenscliff - but no mention of specific future uses. Politicians also said that the divestment will also mean the Fort will be opened up for us allowing better public access to a facility that in the past which has been largely locked away.

Defence Minister Richard Marles indicated the potential Fort sale price is likely to be reduced by existing heritage provisions. However, he said he is confident that they will find a buyer (ie. it will be sold). He said this is a huge opportunity for us. Defence is going through all the heritage and conservation issues associated with the divestment sites - a due diligence process was also mentioned. Mentioned at the meeting was that Defence is the largest landowner in Australia (some 3 million hectares). Attendees spoke of opportunities for a range of proposals - local community events could include tourism, museums and music festival activities. Based on what was said some Defence sites will be easier than others to divest and sell - Queenscliff Fort may be more complex, indeed at one point Richard Marles indicated after historic Victoria Barracks properties Queenscliff Fort would probably be the 3rd most complex because of heritage values.

Future Zoning of the Fort land area.

In respect of future zoning, and overlays, during the Fort sale process, Defence/Finance officials present indicated that Commonwealth and State would determine zoning. When queried about Local Government involvement Richard Marles then said the Borough would be the first to be consulted. Depending on which official (Defence or Finance) was questioned it seems the vacant land outside the Fort walls is either protected or up to the community to decide.

Tour of Fort Queenscliff.

Tour of Fort Grounds (7 hectares) took about 40 minutes A brief walking tour took place with many participants realising for the first time what a fabulous elevated site Queenscliff Fort was overlooking southern Port Phillip Bay and the Heads. No inspection of the actual buildings took place which was a shame. Virtually no discussion of the newer 2 storey, purpose built, 1982 army staff college building on the

west side housing a lecture theatre, meeting rooms and library. It was noted that the Black Lighthouse is still operational - an agreement with port channel operators will be needed if Queenscliff Fort is sold. The group also inspected the Signal Station - this historic 1880's octagonal building desperately needs upgrading - Defence had previously set aside money to repair it but it's uncertain whether this will now occur. The brief tour didn't do justice to the site, there was talk of how quickly existing uses/tenants could be relocated such as archives. Oddly there is still an historic jail with 3 cells inside the fort walls. Following the Roundtable Meeting there was a follow-up Public Meeting at the RSL attended by some 250 people.

Local Community Advisory Group.

Libby Coker has recently indicated a local Community Advisory Group will be formed to address Fort issues. We also understand that Defence and the Department of Finance will undertake further auditing of the 67 Defence sites selected for divestment and sale. According to recent press articles these consultants will cost some $20 million.

The Association will closely monitor this divestment process, and report to members any developments.

Coles Group Property Developments purchase of land at 2341– 2349 Bellarine Highway, Swan Bay

Again, we know for certain that Coles purchased the land in April this year, and that public opinion is divided on this issue. The Association will first and foremost seek facts as to the development parameters. These are not yet in the public domain – as far as we are aware. So, in the meantime we will continue to monitor community sentiment, the proposal and its impact on small businesses, neighbourhood amenity, and importantly the environment.

As yet an official DFP application via the Planning Minister's Office occurs, or even a Planning Application via the Local Government Authority has submitted, as far as the Association knows. The Association will carefully assess the merit of the application as against the Environmental values we value, uphold, and respect as per the Association's Constitution here:

From the May 2026 Council Ordinary Meeting

> *"Council continues its advocacy work regarding the proposed Coles supermarket site located on the vacant land at 2341-2349 Bellarine Highway, Point Lonsdale in accordance with the Council resolution from the Special Meeting of Council on 15 September 2025.*
>
> *Senior Council Planning officers from the Borough of Queenscliffe and City of Greater Geelong have met to discuss the challenges and how the Borough can support Geelong in progressing an application for rezoning the land. At this stage, no formal planning application has been lodged with the Development Facilitation Program within the Department of Transport and Planning.*
>
> *The Borough has requested that the application for rezoning occur immediately and will continue to advocate and work with the Geelong on a positive outcome for our community. "* *(May 27 Ordinary Council meeting, CEO Report Pg. 17 unconfirmed Minutes)*

Bellarine Community Sentiment Survey.

The Association recently received an online 'community sentiment' survey from Bellarine VicPol.

The Association urges you to complete it Community Sentiment Survey

New Bike Park, Old Toilets *(By Philip Talihmanidis)*

The Borough of Queenscliffe deserves credit for securing substantial funding for the new Point Lonsdale Bike Park. The project will bring a modern recreational facility to the area and attract more families, riders and visitors.

Which makes the condition of the neighbouring public toilets even harder to understand.
Located beside the skate park and set to service the new bike park, the ageing amenities look less like permanent public infrastructure and more like something abandoned at the end of a roadworks project. Calling them dated would be generous. They appear to belong to another era altogether.

If council is investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in new recreational facilities, surely it makes sense to consider the infrastructure that supports them. Visitors may come for the bike track, but they'll also judge the quality of the precinct by the basics.

The bike park represents a significant investment in Point Lonsdale's future. Upgrading the prehistoric toilet block alongside it would be a relatively modest step that delivers a far more complete result.

A world-class bike track deserves better than toilets that look as though they were dropped off the back of a truck.

Post your thoughts on the PLCA Facebook page!

The Association has contacted the CEO to request further information, and did not receive a response as we went to print.

Bellarine Distinctive Area Landscape Legislation (DAL)/Statement of Planning Purpose (SPP)

The Association is extremely frustrated with the time it has taken for implementation of the Bellarine DAL into both Planning Schemes. *(The Greater Geelong Planning Scheme link here: Greater Geelong Planning Scheme), and the Queenscliff Planing Scheme. Link here: Queenscliffe Planning Scheme)*

Whilst both planning schemes have incorporated the Bellarine DAL (GGPS & QPS – See section 02.01 'Context'), there has been no work as far as we, or the CBCA (Combined Bellarine Community Associations) are concerned, that has been completed in relation to translating/adapting where required, of the SPP into existing background documents, such as planning zones and overlays.

Furthermore, there are many excellent initiatives within both the Bellarine SPP paper, and the accompanying background technical documents,which we believe warrant consideration for inclusion in both City and Borough planning schemes.

At a recent meeting organised by the CBCA to discuss DAL implementation into the City's Planning Scheme – at which the Association was represented - held on the 12th of May, at Wurriki Nyal, between the City's Jacqueline Randles, the Acting Executive Director Growth and Place, the CBCA/Association feels that we are at an impasse. The City believes that the actual effectuation of the Bellarine DAL/SPP into the various Planning documents should be done by the State Department of Transport and Planning. (DTP). Not the City.

The juxtaposition here is that the Borough have stated "that no more work is required to implement the DAL into the QPS". The CBCA have written to the Borough, about this, and as we went to print, has not received a response.

Finally – one good sign - one of the first towns that Bellarine Peninsula SPP implementation will be taking place will be Point Lonsdale, in July. If this does indeed happen, it in turn may have a huge impact on the Coles Property Group's land purchase, and what they are able, or not, do with it as far as a potential retail project is concerned.
(See here: Point Lonsdale SPP Implementation)

Buruli Ulcer. By Lynne Furness

You probably will all have seen articles in both National and Local Newspapers about the rise in Buruli Ulcer cases here on the Bellarine and Surf Coast. A partnership has been formed between the City of Greater Geelong, Borough of Queenscliff, Surf Coast Shire and Barwon South West Public Health Unit to support a Regional awareness campaign.

The Buruli Ulcer is also known as the Bairnsdale Ulcer, because this is where it was first found in Australia. It is a disease of the skin and adjacent tissues caused by a bacterium, Mycobacterium ulcerans. The bacteria produce toxins that damage skin tissue leading to cell death and ulceration. The bacteria feed off the dead tissue.

Research carried out in Point Lonsdale and the Mornington Peninsula found that possums are hosts for the bacteria. It is spread between possums and the human population by mosquitos. The bacteria kills many of its possum hosts and this reduces the infected possum population. However, it isn't completely eradicated and therefore outbreaks do occur.

We all need to be vigilant wherever mosquitos are present and in the garden. Gardeners need to remember to wear protective gloves and be aware of scratches or bites. If these do not disappear within a few days, get them checked by your GP. Early detection can ensure people are cured and not left to require skin grafts.

If we all ensure that our gardens are free from stagnant pools of water, we wear protective gear and mosquito repellent when gardening then we should stay safe and well. If you want to read more about the Buruli Ulcer then we recommend you go to the VicHealth site:

https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/mycobacterium-ulcerans-infection

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

Finally, our revitalised Facebook page in now up to date. Thanks to 3 Committee Volunteers, we are able to keep the site more current, and reflect the Association's position on various Community issues.

Point Lonsdale Civic Association - Facebook

Lynne Furness – PLCA President.