

Summary of Candidates responses to Questionnaire

Council Elections 2020

Briars Ward (3 Vacancies) 15 Candidates

Candidates who did not respond:

MARSH, Anthony

HINTON, Wayne

BATTY, Stephen

FITZGERALD, Peter

O'REILLY, Barbara

HOLLAND, Steve

RANKEN, Bruce

Q1. Why are you standing for Council?

O'CONNOR, Despi

I hope to be a voice for our community. I want to nurture the roles of volunteers within our community and strengthen their voice. I believe a collaborative approach between citizens and council is required to grow and strengthen our community.

Nurture - connectedness within and between communities, provide a voice for all citizens and champion volunteer groups and innovation across our shire.

Strive - to increase community collaboration, protect our green wedge, champion innovation and support those experiencing disadvantage in our communities.

Strengthen - shire services through a responsible budget that is transparent. Increase the support for economic development that will build on the peninsula's strengths from villages to farm gates, innovation and tourist opportunities.

STREET, Janet

I had been active in a community campaign which I organised against the Kaufland development coming in to Mornington. The campaign was very successful in highlighting this issue to local residents who were not aware of the development and impact on the community and local business environment. Following this campaign people approached me to run for Council.

Personally, I would like to become a Councillor to further the issues which I feel passionate about such as addressing homelessness on the Peninsula; Climate Change and its impact on the environment here on the Peninsula; and recovery and rebuilding due to the impact of COVID-19 on the community, business and the way we live. As well, I believe better recognition and representation of First Nations peoples within Council, the local community and in doing business. My flyer also sets out issues which local residents have approached me about.

I am not a single issue candidate nor am I beholden to a political party views and values.

I believe better representation of the issues which local residents want to be addressed by way of having Councillors who are accessible and approachable and can advocate to all levels of government.

ORTON, Peter

I am a long time resident of the Peninsula and feel I have the necessary skill and experience to be an effective councillor.

McCARTHY, Julia

I have nominated for local government because I believe the council should be as diverse and representative of its residents. We know that in every part of Victoria, women play a pivotal role in the leadership of their communities, but this work is often under appreciated and not formally recognised. I want to run for local council so that it looks more like the communities that they represent – after all, local government is supposed to be the level of government that is closest to the people.

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

I am standing for council to improve our future on the Peninsula. I experienced great satisfaction when working for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, as I was able to use my skills to help others. I could comfortably continue on with my regular job, but I would always wish that I could have had a more positive impact when I had the opportunity to do so.

I believe there is much we can improve on at a council level and I am excited to have the opportunity to do so.

Some of the things I stand for are:

- Working as an airline pilot heavily affected by COVID-19, I empathise and acknowledge how tough it is to redesign and reimagine business, so I will assist the small business community in opening up our outdoor street spaces to ensure we get through this and return to the thriving towns we all love.
- During my Double Degree of Aviation and Business, I completed a yearlong study into high-speed rail, which allows me to formulate a strong case for a Peninsula Rail Link and an expanded SmartBus network, complimented by improved cycleways.
- I will push for kerbside soft plastic recycling, to help keep rubbish out of our pristine beaches and the local bushlands in which I volunteer, in line with our councils beyond zero waste strategy.
- I will fight against the massively damaging AGL Gas import terminal and Arthurs Seat Quarry expansion which removes native koala habitat. These projects do not align with the council's commendable declaration of a climate emergency.

WARD, Andrew

I'm deeply concerned with how the Shire has been run in the past, and more broadly with what I see are issues in this State and the world at large.

With regards to the Shire, I'm concerned with the seemingly uncontrolled development in some areas, and with the lack of concern for the M'ton Peninsula's heritage, both natural and historical.

I'm also concerned with the lack of job prospects for locals, and with non-locals obtaining local jobs.

I've also been deeply concerned with the management of the Shire local govt in past years, and with what I believe to have been the lack of transparency and accountability to the good citizens of the Shire.

RODMAN, Belinda

Having always been actively involved in community activities, and for the last few years volunteering on Shire Committees, including the Disability Advisory Committee and on a Community Centre Board, I would like to use my skills and experience to have influence over a broader range of local issues.

STANSZUS, Jill

My family and I have benefited from living in this community for 40 years and I feel that now is an opportune time to give back in a more consistent way.

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

Yes I do. Not all issues affecting residents can be sorted within the local jurisdiction. Advocacy to state and federal governments is imperative.

STREET, Janet

Yes, this is a key area which I feel is lacking. This is evident in the lack of addressing homelessness; climate change and creating opportunities of employment for the Mornington Peninsula population to name a few.

ORTON, Peter

Most definitely.

McCARTHY, Julia

I believe the councillors have the benefit of a platform they can use to discuss issues of concern to the residents with State and Federal MPs

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

Council should definitely advocate on issues of local concern and currently this is most important at State and Federal levels because the Council have taken a stance and produced a policy to address the Climate crisis which affects us locally and nationally. This is why a Greens Party Councillor can advocate for local environmental issues such as threatened local species and the proposed quarry extension etc which ultimately reflect State and Federal environmental issues.

WARD, Andrew

Yes

RODMAN, Belinda

Absolutely – Council represents the level of government the nearest to areas which have a direct impact on the day-to-day lives of residents and ratepayers.

STANSZUS, Jill

Yes definitely.

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

- Mornington Centrelink needs to stay.
- Gambling and poker machines need to be decreased including machines and opening times.
- Violence in the home
- Alcohol and drug abuse

STREET, Janet

The main issues I see are many. Some of the key areas are the ones I am campaigning on such as homelessness; climate change; recovery and rebuilding post COVID-19; addressing violence; creating employment opportunities; greater recognition of and actively seeking out indigenous participation in Council decision making. Creating opportunities for a greater diversity of population to live on the Peninsula.

ORTON, Peter

I am a founding member and chairperson of Peninsula Voice (PV), an incorporated not for profit group of Volunteers working on changing the public narrative on all community issues of social concern, such as Family Violence, Addiction, Teenage mental health, Suicide to name just a few. PV has run over 20 large public forums for the community benefit of conversation, education and engagement.

McCARTHY, Julia

Caring for our aging community – the massive shortfalls in this area have been horribly highlighted by the outbreaks of COVID and the subsequent deaths of so many vulnerable residents of so many aged care facilities.

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

I would see the main social justice issues on the peninsula as:

- Low cost housing provision to deal with homelessness
- High youth unemployment which will be more of an issue now because of Covid-19
- Family violence support for women
- The ageing population and aged care provision etc with all the issues raised by the recent royal commission into aged care
- Single older women in financial difficulties
- Better transport
- Disability mental health services and support on the southern peninsula
- Better recognition of indigenous culture and history
- Gender equality (see question 6)
- Extension of LGBT program to include younger participants
- Substance dependency care and recovery
- Refugee support
- Loneliness and isolation support
- A need for a Centre of Advocacy within the Council's Health and Wellbeing division

WARD, Andrew

Poverty and unemployment and underemployment in certain areas, which causes families to struggle socio-economically.

RODMAN, Belinda

Access, equity and inclusion for all. This includes across employment, housing, transportation and ability for everyone to be able to enjoy the area's facilities, environment and recreational attractions.

STANSZUS, Jill

Affordable housing, domestic violence, inadequate number of safe refuge housing, maintaining Mornington Centrelink in its current capacity, supporting residents and youth on the Peninsula to more easily access their preferred choice of further education.

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

1. Support for families who could not afford BBall fees (support through our committee)
2. Donations to support different groups who support injustice
3. Walking in reconciliation marches (Naidoc week)

STREET, Janet

Yes. I have been involved in campaigns throughout my life. My work history shows that I hold strong social justice values. I have worked in the not for profit and government areas working with people with disability; people involved in the criminal justice system; homeless sector and asylum seekers and refugees. Currently, I am working with Australian Red Cross in the Extreme Hardship Support Program.

ORTON, Peter

Please see above and happy to meet on Zoom with SWAN members?

McCARTHY, Julia

I am currently president of the Frankston Peninsula Multiple Birth Association Incorporated which supports multiple birth families in across the Kingston, Frankston and Morning Peninsula council areas. Multiple birth parents are six times more likely than singleton parents to experience perinatal stress, anxiety and depression (Dr Janette Brooks, 2008) and connection with others and early support can lead to better outcomes. Our families come from many backgrounds and face a variety of challenges we try and support – the Committee fundraise and apply for grants to run our programs which include playgroups, meals for families, information sessions and much more.

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

Yes.

I have for years, donated monthly to the UNHCR and World Vision to support refugees and poorer communities. I am also proudly vegan for ethical reasons, no longer consuming or using any animal products.

WARD, Andrew

Yes. Poor uni students, single-parent families at uni, homeless people, protecting women from violence, standing up for the rights of workers.

RODMAN, Belinda

I have been on the Shire's Disability Advisory Committee for four years, where I have been advocating for Universal Design Principles to be the foundation for all planning decisions. I have also been a Board Member of the Southern Peninsula Community Information & Support Centre for the past several years developing the strategies, and overseeing the provision of assistance to the homeless, the disadvantaged, the economically vulnerable and those experiencing other issues, including family violence.

STANSZUS, Jill

Signed petitions and written letters against people being in detention centres.

Currently a support member for Community First development, Asylum seeker resource centre and The Salvation Army.

By being a member of the group at the local Baptist church that started Community caring which supports people in times of need.

Was a mentor recently in the Coach program which aimed to support youth struggling to reach their goals and disadvantaged youth.

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

Absolutely! It is wonderful that the community has sought a change. I was supportive online and endured a barrage of hate filled comments due to my views. It seems racism is alive and well. But it stops with me.

STREET, Janet

Yes

ORTON, Peter

I am not aware of this.

McCARTHY, Julia

Yes

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

Yes. Blacks Camp is a derogatory term and I am told it is offensive to the Bunurong Land Council and People of Aboriginal heritage.

WARD, Andrew

If it is derived from racist origins, yes – provided that it's done in consultation with local people

RODMAN, Belinda

Yes

STANSZUS, Jill

If the current Indigenous community found the name offensive then I would ask them what would be a more respectful name change. If not then I would not support the renaming as it is an acknowledgement of the Indigenous people who lived here first.

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

- Support for changing culture
- Increase education through youth services arm
- Reach into schools to ensure programs are in place that support respectful relationships.

STREET, Janet

Shire councils have a direct role in addressing violence against women and children in the home. Producing written materials to educate the community on the prevalence of violence in the community; setting up a community safety committee; providing strong leadership on this issue. Their workplace policies.

ORTON, Peter

I am a staunch supporter of changing the cycle of violence toward women

McCARTHY, Julia

Firstly encourage more women to nominate for council and support them when they succeed in the election - gender inequality is at the core of Violence against women, so gender equality must be the heart of the solution. This means there are roles for all of us to play in preventing violence against women – governments, communities, organisations and individual. The Mornington Peninsula Shire is leading the way in this by being one of the first councils to finalise their Gender Equity Strategy that was launched this year on International Womens Day (I was at the launch and met one of my “sheros”– Natasha Stott Despoja).

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

The shire can promote equality between men and women, as inequality is shown to be a key driver of male violence in the home.

I have read the council's gender equality strategy and would strive to implement the actions required in all the key settings.

- Promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for girls and women
- Promote the value of lifelong learning with a focus on challenging gender norms
- Support and promote gender equity initiatives in Libraries, Community Centres and Early Years Settings
- Support delivery of gender equity awareness training
- Support local business to employ a diverse workforce
- Apply a Gender Lens to Shire policies, programs and services
- Ensure gender equality in the Shire workplace (recruitment, training, promotion, leave)
- Harness the advocacy of men and boys in promoting gender equality

- Support community to lead action and raise awareness of gender equality and the link to prevention of violence against women
- Embed universal design and gender equity design guidelines into infrastructure planning for community facilities
- Develop initiatives to increase the participation of women at political and community levels
- Support initiatives that promote the participation of women in leadership roles and non-traditional roles
- Continue to embed universal design and gender equity design guidelines into the development of sport and recreation facilities
- Promote and celebrate girl's and women's achievements in sport and recreation
- Support initiatives that promote women's representation in Sporting Clubs at all levels
- Ensure gender balance, and challenge gender norms and stereotypes in promotional and media campaigns (could also include signage and other public infrastructure)
- Apply a gender lens to arts and culture funding
- Review support for gender equity in Media Arts and Culture across our communities and plan for more equal representation where there are gaps

WARD, Andrew

Increased awareness. Increased women's refuges. Relationship training at primary and secondary schools. Self-defense classes for women. Helping struggling families economically, which will reduce stresses caused by poverty. Re-training men guilty of wife bashing to act like Men, and not like cowardly bullies. Some of this will have to be done in conjunction with the state govt.

RODMAN, Belinda

Expand and update the initiatives originally outlined in the previous Family Violence Implementation Plan 2015-2018. Develop and implement a new strategy in collaboration and consultation with local community organisations working in this space.

STANSZUS, Jill

*Ensure they are doing what is possible to encourage woman to speak out

*support safe refuge housing on the Peninsula

*allow council owned facilities to be used for mediation and mentoring families involved in domestic violence

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

- Greater links with the Bunoroung Land Council and Boon Woorung Elders
- Interpretive signage that pays tribute to First People (many people think Indigenous people did not live here because they don't "see" them now) honouring their elders past present and emerging. We have much to learn from their culture.
- Displays within libraries and at MPRG that are developed with First People not put there with them in mind.

STREET, Janet

Greater recognition of indigenous cultural areas on the Peninsula. Education programs about the history of Mornington Peninsula prior to settlement. Recognition of and celebration of Indigenous cultural events and have community events around these on the Peninsula. The Shire website needs to have a greater visual presence of recognising Aboriginal First Nations people.

I believe a mentor program for encouraging indigenous involvement in Council and actively seeking out indigenous people to run for Council.

ORTON, Peter

Though greater recognition and engagement.

McCARTHY, Julia

I am not an expert on this topic as I went to school in the unfortunate era that Indigenous history wasn't taught at schools, but I look forward to getting to know the Warringinee Group at the Shire. I will say that the Indigenous culture is not promoted heavily, as I couldn't recall anything the Council has done in this area – except for the recent initiative to rename Blacks Camp Kindergarten.

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

I would consult with the The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in how we could better recognise and celebrate indigenous cultural heritage on the Mornington Peninsula.

I have had the pleasure of working all around Australia and have lived in towns where half of the population is indigenous. I love this culture and hope to see much more of it celebrated in the future of the Peninsula and Australia as a whole.

WARD, Andrew

School outings with Aboriginal heritage educators. School projects. Etc

RODMAN, Belinda

Significantly increase the promotion and education around National Reconciliation Week. Utilise more Indigenous art and cultural artefacts and interior and external landscaping designs in Shire facilities. Work in partnership with the community to develop more facilities such as the Bunjilwara centre in Hastings. Employ more Indigenous Shire Officers.

STANSZUS, Jill

The Indigenous people on the Peninsula would need be consulted as to what they think would be appropriate.

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

- I signed the petition on change.org
- Couldn't go along as it was during school time

STREET, Janet

Yes. I went to David Morris' office and voiced my concerns about his lack of addressing this issue; his lack of taking up this issue on behalf of his constituents and I actively encouraged members of the community to do the same. I telephoned Greg Hunts' office and voiced my concern on his lack of advocacy on maintaining this vital service for the Mornington area. I telephoned and spoke to Councillors and voiced my concerns about the lack of the advocacy in this area. When I approached David Morris' office I was met with "this is a Commonwealth issue ... it is local a council issue" "it is not a state government issue".

ORTON, Peter

I signed and supported the petition against the closure via Mornington Information and Support centre.

McCARTHY, Julia

I protested via signing the petition to the Government opposing the closure, and sharing our MPs facebook posts (Peta Murphy, MP for Dunkley) – she was strongly in support of it remaining open.

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

I did not directly protest, but I do support the campaign for the Centrelink office to remain open in Mornington.

I was stood down from my job in March, so understand how much support a local Centrelink office can provide.

WARD, Andrew

No. I was extremely ill for part of the past 14months.

RODMAN, Belinda

Yes – as a member of the Disability Advisory Committee.

STANSZUS, Jill

No I couldn't join the protest as I was working.

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

Facebook - @despi4briars

Instagram - @despiforbriars

Website - <https://sites.google.com/view/despi4briars/home>

STREET, Janet

Currently, I and a number of my supporters are letter boxing the Ward. I have a Facebook page which will be updated with the issues I am campaigning on and issues and projects local residents have been over the years wanting Council address.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JanetStreet2020/

ORTON, Peter

Please see my website and personal introduction

Peter Orton Website <https://www.morningtonbriars-peterorton.com/>

Peter Orton Introduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpXylwa3Eck>

McCARTHY, Julia

www.juliamccarthyformornpen.com

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

Further information about my credentials can be found at facebook.com/dion.mornpen

Please see the "about" section for further information

WARD, Andrew

Online

RODMAN, Belinda

My Website: www.belinda.rodman.com.au

My Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BelindaRodman2020>

STANSZUS, Jill

On my website, jillstanzus.info

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

O'CONNOR, Despi

Sit and talk with stakeholders. People need to be listened to. I intend to hear everyone's story with an open heart. I hope to continue ward meetings online where I can hear from the people in my ward.

STREET, Janet

I believe Councillors should have a greater presence in the community. I would set up a time each week where people could talk with me directly on issues; have a public presence in the community such as stall at local festivals, market days in Mornington and in shopping areas where the public could speak directly with me as a Councillor. Have a greater social media presence regularly updating on issues facing the community. Seeking feedback by way of written material to the community -a Ward specific newsletter; website; information published in Council newsletter. Holding meetings more regularly particularly on issues which are high profile / controversial / of high importance.

ORTON, Peter

I am still deciding the best way to do this.

McCARTHY, Julia

Community forums, surveys and reaching out to the community groups so many concerned citizens are members of already.

MULLETT TRELOAR, Dion

I would seek input from the community through social media, local newspapers and radio, always aiming to hear all voices so that I can represent the consensus of the community.

I would also ask my branch to reach out within their communities for further input.

WARD, Andrew

Online, in person, from groups that I am connected with, and looking at the local newspaper.

RODMAN, Belinda

I hope that the Community Engagement Strategy, currently in draft form, will provide a thorough, comprehensive and transparent platform for community consultation. I will of course attempt to get additional information directly from residents and ratepayers via all available communication options.

STANSZUS, Jill

Contact local organisations with a link to points about the issue on the Shire website and/or a questionnaire,

Meet informally with representatives from organisations and residents. (Maybe in groups at times with note takers or graffiti sheets)

Advertise community meetings on the issue where representatives and residents can come, ask questions and raise their concerns and ideas for resolutions.

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

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