

2020 Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Seawinds Ward
Candidate Statements

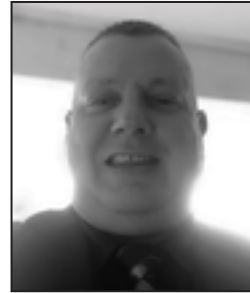
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BROOKS, Simon

As an experienced Councillor representing my community I will continue to advocate for innovation, collaboration and a sustainable future. It is vital for the new Council to encourage the organisation to become a true partner with its community. It is only by doing this in a meaningful way that challenges will be met and opportunities realised. Building relationships locally must be complemented by strong relationships with our state and federal governments. The most successful economies do this well; local government is empowered and there's a real need to do this better here. The Mornington Peninsula Shire is unique with its coastal and rural character but it is under pressure. Crucially, we must continue to bolster our planning scheme to allow sustainable development but protect the unique character, our rural green wedge, bushland and coastal ecosystems; crucial areas that make this such an amazing place to live and visit. We need to continue to push for innovative approaches to underpin our vital agricultural sector and actively advocate for broadening our economic base, such as in advanced manufacturing and value-added food production. Opportunities to innovate in the waste cycle and rethink energy use and generation at a local level must be supported. Building resilience into our infrastructure through clever investment to meet the challenges of the future is essential, particularly as we adjust to climate change and an uncertain future. Covid has shone a light on our vulnerabilities as a community, exposing disadvantage and affecting our businesses. The Shire can enable affordable and innovative housing and help rebuild our tourism and hospitality businesses, and our jobs. An effective council is proactive, works with rather than above its community and helps the community thrive in a sustainable and inclusive way. This is what I will deliver.

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GALLI, Simon

I moved to the Mornington Peninsula 25 years ago. At that time I was totally destroyed (body, mind, heart and soul). I was like a seed buried in the dark soil. The only way the seed can survive is if its husk is totally destroyed. It is then able to release its essence which will push through the darkness into the light. It will continue to grow until it bears fruit. I feel like now is the time to spread the light. I am a Christian. Does that make me good? No. I believe I have made more mistakes than most. Making mistakes is not the opposite of success, it contributes to obtaining success. My vision for the Mornington Peninsula is one of inclusiveness. The vision entails the approximate 160000 residents of the Peninsula treating each other with love and respect. In other words treating each other the way we would like to be treated. We would be known as the Mornington Peninsula Family. The good deeds would be paid forward. One good deed deserves another and the way we treat each other would spread like wildfire. When tourists come to visit, we will treat them so well that they will never want to leave. They will spend more time and money in our community until they realize that they want to join our family permanently. They will then purchase property and maybe a business. As demand for properties and businesses increase, values escalate. The council will have more money to spend on improving the Peninsula (increased rates). The homeowners, residents, business owners and council all win. As we age, we realize that health is the new wealth. A happy and connected person has a stronger immune system than an isolated person. Please vote for me. Kind regards, Simon Galli

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MAR, Debra

As a local media reporter involved in several diverse community groups, I am at the forefront of issues that concern local communities. Life on the Peninsula will be difficult for some post COVID-19. There are many challenges ahead so I want to re-engage with communities, support small business and reach out to those who need jobs. I am officially endorsed by Ratepayers Victoria and supported by Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc., McCrae because my values align with their core values - low rates, less waste of ratepayer's money and more accountability. As your Councillor I will advocate to support disengaged youth, our homeless and elderly communities; speak up to inappropriate big business interests, proper land re-zoning and planning in line with character of townships; lobby to preserve green wedge, green fields, native bushland and wildlife; work with Council plans to lower emissions; place initiatives for small businesses and tourism; improve roads and safety, footpaths and bike track connectivity; engage with young teens to encourage open dialogue; build safe BMX tracks; ensure local school and public recreational needs are met; promote non-partisan discussions and decisions. I am standing as an independent. I am a member of BERG and the MP Koala Conservation group and support Save Westernport, Save Arthurs Seat and Beach Patrol Safety Beach/Dromana. Our Peninsula needs protecting. I want to preserve our way of life. I believe the way forward is to ensure your Council provides adequate support and resources to protect you, your family and your community with commonsense advocacy to governments to effect change. I stand for community, conservation and small business. Vote 1 Debra Mar. Your 'Eye on the Peninsula'. Contact 0426 230 094, www.debramarseawinds.com debramarseawinds@gmail.com

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McCAFFERTY, Kerri

We are facing a global climate crisis. Since our catastrophic bushfires last summer, I've been driven to action by a sense of personal responsibility to do everything I can to ensure a safe future for my children. I am a nurse and a mother of two, but I spend most evenings in community group meetings researching and workshoping solutions to tackle climate change. This is a problem that impacts every single one of us. As an ICU Nurse, I trust science. More than 97% of the worlds scientists agree that climate change is real and that it is caused by humans. I am acutely aware of the risk that the climate crisis poses to public health, the WHO describes climate change as the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century. The Shires recently adopted Climate Emergency Plan comprehensively outlines how our region can become world leaders in climate action. As a Councillor I will do all I can to implement and expand on these policies that protect the next generation from climate catastrophe. My experience in nursing and working in community groups makes me an effective communicator and skilled at getting things done. I am confident in making difficult decisions under pressure. I'm naturally empathetic, culturally aware and communicate easily with people of all backgrounds. I have had the incredible privilege of growing up on the Mornington Peninsula, surrounded by the natural beauty of our pristine bushland and beaches. I want my children to also be able to find solace in these places as they grow. The science is clear, the evidence is indisputable, it's time that we as a community decide what we value and who we want to be. Join me in fighting for a future that is safe for our children and grandchildren to inherit.

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CONRAD, George

I actually live and work as solicitor in McCrae operating a home based law office since 1995 .If elected I will promote and support initiatives to rebalance the local economy both geographically and structurally .Geographically Rosebud has been sadly neglected for decades and is crying out for redress. I will solicit private and public investments for Rosebud at marginal cost to ratepayers. Structurally the peninsula has always been over reliant on tourism, hospitality and entertainment industries exposing its vulnerability by lack of diversification and depriving our youth of permanent jobs and career opportunities with resulting social inequality. I will engage with all parties and consult on a continuing basis at the grass roots level to develop initiatives to scale up cottage and small businesses to viable business units with real jobs potential. I will invite professional firms and organisations to sponsor young aspirants for local jobs and support them in obtaining qualifications. If elected I undertake to donate my total allowances to any individual business or start up demonstrating the greatest potential for creating permanent jobs. I will ensure protection of green wedge and protect Seawinds area from insensitive developments without affecting sound planning principles and worthwhile developments. I will introduce a carrot and stick approach to solving current crisis of illegal dumping of rubbish, which is a drain on Shire's resources. I will advocate for responsible spending by council with less outsourcing ,less usage of outside consultants ,unjustified council staff bonuses and costs of keeping CBD office. I will insist on strict fiscal responsibility by council staff on spending programs of doubtful benefit to ratepayers by using strategic planning tools and ratepayer inputs. I will propose further initiatives to attract sensitive visitors by improving our heritage locations ,expanding parking areas and installing charging stations for electric vehicles.

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TIPPING, Jared

Born and raised on the Mornington Peninsula, I've spent the majority of my 35 years enjoying this unique location and what our community has to offer. My wife and I bought our first home in Rosebud to raise our two boys. I also ran a small local business, Shortys Hotdogs. Working in our thriving hospitality sector for the best part of 15 years has given me a deep insight into a diverse range of issues faced by local traders and their clientele. My vast experience in customer service is vital to the role of Councillor. Living and working in Rosebud, combined with being the current School Council President at Eastbourne Primary and volunteer trainer at Rosebud Junior FC, gives me a strong connection to our community. As an extension of my community involvement, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve you as Councillor for Seawinds Ward. Mornington Peninsula Shire Council will confront a unique set of challenges as society recovers from COVID-19. During this difficult time, I promise to make common sense decisions focused on supporting our community. I value our high quality environment and I am concerned about the impact that climate change will have on our future. I will continue to support and enhance the measures adopted by the outgoing Council to protect our environment. I believe in our residents capabilities and will enthusiastically encourage increased training and employment opportunities for all. Most of all I value creative and innovative ideas. I want our Shire to be the envy of all others by embracing engaging events and smart sustainable business opportunities. Together we have an opportunity to shape the future we want for our children and grandchildren. For a sustainable economic and environmental future, vote 1 Jared Tipping! For more information, please visit <https://jared4seawinds.wixsite.com/vote1> or www.facebook.com/jared4seawinds

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CELLI, Antonella

I seek your vote for re-election because I would like to continue to advocate for you at Council. There is a lot of work to do and projects to complete. I would like your support so I can contribute my experience to advocate current issues, address the challenges, focus on opportunities. I want to secure Local, State and Federal government resources to match the community needs for delivery of programs and projects across the Seawinds Ward and the Peninsula. Promoting Council services such as fixing roads, potholes and footpaths are important, as is keeping a check on the rate hikes. I will continue to support Covid-19 recovery & financial hardship assistance for all ratepayers, pension rate concessions, heritage, conservation and trust for nature rates. Rubbish/hard waste collection services must respond to needs, so I support the introduction of the FOGO (Food Organic and Green Organic) pick up; I will be your voice to push for traffic improvements such as an overpass at Jetty Rd/Freeway roundabout and safer pedestrian crossings; lobby for better public transport services; promote community safety, health and wellbeing initiatives for all ages and abilities; create open public spaces for recreation; upgrade community houses; sporting pavilions and public buildings; support arts & culture initiatives and precincts; encourage learning opportunities for young people and adults that lead to meaningful employment; enhance library services; promote economic development and stimulus for local business recovery, agricultural producers and tourism; protect and preserve our environment; manage our coastline; guard our Green Wedge and enforce planning controls to avoid inappropriate building in our townships, maintain neighbourhood character and encourage affordable housing. An experienced Councillor, I will advocate on your behalf for issues that are important to you and our community. Thank you for your vote. Contact Mobile: 0466 282 573 seawindsward@optusnet.com.au read more at www.seawinds-ward.com