



LOOKING TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

While our community can be thankful that it has been relatively unscathed by the COVID pandemic, nonetheless the last two years have been challenging for many. The Portarlington Community Association is hopeful that the new year will bring some improvement to the situation and that all our lives can at last start to become something more like normal.

49 NEWCOMBE STREET DEVELOPMENT – PERMIT REJECTED

Following his decision to “call in” the controversial application for a permit to construct a multi-level residential apartment and retail complex on the bay facing side of the main street, Planning Minister Richard Wynne has accepted the recommendation of his Ministerial Advisory Committee and rejected the application.

The Minister announced just before Christmas that he agreed the project’s design, scale and location were inappropriate. He had also concluded it was not visually unobtrusive and inconsistent with the Victorian Government’s stated Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Declaration for the Bellarine.

Acting on the views of its members, the PCA had opposed the issue of a permit.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The first 2022 general meeting of the PCA is scheduled for Wednesday 9th February, commencing at 7.00PM. It will take place at the Recreation Reserve clubrooms. COVID restrictions require that all attendees are vaccinated, wear a mask and must register on the QR code that will be provided. Capacity limits will apply.

The guest speaker will be Bill Votsaris of the Batman Management Group who will be talking about *Drooping Sheoak*, the five level 72 room hotel and conference centre they propose for the Portarlington Road, near Jenkins’ fish shop and Portside Marine. The developers are seeking community feedback and comment on the proposal prior to making a formal application for a permit to construct. This will be a valuable opportunity for PCA members and interested residents to learn first-hand about this major project.

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