

2020 Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Cerberus Ward
Candidate Statements

NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.



BIGGINS, Neil

My family and I are proud residents of Cerberus Ward for the last 20 odd years. I am standing as an independent candidate to make positive changes in our great community. I have a passion for all community sport and have been coaching my 10 year old son's soccer team for the last 6 years. Three years ago I joined the committee and now I'm very proud to be the president of the Westernport Wolves in Bittern. As a small business owner, I want to see value for money improvements from council resources for our deteriorating roads and drainage, local environments and community projects. Complicated local planning laws need more transparency and more accurate, free town planning advice on hand for rate payers who are ultimately financing most council services. Coming out of this locked up Covid era, its imperative we encourage kids and families out to join our clubs, walk our trails and enjoy local facilities and sadly these all need works to update and renew. Our very important tourist industry which is a large local employer has been devastated, and will need supporting with innovative council input to get it back to pre Covid levels. As part of our integrated tourism and local liveability, we are obliged to save and enhance the unique Westernport Bay environment for our kids and future generations. A vote for me is a vote for a hard working councillor, committed to community sport and recreation and a very loud voice in furious support of the Westernport side of the Peninsula. Upgraded sporting facilities, more outdoor amenities and sensible town planning decisions to get our community moving forward again in Cerberus Ward. I am very local and will be an accessible councillor if elected. You can contact me at neilbiggins@outlook.com and on 0428 176829.

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DIXON, Lisa

Resident on the Peninsula for 30 years on both Port Phillip and Western Port sides. Owner of small business Dominion Hill Gifts in Hastings 10 years. Have experienced first-hand unlevel playing field, lack of funding affecting infrastructure, public transport, amenities and general maintenance of Western Port region. Tourism projects not taken seriously; submarine and soundshell not progressed for years. Cycling and walking trail connections still poor. Frustrating internet, GPS, mobile phone blackspots. Public events hindered by complicated conditions and permits that need streamlining. Signs for directions, small business and amenities are outdated, non-existent or, even worse, not permitted. Township plans and overlays unused, gone stale or not implemented. They should be adopted as part of Councils strategic plan. Building and development permits take too long, causing time and cost blowouts. Need more sensitive, sustainable and affordable housing. We live in a beautiful and diverse area, and its crucial to protect our unique environment now and for the future of our young people from inappropriate developments like AGL, while encouraging sensible industry to create jobs for all. We value work done by our schools in Cerberus Ward for our future leaders and employment opportunities for Western Port Secondary College students. I will listen to community concerns about potholes, roads, pedestrian crossings, rubbish dumping and graffiti, ensuring they're acted on in a timely manner. Re-establish Community and Safety Action group in Western Port, involving all in community and encouraging young people to share ideas and expectations for where they live. Advocate for immediate action on Covid-19 recovery plan for all Peninsula businesses and communities. As your full-time independent councillor, I will welcome the opportunity to consult, discuss and advocate on your behalf, to deliver better outcomes for our region. No issue too small. Listening, taking action, getting results. [Facebook.com/LisaDixonCerberusWard](https://www.facebook.com/LisaDixonCerberusWard)

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ROPER, Kate

It has been inspiring as your Councillor working with and listening to our community to progress real change here. I have fought for increased spending and finally we see large projects happening: Hastings Streetscape & Laneways, Hastings Seniors Learning Hub, Crib Point Reserve Clubrooms, Hooper Reserve Pavilion, Bittern/Hastings Pathway renewal, Roundabouts Myers & Hendersons Rds, Bittern and Stumpy Gully & Hodgins Roads, Tuerong. Other projects and upgrades to our sporting clubs and playgrounds have improved your facilities. But there is more work to do to ensure our fair share of funding in Hastings, Bittern, Crib Point, Moorooduc & Tuerong. I understand the concerns of many residents at present as COVID has impacted all of our lives. Our community needs help now. Rate relief and strong ongoing business support is essential as recovery must have a long term focus. I will ensure the council supports our community with projects to bring jobs and visitors here, while still maintaining our wonderful lifestyle. For example the Hastings foreshore is an amazing asset. The planned performance Soundstage and Splash park will create opportunities for new events to bring visitors here creating flow on support to local business. I want value for money for your rates and no wasteful spending. Improved access to hard rubbish collection, creating safe public spaces and cleaning up our towns are priorities. My family are Cerberus residents of 20 years and attended local schools and sporting clubs. I studied Environmental Science and Business Management. Owner/operator of retail business for 10 years and self employed Contractor. Committee member and volunteer with local sporting clubs, community groups, Secretary of Balnarring Picnic Racing Club. Your vote for me means a full time Councillor who will continue fighting for our fair share of funding and represent what you, the community want for Western Port.

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BARNFIELD, Darren

The popularity of the Mornington Peninsula has always been somewhat of a local secret with so many hidden gems. Unfortunately, now we cant keep it secret any longer. At the same time, it must be recognised that Cerberus ward has its own needs and challenges. These challenges need to be carefully managed by our elected officials. There will be progress but the natural beauty of the area must be preserved. Rightly, residents have reasonable expectations that they will be listened to and provided with outcomes on social concerns and policies that affect the ever growing and developing Cerberus Ward. Having a wife who is now a Doctor of Nursing with a speciality in mental health provides me with guidance and possible strategies in this area. I believe that mental health issues have become increasingly important in this difficult year and need to be addressed now and for some time into the future. I believe that young people are in particular need of guidance and opportunities. One way to help youth is to provide jobs and direction through small and large projects that deliver a financial impact as well as a social impact. One such project is the submarine that has been languishing in the Westernport Bay since 2002. The HMAS Otama group has studies, and with 50 thousand potential visitors and a 5 million dollar injection into the economy, why is this being ignored? I'd like to conduct transparent and meaningful community discussion and consultation, support our emergency services volunteers, improve services for our ageing community, address homelessness, and public transport and transit routes to Mornington and other hubs. Simply put, given the opportunity to be your elected representative I will listen and advocate for residents in a way that supports your interests and needs.