



PORTARLINGTON SAFE HARBOUR

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY WORKSHOP 16 NOVEMBER 2007

**Prepared for:
Parks Victoria**

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PORTARLINGTON SAFE HARBOUR – COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Key Questions

- What makes Portarlinton special?
- How has Portarlinton changed in the past 20 years?
- What would you wish Portarlinton to be like in 20 years time?
- What important features should be retained/protected in the study area?
- What improvements could be made within the study area?
- What new uses/activities/facilities would you like to see in the study area?
(ie. What is currently missing?)

GROUP 1

What makes Portarlington Special?

- Safe beaches
- Beautiful vistas (to Melbourne across bay)
- Access to playgrounds/ access paths
- Northerly aspect
- Village atmosphere (low rise)
- Strategic location for boating
- Children's play (unstructured, not just playgrounds)

How has Portarlington changed in the past 20 years?

- Retail reduced in township
- Change of familiar faces

What would you wish Portarlington to be like in twenty years time?

- To compliment and be sympathetic to existing developments
- Development to be close to cliff
- Tourism market
- Increase in residents
- Increase infrastructure and services (such as service stations)
- Support local business (currently all in Drysdale)
- Enhance and use space more effectively (provides economic advantage)
 - Top of escarpment
 - Carnival area (dog use)
- Balance use and take advantage of precinct

What important features should be retained/protected in the study area?

- Amphitheatre
- Access to beach (pier to caravan park)
 - Trees close by provide shade
 - Need right plantings at right spacing (foreshore)
- Retain green spaces/links - walking from Pt Richards
- Indigenous midden sites
- Open space
- Harbour

What improvements could be made within the study area?

- Safe harbour (water based infrastructure)
- Management of carnival/other activities
- Environmental improvements
 - Reduce lawn areas
 - Drainage (Sproat St)
- Management of stormwater
- Facilities for aquaculture (need public access/tourism)
- Utilise pier for recreational use
- Rotunda
- No boat ramp
- Harbour connection/link to town
 - Cater for those with limited mobility (ie. No need for car)
- Minimise car parking on foreshore/road
 - Balance with tourism buses
- Consideration of ferry services
- Rebuild restaurant on foreshore
- Hall precinct area (synergies with other community uses)

What new uses/activities/facilities would you like to see in the study area?

- Possible relocation of CFA
- Removal of existing scout hall/toilet
- Relocate bowls club (convert to recreation club?)
- Toilet blocks (improve condition and number)
- No library
- Relocate or combine/community uses
 - Eg. Neighbourhood house/senior citizens/library
- Possible tram/other connection to town
- History (old botanical gardens, rotunda, old rail from pier)
- Activity on foreshore to be related to foreshore activities
- Lighting of boardwalk along foreshore
- Larger building into cliff/quarry site (accommodation/resort)
- Educational/heritage information centre

Other considerations

Events

- Not January 12th for mussel fest
 - Last weekend in Jan/Feb
- Traders need festivals during shoulder season (Nov-April)
- Continue Celtic festival (winter)
- Facilities for events

Disabled Access

- Next to nothing at present
- Development to consider
- Unsealed areas

Children's Activities

- Not too much built (don't want foreshore like in Geelong)
- Shallow pools
- Open space
- Clean sand
- No dogs

Pedestrian/Traffic Management

- Limit through traffic along foreshore
- Don't need along Esplanade
- Harding St main traffic route

Young Adults

- Civic Square
- Look at other organised activities in town

Seniors

- A lot of activities in town

GROUP 2

What makes Portarlington Special?

- Seaside village atmosphere
- Bowls club (attraction to town)
- Education
- Sense of community (strong volunteer participation)
- Streetscape values
- Avenue of Cypress trees
- Safe town for families/security in public places

What important features should be retained/protected in the study area?

- Nice trees for family/replace trees before existing die
- Sense of entry into town (visual and physical)
- Vista to town from pier precinct
- Natural amphitheatre
- Tall canopy trees that don't impede view
- Safe clean beaches for families with increased volumes of sand and no seaweed
- The rotunda
- Community market place
- Beach and foreshore parklands (swimming beach for children)
- Protection of grasslands
- Community clubs

What improvements could be made within the study area?

- Management of vehicle movements
- Removal of stormwater drain
- Improved treatment and utilisation of stormwater before it enters the bay
- Tidy-up and modernise toilet blocks
- Improve and maintain existing poor road network
- Health of trees and vegetation
- Promote community clubs
- Improved parking areas
- Management of seaweed in pier vicinity
- Beach cleaning
- Improve safety of cliff area
- Improved road networks
- Car parking issues addressed

What new uses/activities/facilities would you like to see in the study area?

- Economical and affordable ferry service
- Town further promoted as an events area (all year round)
- Better public transport
- Development of neighbourhood house/drop-in centre
- Improved disabled access to foreshore and town
- Further develop amphitheatre (seating, etc.)
- Links/connections and accessibility
- Boardwalks/promenades
- Maritime museum/displays
- Link of project to other City of Greater Geelong plans
- Upgraded children's playground foreshore facilities (safe swimming areas)
- Playground area closer to water (east of pier)
- Meeting place for teenagers

- New safe harbour to foster employment opportunities
- Affordable berthing facilities

Additional Concerns

- Effects of channel deepening
- Reduced/decrease in accommodation
- Lack of control over access
- Increase in cars
- Health of trees and vegetation
- Extent of grassed areas reduced
- Don't want launching ramp in shallow harbour

GROUP 3

What makes Portarlington Special?

- Quiet town
- Water
- Parkland
- Bay and fishing
- Lovely community
- Walking distance to beach
- Safe beach for families (shallow waters)
- Water quality
- Can access by public transport
- Portarlington Bowls Club
- Views
- Open aspect
- Pier
- Accessible facilities in town

How has Portarlington changed in the past 20 years?

- Busier in main street
- Beach now closed off in caravan park
- Residents can't use boat ramp for free
- Caravan park is in different location
- Port Pier Café new
- Move from fin fishing to aquaculture
- Style of boats have changed
- Clearing of trees/vegetation
- Picture theatre gone!
- Buildings in the park

What would you wish Portarlington to be like in twenty years time?

- Better road access to Portarlington
- Integration of facilities/uses
- More pedestrian friendly area
- Retention of dog beaches
- Stabilisation of eroding cliff face
- Retention of Crown land status
- Retention of open space/vista
- Bicycle/walking paths
- Improved connection between Newcombe St and the foreshore
- Rationalisation of car parking
- Regular (and reliable) ferry service
- Hot sea baths

What important features should be retained/protected in the study area?

- Festivals, markets, carnivals (need space)
- Area east of the pier needs to be protected (amphitheatre area) from traffic movements
- Views from the town to the sea
- Beach area
- World War I memorial
- Rotunda
- Vegetation

What improvements could be made within the study area?

- Rationalisation of toilet facilities
- Rationalisation of parking facilities
- Need better bike/walking paths
- Better bus terminals (safer)
- Skate park
- Storm water drains
- Increased usage of Parks Hall by community
- Road in front of the bowls club
- Increased recreational opportunities/facilities
- Cinema needed
- Commercial needs, eg. hardware store
- Outdoor exercise equipment along paths
- Ferry/tourism business opportunities

GROUP 4

What makes Portarlington Special?

- Foreshore
- Harbour
- Culture
- “Green Balcony”
 - Public Access
 - Walking tracks
 - Views
 - Pt Richards
 - Unique

What would you wish Portarlington to be like in twenty years time?

- Keep vehicles out of parkland
- Retain open space
- Landscaping - planting
- No accommodation on foreshore
- Development to be sensitive and balanced
- Harding Street capacity design
 - Need for traffic planning to cater for development
- Containment of vehicles (out of parkland)
- Reduce need for dredging in design

What important features should be retained/protected in the study area?

- Holiday place for Victorians
- Land belongs to people of Victoria
- Open space (no retail/industrial development in open space)
- Value green space
- No buildings
- Retain family beach
- Native habitat on the escarpment
- Information about the right species to protect
- Passive use of open space (walking, picnic)

What improvements could be made within the study area?

- Location of kindergarten (in wrong spot)
 - Redevelop as neighbourhood house
- Safe harbour (commuter ferry)
- Vehicle management
 - Innovative approach
 - Current road layout dangerous
 - No car parking on foreshore
- Stormwater drains – eyesore, environmental impact, health!
- Foreshore neglected
 - Erosion (need stabilisation)
 - Drainage that works
 - Maintain pathway (from pier)
 - Storm water management
- Keep beach and parkland
- Increase usage of Lions Park (near main road)
- Embankment erosion needs to be addressed
- Remove old toilet blocks
- Lack of rubbish bins
- Revegetation of foreshore (shade trees replacement)
- Pleasant picnic area

- Water storage for open space
- Allocated car parking not on foreshore
- Safe harbour - 100% Government funded
 - No PPP (public private partnership)
- Vessel security - mussel farmers
- Separation of commercial and recreation vessels
- Need for pick-up drop off for child care

What new uses/activities/facilities would you like to see in the study area?

- Space for facilities, eg. Car parks, swimming pool, yacht club
- Community bus to cover peak periods
- Use wedge area (potential to be developed)

Other Considerations

Issues

- Road between jetty and camping ground too close to beach
- Car park – create pedestrian interface at harbour instead
- Historical use of whole foreshore for camping (do not want)
- Keep parkland separate from the main street
 - Issues – accommodation on foreshore proposal
- Town planning vs. safe harbour
 - Issue - storms on Port Phillip
 - Closest point to middle of Port Phillip
 - Lack of facilities
 - Easterly winds
 - Concern with outfall pipe
 - Focus not on pier
- Bowls club location
 - Good condition
 - Not so good location due to wind, pine needles
 - What is long term view?
 - If relocated, what takes place? Open space?
- Concern between harbour development and impact on family beach use
- Concern about dredge spoil on beach
 - Potential contamination

Principles

- Sustainability
 - Now for future generation
- Shared use, eg. halls
 - Scouts looking to co-locate, with RSL hall?