

Seawinds Ward (3 vacancies) 7 Candidates

Candidates who did not respond:

MAR, Debra

Q1. Why are you standing for Council?

BROOKS, Simon

To better-build collaboration with community, drive good planning for better outcomes for our community and create a more sustainable future.

GALLI, Simon

To enhance the lives of the residents of the Mornington Peninsula. Also, to save as many businesses as possible from going to the wall. To save Arthurs Seat and the rest of the Mornington Peninsula from environmental destruction. To unite residents and visitors into making decisions that impact our economy in a positive way. Taking care of the vulnerable people, especially elderly, domestic violence victims and homeless people. Also, ensuring every family has enough food. To lift spirits and finances from rock bottom to a happy prosperity. Love and passion to improve Mornington Peninsula.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

For many reasons, but primarily to ensure the implementation of the Shire's recently adopted Climate Emergency Plan. As a mother of 2 young children (15 months and 5 years old) I understand that my role and responsibility to my children is not simply to feed, clothe, house and educate them, but also to protect them. The climate crisis poses a significant and very real threat to the health, safety and wellbeing of future generations, I simply cannot sit by and allow it to unfold without trying everything in my power to enact meaningful change. We owe it to our kids, and all children on this planet to preserve and protect our environment so that they inherit the same quality of life that we have had the privilege of enjoying.

CONRAD, George

To offer my time and commitment using skills & experience in legal profession to connect with residents to improve the area we live in.

TIPPING, Jared

I would like to bring a fresh approach with a focus on communication. I hope to support our small businesses as they recover from Covid, create more opportunities for our youth and the disadvantaged in our communities.

CELI, Antonella

Committed to serve the Mornington Peninsula Shire

I have nominated to stand for re-election as a Candidate for the Mornington Peninsula Shire elections to retain my seat for the Seawinds Ward which includes the townships of Safety Beach, Dromana, McCrae, Rosebud, Capel Sound, parts of Mt Martha and Red Hill.

As a Seawinds Ward Councillor for the past 10 years, it is a privilege to serve on Council to add my professional knowledge and experience to important decisions.

As a result, we have seen the achievement of many outcomes and delivery of local projects like the Aquatic Centre in Rosebud, upgrades to community buildings, sports reserves and support for many community groups.

With the impact of COVID-19 on our local community and economy, I am determined to continue my work to

- ☞ advocate on issues
- ☞ address the challenges
- ☞ focus on opportunities and
- ☞ seek Local, State and Federal government resources and funding to support our projects in Seawinds Ward and across the Peninsula.

Now is a time to act and instil hope for a positive future direction.

Q2. Do you consider Council has a role in advocating on issues of concern to locals at the state and federal levels?

BROOKS, Simon

Yes very much so. Alignment and support between the 3 levels of government is critical. Local government is less encumbered by party political philosophy and lobbyist influence and can generally represent local concerns in a more forthright way.

GALLI, Simon

As Council, we are appointed to represent all locals. If concerns cannot be resolved on a local level, then most definitely Councils have a responsibility to advocate at state and federal levels.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

Absolutely. In the absence of federal leadership on the climate crisis, the change must come from the ground up. In this case, the local government. Our council has already demonstrated leadership by declaring a climate emergency and then further acting on that declaration by releasing and adopting an ambitious and comprehensive Climate Emergency Plan.

Environmental issues aside, it is absolutely the role of Council to advocate to higher levels of government on behalf of the community it represents. That's one of its jobs.

CONRAD, George

Yes, definitely

TIPPING, Jared

Absolutely! I believe the role of a councillor is to facilitate great outcomes for their community. Whether it's advocating on an issue or for funding a project, your councillors should always be willing to pick up the phone and speak with all levels of government.

CELI, Antonella

Yes, Council plays a pivotal role to advocate on issues of concern to the community to State and Federal members of all and any political party.

Q3. What do you see as the main social justice issues which currently need Council attention or advocacy?

BROOKS, Simon

Housing affordability, crisis accommodation, effects of the pandemic on our community and businesses, building community resilience, encouraging and supporting economic self-sufficiency for disadvantaged and vulnerable people

GALLI, Simon

I consider the main social justice issues on the Mornington Peninsula to be homelessness, poverty, domestic violence and drug use.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

The pandemic has disproportionately affected women. Women make up a higher portion of the casualised workforce who have lost their jobs. Further, with respect to younger women; if they are fortunate enough to have been able to maintain employment and work from home, then they are juggling homeschooling simultaneously and often without access to their social support network due to the restrictions.

For women who are currently retired, this pandemic could see them age into poverty and homelessness. If the situation is desperate enough, and these women have no choice but to withdraw their super then they become even more vulnerable, particularly as they are retiring with an average of 47% less super than men.

This is entirely unacceptable and I will be strongly advocating for Council to address this issue in a manner that is responsive to the needs that women are communicating to Council.

Council must expand the social services they provide to ensure that no one is left behind.

CONRAD, George

Homelessness, women's rights (gender Equality), Australian First Peoples, .Elder Abuse

TIPPING, Jared

Tackling the disparity in our communities. In particular Capel Sound, Tanti and Hastings.

Providing better employment, training, support and entertainment opportunities for our youth.

CELI, Antonella

State investment in Social, Affordable and Crisis housing needs for the homeless and rough sleepers on the Peninsula.

Q4. Have you advocated or worked for better outcomes with regard to Social Justice issues? If so how and in which areas?

BROOKS, Simon

Yes. In my role as a councillor I have worked in the housing affordability and crisis accommodation areas as chair of the AAA-Housing advisory committee. I have advocated for better mental health support for a variety of groups and people including supporting Halt. I have been supportive of many Peninsula groups who provide support and services to disadvantaged people through my role as a councillor. I have advocated for fair treatment of local businesses who provide jobs for locals and encouraged new businesses that will build a broader economic base for our Shire.

GALLI, Simon

I have attempted to increase public and Government awareness on many Social Justice issues. I have used social media and emails (Government.) Some issues include domestic violence, racism and human rights issues.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

I have attended many rallies in the city protesting the abhorrent treatment of Asylum Seekers by the Federal government. I'm appalled that I live in a country that treats human beings in this manner. It's a national disgrace. I regularly write to MPs regarding their treatment of the Medivac bill and more recently, the mobile phone ban, to name but a few.

I attended many rallies to support Marriage Equality - again this is something that I have been communicating to my Federal MP for at least a decade. I want to live in a world where trans rights are recognised, and where discrimination based on a person's gender or sexual orientation is a thing of the past. I'd like to see society progress to a level of acceptance so that 'Coming out' isn't even a thing anymore. We simply accept people for who they are.

CONRAD, George

Refugees & Asylum Seekers

TIPPING, Jared

I've made many decisions in my role as school council president to support programs for disadvantaged children and families.

CELI, Antonella

Yes. Through the following roles:

1: **Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Committee:** worked with stakeholders on progressing and launching the [Health & Wellbeing Plan Gender Equality Strategy](#), the [Family Violence Prevention Plan & Statement of Commitment](#) for the prevention of family violence; Elder Abuse;

2. **Past Chair and Delegate to the Triple A Housing Committee:** support and advocacy on numerous social and affordable housing initiatives and homelessness and rough sleepers on the Mornington Peninsula including support for [Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter](#); Social and Affordable Housing Policy and Triple A Housing Plan 2020-2030 and development of other [Housing resources](#) and information.

3. **Chair: Positive Ageing Steering Committee:** Adoption of [the Positive Ageing Strategy](#) that embraces the WHO Age Friendly Cities framework to provide outcomes to our community across the nine domains of: Transport; Social Participation: Communication and Information: Respect and Social Inclusion: Housing: Civic Participation and Employment: Community Support and Health Services; Outdoor Spaces and Buildings :Quality of Life

Q5. Do you support the renaming of Blacks Camp Rd, Pre-school and Reserve?

BROOKS, Simon

Yes I do. More recognition of our traditional cultural heritage needs to occur.

GALLI, Simon

Yes. These areas were once occupied by our Indigenous, Traditional Owners who will rename them with indigenous language as a sign of respect for The First Nations People.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

Yes.

I acknowledge, respect and support the wishes of Indigenous people. I have no desire to stand in the way of correcting our dark history, so that we can begin to stand on the right side of it. It's long overdue.

CONRAD, George

Yes

TIPPING, Jared

Yes, I believe that if that name is offensive to areas of our community then we have an obligation to address those concerns and find a new name.

CELI, Antonella

Council has resolved to go out to consultation on the renaming and community choice.

Q6. What can the Mornington Shire Council do to help reduce violence against women in the home?

BROOKS, Simon

Actively communicate to the community that it is not OK through a targeted campaign, particularly given the stresses caused by the pandemic and lockdown. This could be leveraged through targeted sporting groups and community associations and clubs. Step-up and then effectively inform the availability of services that provide support. Continue and increase the advocacy to the State Government for crisis accommodation particularly for sufferers of domestic violence.

GALLI, Simon

Education on all levels; beginning in primary school to mainstream advertising media targeting adult males. Also, educating females to restrain from responding with tongue lashing criticisms will result in less disputes escalating to violence and death. There is a difference between how men and women respond to anger (In general). Women tend to tongue lash their partners with the most hurtful insulting criticisms. Men tend to respond with violence. Unfortunately, every 9 days a woman is killed as a result of domestic violence. Educating women as well as men will (I believe), reduce violence and death. Also, Emergency accommodation needs to be accessible and available at all times to prevent women from feeling that they have no choice but to return to abusive, violent environments.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

I make no secret of the fact that I am a feminist. I am a woman after all, why wouldn't I want equality? I want to see women in decision making roles, I want to see women cared for when they are young, after they have their babies, while they are aging - and everything in between.

The Victorian Local Governance Association states that 'gender stereotypes and male dominated decision making are acknowledged as two of the key drivers of violence against women'. Therefore, as a bare minimum, we need women to make up 50% of decision making roles. That way we can listen to, and advocate for each other. I would like to see communication between affected women, local support groups, NGOs and council streamlined so that it can be responsive and act swiftly and appropriately.

CONRAD, George

Engage with boy's and men's organisations by encouraging Regular "calling out" of violence against women

TIPPING, Jared

Provide crisis accommodation and continue to develop and improve relationships with appropriate support services.

CELI, Antonella

The Shire has adopted the Gender Equality Strategy, the Family Violence Prevention Plan & Statement of Commitment for the prevention of family violence that will see the Shire support stakeholders and the community through advocacy, programs and services provided through the Communities team.

Q7. What type of projects could council undertake to increase community awareness of Indigenous cultural heritage on the Mornington Peninsula?

BROOKS, Simon

Support an online education platform that informs about the peninsula's Indigenous cultural heritage. Create a cultural heritage trail with waypoints throughout the Shire. Support initiatives that bring traditional knowledge and practises into practical on the ground actions (for example vegetation management through fire) Build a cultural heritage centre or centres that showcase this heritage and celebrate the currency of this culture. This could include performance and workshop spaces, gallery space and a cafe/restaurant to showcase traditional and fusion bush tucker.

GALLI, Simon

Education and tourism projects. There are many places on the Mornington Peninsula that display indigenous cultural heritage. When I moved to the Peninsula 25 years ago I was taken to a site that displayed hundreds of shells which were the remains of a massive indigenous seafood feast. I was fascinated! School children and tourists would be interested as well, particularly if the Council could employ Indigenous Australians to re-enact scenes from the past. The project would provide education, employment, enjoyment, entertainment and increased awareness (Indigenous cultural heritage), as well as boosting the Mornington Peninsula Economy.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

I think that's a question for Indigenous People. I feel it's important to first consult with the Indigenous community first to see how they would like to pursue this. That way Council can be guided by what decisions are made, and respect the wishes of how they would like to proceed.

CONRAD, George

Utilising indigenous skills in respect of land, vegetation and fire control

TIPPING, Jared

Hold an Indigenous festival celebrating their connection to the area. Work with local indigenous leaders to provide educational opportunities promoted by our councils in schools and the greater community.

CELI, Antonella

The Shire supports the [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) objectives and strategies through an established and dedicated Aboriginal Culture and Community Development team placed within the Communities Department.

Willum Warrain Community House in Hastings receives support and funding from the Shire.

Q8. Did you protest about the closure of the Centrelink office in Mornington? If so how?

BROOKS, Simon

Council actively advocated to the Federal Member to not shut this office. I encouraged others in the community to do likewise.

GALLI, Simon

No. I was not aware of that development.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

Honestly, no I didn't publicly protest. I only signed petitions. I have been on Maternity leave and I admit that at that time I was preoccupied with my children and homeschooling. But I did think it was utterly disgraceful that an attempt was made to close it down at the time when it is most needed.

CONRAD, George

No

TIPPING, Jared

I didn't protest but I was disappointed at its closure and the lack of notice provided to the community.

CELI, Antonella

As Chair of the Shire Health & Wellbeing Committee and through the work of Shire Officers and the Mayor we supported stakeholders to advocate to the State and Federal MP's and through media releases to raise this important issue on behalf of the community.

Q9. Where will you provide further information for voters about your credentials?

BROOKS, Simon

I have a candidate website simonbrooks.com.au and a facebook profile. I will gladly respond to emails and phone calls.

GALLI, Simon

Further information can be accessed at VEC and Mornington Peninsula Shire websites.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

On my website <https://www.kerrimccafferty.info/>

CONRAD, George

Easyvote.com & social media platform & flyers

TIPPING, Jared

Facebook: Jared Tipping- Candidate for Seawinds Ward

Website: <https://jared4seawinds.wixsite.com/vote1>

CELI, Antonella

Details can be found at:

Call: 0466 282 573 or

Email: seawindsward@optusnet.com.au

Facebook: [Vote 1 CELI, Antonella for Seawinds Ward](#)

Website: www.seawinds-ward.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/CrAntonellaCeli

Candidate Questionnaires are also loaded up on the [VEC Website](#) for the Mornington Peninsula Shire Elections 2020

Q10. How do you intend to gain input from the community when controversial questions arise in council?

BROOKS, Simon

I always make myself available for discussions with people around contentious issues. I will test any assumptions against new evidence and input. I will speak to my colleagues about controversial and sensitive issues. I have and will help facilitate group forums and meetings around issues of importance to the community.

GALLI, Simon

I intend to gain input from the community by discussing and listening to people. It could be a club, pub, restaurant, cafe, supermarket, phone call or social media.

McCAFFERTY, Kerri

Online survey tools, email communication, website feedback tools, social media, and I will make my contact details widely available so that I can personally discuss issues with the community.

When any issue arises, then my decision will be informed by scientific research and data and the wishes of the community. I believe Council should be guided by the community and science wherever possible.

CONRAD, George

Through social media platforms & letters to local paper

TIPPING, Jared

By all means possible. Communication with the community is crucial, I aim to maintain a strong presence on social media, attend and hold meetings in the community and most importantly by having face to face conversations with the concerned parties or representatives.

CELI, Antonella

Community are welcome to contact me by phone or email at any time on any concerns or to ask questions at any time.

Notices about community consultations are also available through the Shire website.

This material has been assembled from statements made by individual candidates.

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