

**2020 Mornington Peninsula Shire Council**  
**Nepean Ward**  
Candidate Statements

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**MULVANY, Simon**

I feel compelled to run for local council. I love our community and feel blessed and grateful to live here. I live in Blairgowrie with my son Oscar. He is 11 and a student at Sorrento Primary. Oscar plays football and cricket for the Sorrento Sharks. Savethebeesaustralia was founded here in 2013. By collaborating with community we have saved millions of bees. During winter I enjoyed volunteering as a speaker at schools, kindergartens, libraries and clubs in the area. Bees thrive on the Mornington Peninsula and so can our community. Last year when the DHS in conjunction with the shire attempted to experiment on the local community by spraying the Peninsula with toxic insecticide, I thought all our hard work was undone. I feel encouraged that community said no, and together we put an end to this reckless, malignant plan. It gives me hope that if we galvanise, we can progress while still protecting our pristine environment. As a resident I find it unfortunate the number of times the Shire has lacked wisdom. I am dumbfounded that rates for residents have been increased this year with us all suffering as a result of COVID 19, that it cost \$200,000 to name the pool in Rosebud, that there is no bmx track for kids and that the Mornington Peninsula Shire still use the carcinogenic herbicide Glysophate. COVID-19 has given all of us a chance to rethink our future. I love being a patron at our cafe, restaurants and pubs. I have a great relationship with the Sorrento Pub and the Peninsula pantry. I want to collaborate with ethical minded business leaders in the area. I want to work with all residents to co-create a shared vision for our Peninsula.

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**RACE, Sarah**

We have many challenges facing our community. The pandemic recovery will require a new style of leadership and fresh thinking, that marries sharp financial management with creativity and innovation. Hello, I'm Sarah Race, I'm married, with 2 kids, 2 cats and I've lived in Tootgarook for almost 6 years. I have a degree in history and politics, and I'm currently studying a post graduate Masters degree. I've worked within the public and private sector in e-commerce, tourism and community development, in Australia and the UK. While working at Rye Community House I created the award winning, Southern Peninsula Repair Cafe, Crop Swap and Beach Clean Board initiatives. As an active local community volunteer I currently serve on the Rye School Council and I've served twice on the Rye Kinder Committee. It is this breadth of professional and community experience, my enthusiasm, energy and dogged determination to get stuff done, that makes me the ideal candidate for the Nepean Ward. I have listened to your frustrations, as well as your hopes for our beautiful part of the world. You want better public transport. You want more footpaths and walking tracks (plus the wonky ones fixed). You want support for our local sports clubs and live music scene. You want your businesses, and therefore our local economy, nurtured. You want our towns to be vibrant and buzzing. You want our bays, beaches and green wedge protected. Most importantly you want to be listened to and heard. Vote 1 Sarah Race, because I'm passionate about community, economics, and good government. I will build opportunities for all, from Gen Z to Baby Boomers. I will serve with integrity and I will put the unity into community. For more info visit [www.sarahracefornepean.com](http://www.sarahracefornepean.com) #JoinTheRace

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**NAUGHTON, Gary**

I'm a life-long permanent resident with long family history in the area. Educated on the peninsula, I had numerous summer jobs. After completing university (Economics BEc and DipEd) I taught locally: Commerce, Law, IT, Sociology and Environmental Studies. I provided technical support for performing arts events. I am an avid owner- designer /builder and a passionate local walker. Upon retirement I volunteered for various Community bodies: Sorrento Community Centre, Andys Op-shop, Nepean Historical Society and Nepean Conservation Group, the latter two involving Shire planning issues. I utilised Facebook as a platform for local discussion; instigating and administrating History of Sorrento & Portsea, a local issue based Sorrento Today and more recently Sorrento Advertiser. I also co-administrate Sorrento Primary Schools and Friends of Point Nepean Quarantine Station. My local knowledge, education and teaching background, community group and Facebook involvement demonstrate a wide range of skills, community involvement, engagement, and a willingness to consult widely in order to represent the community. My vision for the Nepean Ward is Local Community First. Small things matter, like shortfalls in maintenance, infrastructure: footpaths, traffic flow & parking together with support for upgrades of community sporting, social, leisure and recreational facilities. My mantra would be Appropriate Development. Appropriate in: Scale, Design, Context (history, character and the future), Cost and Benefit. Local Planning is State controlled; however more can be done to distinguish the Peninsula and Nepean Ward in particular from Metropolitan Melbourne. Our Ward has a unique geology with a largely fire resistant indigenous biome needing protection while also balancing the fire risk. With a low percentage of permanent residents containing many retirees and others primarily employed in servicing their needs, transitory residents and tourism. More appropriate zoning for planning purposes is required to cater for growth whilst maintaining our unique character.

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**BISSINGER, Susan**

I'm a full time Sorrento resident ready to champion local issues in the Nepean Ward (Tootgarook, Rye, Blairgowrie, Sorrento and Portsea). Problem solving is my strength, together we can find practical, workable solutions - if it's important to you, I will follow it up. Using my 25 years in the Construction Industry, my goal is to improve the look, feel and function of our local communities in a cost effective way, whilst conserving and protecting the natural environment. We need to upgrade and future proof our local areas including footpaths, bike lanes, roads, inclusive beach access, maintaining and improving foreshores and sporting venues. It is vital that our small businesses receive immediate assistance to rebuild, initially focusing my energy on getting us out of the Covid Metro zone mess. I would also strongly support all good ideas and action them, including upgrades to shopping areas to encourage visitor spending. If elected, the Nepean Voters Action Group website ([www.nepeanvoters.com](http://www.nepeanvoters.com)) would be upgraded to include pages for each of the townships in the Nepean Ward, and provide comprehensive updates on all your projects. A large chunk of the broader Mornington Peninsula Shire Council revenue comes from the Nepean Ward, yet very little funding comes back to us - we need to divert funds back to Nepean Ward and ensure best use of resources for all Council projects. The Council Budget, through its overspends and lack of "belt-tightening" highlights just how out of touch they are with our community. After this election there will be at least 6 new Councillors out of 11, let's use this opportunity to make real changes to the way the Council operates. As a successful Project Manager, I have never failed to deliver, and if elected, I won't let you down.

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**CHEERS, Mechelle**

As Chair of the Rye Community Group Alliance, I successfully advocated for Township Plan funding, foreshore infrastructure and other benefits for the town. I initiated a campaign to control jet skis and was involved in the Rye Seaside Scavenge. I have worked alongside people in various groups from Rye to Portsea and know how much expertise is out there. I will consult widely. I will work with other Councillors to ease the impact of COVID on businesses and communities. There is so much work to be done. Like many locals I believe ratepayer funds should be spent on community driven township infrastructure and services rather than on expensive consultants. To conserve and sensitively develop our coastal and rural towns, we need a separate planning framework from that of Greater Melbourne. Supporting the implementation of Councils Climate Change Plan is vital as it will conserve our natural environment and biodiversity as well as our coastal lifestyle. I will investigate how peak holiday periods could be strategically managed to minimise the impact on residents of vandalism and antisocial behaviour. As a strong believer in equity, I support inclusive and accessible public spaces and greater awareness of Indigenous cultural heritage. My commitment to community service includes membership of Rye Primary School Council, Councils Disability Advisory Committee, Whitecliffs to Camerons Bight Management Committee, Friends Groups (Point Nepean National Park and Rye Foreshore) and Police Point Shire Park Committee. Working with CSIRO and in universities developed my strong analytical, problem solving and communication skills. I am not intimidated by bureaucracy. I have significant experience with Council and understand its processes. Having a sense of humour certainly helps. I have commitment, determination and a successful record of obtaining results. I will work hard for the Nepean Ward townships. Mechelle Cheers, dedicated, committed, gets results. Email: [cheers4nepean@gmail.com](mailto:cheers4nepean@gmail.com)

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**FRASER, Hugh**

As your independent councillor since 2012, working hard for the community is more important than ever in this Covid-19 emergency. I live in Rye and offer continuity, experience and ability on Council to sensitively and effectively deal with the inevitable Covid-19 financial fallout. The Nepean Community Coalition I chair monthly and meet with residents each Monday. Working hard with the community and council management \$6.5 million has been brought in to rejuvenate Rye, \$5m for Sorrento ferry terminal traffic management, \$1.8m earmarked for Sorrento car parking, \$1.85m George Street tourism facilities, toilets and street mall, \$1.5m Dorothy Houghton Walk Eastern Sister, \$3m Point Nepean Road Blairgowrie/Rye footpath and St Johns Wood Road intersection, \$500,000 Wilkinson Street drainage and Romney Park Tootgarook, and \$1m Portsea SLC clubrooms contribution. Budgeted \$5.9m but unfinished at 30 June Nepean Ward capital works are unacceptably high. Into the future, a clear pathway must be found to divert household waste from the methane-emitting Rye landfill to food and garden organics alternatives to waste-to-energy incineration. Climate change mitigation needs practical projects. Cut councillors from 11 to 9 and have three in each of three wards. This would stop the dysfunctional annual budget councillor bunfight for capital works money. Rates reform has introduced contiguous land rate relief, a discounted Conservation Rate, and Trust for Nature Rate. These reforms should also include a new Heritage Rate discounted 65% to the general rate and will complement our new Sorrento heritage and Rye height controls. I am a barrister by profession, member Legal Services Board and its Finance and Investment Committee 2007 to 2010, elected to council 2012, re-elected 2016, member Audit Committee 2012 to 2019, council delegate to Friends of Lospalos, Timor-Leste and member Point Nepean National Park Advisory Committee. Details: [hughfraser-morningtonpeninsula.com](http://hughfraser-morningtonpeninsula.com) 0418 379 335 [hwfraser@vicbar.com.au](mailto:hwfraser@vicbar.com.au)

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## **DAVIS, Mark**

Mark has been a local ratepayer and community contributor for over 30 years and as a father to two adult daughters, he is a committed family man. He is a keen volunteer in the community, holding positions of Vice President of the Sorrento Portsea RSL, integral member of Tomkatz Music Committee, dedicated to local musicians and Committee Member of the Mornington Peninsula Beach Box Association. These positions have given Mark insight into community issues and needs, and a deep understanding of the role of Council and how they best service the community. Mark has spent his professional career working with multinational organisations to start up businesses. He specializes in reviewing current business models, project planning, defining budgets and clear delivery on time. He holds a Masters degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Limiting excessive Council expenses; reducing rates and fees is a focus for Mark. The current Council budget for twelve additional staff and high allocation for legal fees are two key areas he will review to keep rates and fees low. Nepean Ward provides 20% of Council revenue yet less than this is spent, from the allocated budget, in this Ward. Mark will campaign to change this, assisting small businesses to grow, promoting local services and providing greater employment opportunities. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of recreation and exercise and Mark aims to provide a focus on local pathways and access to sporting facilities by improving walking tracks, netball courts and cricket nets. Alongside this he commits to maintaining an awareness of the delicate ecosystems on the Peninsula by ensuring spider crabs continue to migrate and prosper, by implementing bag limits without the waterways being over fished. Mark will provide a fresh approach and be a Councillor who will ensure wide and active communication and consultation with the community.