

The Waterline News

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From the Desk



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on the Victorian Electoral
Commission website.

Waterline News – Election Special 2020

Welcome to the Waterline News Election Special

I am editing this edition because the usual Editor is a candidate in the Council Elections. This is to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.

The constraints of canvassing under COVID-19 restrictions are making it impossible for candidates and constituents to meet and making it difficult to engage meaningfully. The only options available are written pieces in the local press or via electronic means such as social media and email. We have been experiencing long delays with emails which have made producing this edition more difficult than normal. Could the internet be struggling to keep up with the increased traffic?

To give the community an opportunity to learn more about candidates and their positions on various issues, all Bass Coast candidates were invited to provide a page to articulate their platform, at no cost. Responses from candidates Julian Brown and Darrell Silva were not received before deadline.

Candidate David Rooks chose not to participate.

Ballot packs will be mailed out from 6 October and ballot papers need to be posted back before 24 October.

I hope you find this edition helpful when you come to cast your vote.

Anne Heath Mennell
Guest Editor

Bass Coast Shire Council

ELECTION STRUCTURE OF BASS COAST SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTE: By Order in Council made under Section 200(2A) of the Local Government Act 1996, the boundaries of the wards, the number and names of the wards and the number of councillors assigned to each ward of the Bass Coast Shire Council are listed as described in this plan.

Election Structure of
Bass Coast Shire Council
LEGL/15-509

Legend

	Shire Boundary
	Ward Boundary
	Roads & Structures
	Water
	Residential
	Open Space
	Industrial Estate
	Forest
	Unsealed Road
	Sealed Road
	Watercourse
	Water
	Residential Zone

Ward Allocation to Councillors
Wards are allocated to councillors in accordance with the Electoral Act 1993 and the Electoral Act 1993 (No. 1) Amendment Act 2008.

Councillors are elected by the electors of each ward in the Bass Coast Shire Council. The number of councillors for each ward is determined by the Electoral Act 1993 and the Electoral Act 1993 (No. 1) Amendment Act 2008. The number of councillors for each ward is listed in the table below.



VOTE 1 LETICIA LAING

Candidate for the Bunurong Ward, Bass Coast Shire Council
Wonthaggi • Inverloch • Cape Paterson • Harmers Haven

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ABOUT ME

I've lived in Cape Paterson for about five years with my husband and three children. I realised I never want to leave this beautiful part of the world.

Originally from Melbourne, I completed a law/arts double degree and worked for six years as a journalist in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

We moved back to be closer to family and it was the best decision we've ever made. My two older children go to Wonthaggi Primary School and I'm involved in a range of community groups including the Bass Coast Climate Action Network, Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club, Wonthaggi Primary School Council and Nature Adventures Playgroup.



MY GOALS

- Community facility upgrades
- More local jobs and education opportunities
- Better value for ratepayers
- Protect our natural spaces

I understand the pressures of raising a young family in a quickly growing regional community and I recognise the needs of our thriving senior community.

There is a need to address issues around facilities and infrastructure, protecting what we love about the Bass Coast and the economic consequences of COVID-19.

I will be a councillor who will advocate strongly for quality facilities: a **cultural and education centre** in Wonthaggi and **regional aquatic centre** – more projects and upgrades that **boost local jobs**.

I will be a councillor who upholds **sustainable planning** that doesn't overstep town boundaries, impact on town character or clear bushland.

I will be a councillor who will serve to listen and act – keeping the **communication lines open**.

I will use my skills to keep us connected and dig deeper for **transparency in council**. Post-Covid we need a more **responsive council** which can responsibly adapt to support our **local businesses** and support education and training opportunities.



VOTE **1** LES LARKE

CANDIDATE FOR BUNURONG WARD



Candidate Q&A

Where do you live? Wonthaggi.

How long have you lived in Bass Coast?

My family has lived permanently in Bass Coast since mid-1970s, firstly Cape Paterson then Wonthaggi and Inverloch. I have three children and four young grandchildren, and have resided in Wonthaggi for the past 9 years.

What is your previous community involvement (voluntary work or membership), either in Bass Coast or another area?

Volunteer and lead person campaigning since 2013 to Save and Preserve Wonthaggi Cemetery. Also involved in Rose Lodge (Wonthaggi Aged Care Facility) activities for the benefit of residents.

I have also worked closely with primary,

secondary and tertiary student mentoring programs including Young Achievement Australia to develop skills, capacities and understanding in all young Australians through partnership with business, government, education and the community.

Have you stood for election before in local, state or federal government?

Yes - elected Councillor in 2016, and kindly note I am not connected to or associated with any political party, ideology or voting block. I am running for office independently, and will deal with candidate ranking and council issues on their merits.

Name the three local issues that you consider most important and explain how you think the council should tackle them:

To be Wise, Transparent and Genuine.

Issue 1: **WISE** financial planning

Issue 2: **TRANSPARENT** decision making

Issue 3: **GENUINE** understanding of community needs and aspirations

Authorised by Les Larke, Campbell Street Wonthaggi 3995

Bunurong Ward: Michael Nugent

Michael Nugent for Bunurong Ward



I live in Cape Paterson and have family roots in Wonthaggi.

I'm a chartered accountant:

- I've specialised in helping organisations combine financial performance with care for their communities and the environment.
- I want to use that expertise to ensure Bass Coast has a balanced, sustainable future.

I actively contribute to the community, e.g.:

- I co-founded the Wonthaggi Food Collective and the Bass Coast CAN (Climate Action Network)
- I'm a committee member of Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers and Save the Holden Bushlands
- I'm an active member of, e.g., the library's ethics discussion group, both of Wonthaggi community gardens, U3A, South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees, Mitchell House Neighbourhood Centre and the South Gippsland Conservation Society
- I was on Council's Community Advisory Group developing the 2020-2030 Climate Action Plan
- I was vice chair of the Global Sustainability Standards Board, on Monash University's Accounting Advisory Committee, received the President's Award from CPA Australia and have volunteered on many committees for Chartered Accountants ANZ.

I'm a Greens independent: I'm a member of the Greens because I sincerely stand by their four key principles: *ecological sustainability, participatory democracy, social justice, and peace and non-violence (what's not to like?)*. As a Councillor I will exercise independent, individual judgement founded on these principles as applied to local community needs, not policies determined by the Greens party – they are for state and federal parliaments.

Regional living and population growth: Bass Coast's population is expected to grow by more than 30% in the next 16 years putting pressure on our towns, our coastline and our farms. We must not allow this to result in inappropriate suburbanization, such as the proposed Cape Paterson northern development.

Balancing community, economy and nature: As we build community connections and strengthen our economic prospects, we must also respect the environment. Council must give equal weight to the consequences of its actions (and in some cases, lack of action) on: the community, the economy, and nature.

COVID recovery: Clearly, we need to support those most affected by COVID, in particular small businesses, youth, and vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Council has made a start, but more will be needed, e.g., helping tourism while also increasing business diversity so we are not over-reliant on tourism, and bringing forward capital works to provide local jobs and an economic boost.

Listen and lead: Council must proactively seek out and respect the wisdom and diversity of its community in all significant decisions, for example, how to best make the McBride campus a thriving, multipurpose community hub. If elected I will hold community forums at least monthly where anyone can raise issues with me directly. I am also very much committed to establishing a regular forum for youth to speak directly to Council – see <https://tinyurl.com/Bass-CoastYouth>

Climate emergency: I co-founded the Bass Coast CAN (Climate Action Network) and penned the climate emergency petition that got over 1,000 signatures last year. Council has co-developed, with the community, a 2020-2030 Climate Action Plan and must now make every effort to implement that Plan, reduce emissions and help the community adapt to, e.g., coastal erosion.

Please call me on 0416 039 933 and see www.facebook.com/NugentForBass/

Authorised by Peter McKenzie, 166 Reed Cres, Wonthaggi, VIC 3995.

Bunurong Ward: Brett Tessari

Climate Action Plan and Coastal Erosion

Get our climate action plan together through consultation with business and community groups. Our target is zero emissions by 2030 and we have to make that achievable.

We face massive coastal erosion not only in Bunurong Ward but right across the shire. The problem is too big for any council to tackle on its own. We need to continue to advocate to state and federal governments, to press them about the urgency of the problem, and to seek for funding for mitigation and adaptation measures.

Balance growth and the environment

With the population of Wonthaggi expected to double over the next 30 years, we need to manage growth while protecting our precious environment. We're planning for measured growth through the Wonthaggi North-East Precinct Plan.

The council successfully advocated to the State Government for Bass Coast to be declared a Distinctive Areas and Landscapes area. That will give us the strategies we need to guide Wonthaggi to the booming regional town it's destined to be while maintaining our coastal and rural landscapes.

We must continue to engage with our community to determine what they value and expect from their local government.

Invest in Advocacy

Bass Coast Shire Council's advocacy to the state and federal governments has brought us unbelievable success in the past four years. Early in our term, we drew up a list of what we wanted for Bass Coast: a hospital upgrade, a new campus for Wonthaggi Secondary College, a 24-health facility on Phillip Island, a university centre for Wonthaggi. We also set up an advocacy team, which didn't exist before. Thanks to our team, we've ticked off so many items we have to keep rewriting our list. The investment in advocacy has paid for itself many times over. We've achieved things for Bass Coast we really didn't think were possible.

But there are plenty more things on our list and it's vital we continue to invest in advocacy.

It's also vital that we manage our finances responsibly so we're in a position to fund council's contribution to major projects.

Upgrading Infrastructure and Facilities

When we were elected in 2016, there was a huge backlog of infrastructure and facilities needs across the shire. We now have a formal program and we've made serious inroads on the list, but there's still a long way to go.

We need to utilise our advocacy team to secure state and federal funding, utilise the structure plans that are in place and continue to work with all levels of government to make sure Bass Coast stays at the front of their mind – again through advocacy.

Affordable and Emergency Housing

In terms of emergency and affordable housing, the situation in Bass Coast is diabolical. We need to continue to work with all forms of government to improve it. Council is working to identify surplus council and Crown sites that could be used by social agencies to build housing. Affordable housing may also need a flexible approach to planning to encourage more diverse developments.



Authorised by Brett Tessari, 18 Pear Tree Close, North Wonthaggi

“Getting Things Done”

Successful Projects 2016-2020

NEW:

Secondary College
University Hub
Sub-Regional Hospital
Cape Paterson SLSC Clubhouse
Regional Basketball Stadium
Inverloch Netball Courts

UPGRADES:

Historical Society
Wonthaggi Guide Park
Wonthaggi Apex Park
Wonthaggi tennis courts
Wonthaggi rec-reserve
Inverloch tennis courts

Island Ward: Mikhaela Barlow



I was born and bred on the Island. I went to kindergarten and school on the Island. In fact, the first time I got socially activated was when the Cowes Primary School fire happened;

My brother and I bought a brick with our pocket money and some help from my Dad. Bass Coast, and more specifically, Phillip Island, is my home.

Unlike most of my age peers who are beginning careers and families and have neither the time nor the energy to care much about let alone get involved in Council, I do care to get involved and I have the time.

Growing up as the daughter of a single dad who was also a Bass Coast Councillor I spent my formative years attending all manner of Council related meetings and functions. I saw at first hand how tough this job can be.

This unusual upbringing and deep familiarity with Council operations and processes left me with the most useful skill set of any Council candidate regardless of age; Council is Government, not Business. I spent seven years in the Council Chambers watching how Council worked. I'm very familiar with the management structures and processes of Local Government and have significantly more relevant experience than my age peers.

I know I can hit the ground running and achieve results quickly because I already know the system.

For example, I know that Councillors are only responsible for two things: Policy and Budget. I already understand what Local Government can and cannot do and have a realistic understanding of the actual work involved in achieving goals through the Budget and through Policy.

My generation will be dealing with the consequences of decisions made in the next four years for the next seventy years, and it may be worse for our children and grandchildren for ever after. While I'm still young and naive enough to believe we can actually make a difference in averting the worst effects of the Climate Emergency, it makes sense to me to put my hand up now rather than wait until I'm approaching retirement to try and do anything.

And of course, there's a Pandemic wreaking havoc in our local economy. I'd like to try and help minimise the damage, given that I'll be experiencing that damage for decades.

Council needs to take seriously its own Climate Emergency Declaration by becoming completely Carbon Neutral.

This is non-negotiable. Many decisions across Council's operations, noticeably in Capital Works, will flow from and be affected by a real commitment to Carbon Neutrality.

We need to recognise our fabulous local artists, enliven the community and stimulate the Hospitality sector by hosting Arts and Cultural Events and by encouraging Public Art.

We need to explore new and creative ideas to begin to address the Housing Crisis in Bass Coast, especially in light of the Pandemic. Normal assistance provided by NGO's to those in marginal housing has been limited due to Covid-19 restrictions, and the Homeless have been effectively abandoned.

Most importantly, Council needs to ensure that as many Bass Coast businesses as possible remain afloat and profitable after the Pandemic. This means adopting an Emergency Pandemic Budget focusing on Commercial Rate Relief and on an Events Strategy designed to attract low number/high value tourists back to the Shire. It also means we need to find alternate sources of revenue and become less reliant on Rates and unpredictable Government Grants. Please read my Pay-to-Park Policy to see where some of that new revenue can come from and how it will benefit you.

COVID-19 is new but most of these are old problems. They've been problems for years. Other candidates in other races have spoken about these issues before and Council after Council have promised to get serious about doing something. The 'same old, same old' has not done anything to change any of the issues we face.

The reason I am running for Island Ward in the 2020 Bass Coast Shire Election is because I firmly believe that it's high time we tried something new, and I believe that I am the right person to help lead Council in a different, better direction.



Island Ward: Ron Bauer

I may be the last person on the ballot paper, but I'm definitely your number 1 choice for Council.

I live in and understand the Ward I wish to represent. I have owned my house since 1981 in Cowes and since 2013 have made the seachange.

Professionally, I hold a BA in Media and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration. I hold accredited diplomas in Gemmology, Diamond Technology and Jewellery Valuations.

I am a leader in the jewellery industry. For the last 45 years I have been the director of our family business Klepner's Jewellers established in 1889. I have been president and chairman of the Gemmological Association of Australia (GAA) (1981 to present). I am a board member of the Jewellers Association of Australia (JAA) (2009 to present), and I am Australia's representative to the World Jewellery Congress (2009 to present). My contributions to the jewellery industry have been recognised by my peers by awarding me an honorary life membership of the GAA, (2001) the youngest ever to be awarded that honour. Internationally, I was awarded an Honorary Fellowship to the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (2013) for my contributions to Gemmology. I have been elected a member of the Royal Society of Victoria (2001).

Due to my deep industry involvement, I have the skillsets to make a positive contribution for our community on Council. My professional industry involvement has given me a deep knowledge of Governance; for example, I know how meetings should be run. I was the governance officer of the GAA from 1990-2009. I also contributed to the writing of the GAA and the JAA constitutions. In my term as president of the Reason Party (Victoria) (2017-18) I helped write the Reason (Victoria) constitution.

I am now running as an independent for the Island Ward. I am no stranger to the political process. In 2017-18, I was involved in saving the Cowes northern beaches from the car ferry terminal which catapulted me into local politics. As a result in 2018 I stood as an independent for the state seat of Bass running on island issues. I understand local government and have been sitting in as an observer to many of the BCSC meetings since the 2018. I am a good networker and negotiator. I will work with my fellow Councillors to achieve the needs for our island and Shire.

I am actively involved with our community. I stood for the State seat of Bass in 2018 running on Island issues. I belong to the Bass Coast Rate Payers Association, the Phillip Island Dog Owners Association, and the Cowes Yacht Club. I was deeply involved with Save our Beaches and the Cowes West Action Group. I am a member of the Island Voice committee (standing aside for this election) where all Island interest groups meet to advocate to the Bass Coast Shire Council.

The most fundamental functions a Council has is Rates, Roads and Rubbish. Our rates are too high and I will look at ways to reduce them. The rubbish collection fee must be absorbed into the rates and not be an additional charge to ratepayers. The red bin must be collected weekly in the summer months. Our roads need repairing and the speed limits have to be realistically reduced. Council meetings are not transparent or accountable enough for the community. Ratepayers have to get meaningful answers to their questions.

In my ward from East Cowes to Red Rocks the beach is being quickly eroded. We need effective erosion strategies not just band aid measures like in Inverloch. The Shire needs to become carbon neutral, utilising solar and renewable power sources. We need to install charging stations for electric cars starting with the carparks and Thompson Avenue.

Phillip Island is much more than the penguins and the GP. Ecotourism is our future. Build an interconnecting safely lit network of bicycle paths and walking trails. Construct the aquatic centre and regional skate park at the Carnival Site corner. Support events and programs for our new Cultural Centre. Build shower blocks on our surf beaches for our surfers and keep the off leash runs for our four legged friends.

Live local, buy local. We must support our traders as much possible. Businesses have been brought to their knees this year and Council has a moral responsibility to help them. We have to expand the relief packages that are be offered by Council. Responsibly bring into the budget fully funded capital work projects making the best use of the rate payers dollars. A vote for ME is a vote for YOU.

Ron Bauer

Candidate for the Island Ward

**Your independent voice
for our Island**

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Island Ward: Ash Belsar

Ash Belsar for Bass Coast
Shire / Island Ward.



Efficiency Community Lifestyle

Promote Business in Balance with our Pristine Coastline.

Transparency and Accountability;
the benefits of ratepayers dollars need to be measurable.

Prevent Erosion along the Cowes Coastline.
A Swimming Pool for Phillip Island.

Efficient use of resources and time: if a job needs doing, get it done!

I believe in keeping Phillip Island a special place for you. So whether you are raising a family, pursuing a lifestyle work balance away from the big smoke, or whatever your aim in deciding to reside here, I want Phillip Island to be the best place for you to live. I believe in efficiency in local government, if it needs to be done then get it done! I don't like wasted time, money, or resources. I intend to keep local council decisions and operations honest. I've been a resident of Phillip Island for nearly 30 years; schooled here, worked here, and, for the last 14 years, owned and operated an outdoor activity business. I understand first hand the complex issues of running a business in a seasonal location. As we move out of COVID lockdown, our future direction will require leaders with skin in the game. My background involves a diverse range of skills and experiences: Bachelor of Fine Arts from Monash University; Tour Guide in remote top end indigenous areas; local instructor of Surfing, Kayaking, Snorkelling, and Mountain Biking; local safety officer for the annual Great Victorian Fish Count; parade ranger for the Phillip Island Nature Park; and lover of anything outdoors. For me as a family man, passionate surfer, diver, artist, and businessman; my wife and I are so fortunate to bring up our kids in this truly special place and I ask for your support to enable me to represent you on council.



Island Ward: Trish Cerini

When my husband John and I first came to the island in 2004, our holiday home was a refuge from our busy business world of Investment Real Estate, based in Melbourne.

I was the Director, alongside my husband I ran all facets of our business. The island was where we loved to be, John surfed and I loved the ambiance of island life. In 2009 we moved to where we are presently, in Beach St., building our new home and planning for our retirement, we achieved this in 2017.

I love our island home, and that is one of the many reasons I was instrumental in the Save our Beaches campaign, against a car ferry being on our beautiful Cowes West beach. I am a member of the Phillip Island Dog Ownership group, for our golden retriever Zoe; and a member of the Cowes Yacht Club where we enjoy being out in our boat enjoying our full island lifestyle.



How I intend to serve my electorate:

Local issues that I consider important and need addressing:

1. Our island businesses need our full support to 'live local buy local', there are many programs that are promoting residents to ensure our produce comes from our local farms, they are family run businesses on our island. I believe council could create a program to work with our businesses to create more year round events that encourage our island to thrive and grow on a daily basis.

2. Our beaches need council to work with rate payers to ensure erosion is attended to urgently; our beaches are calling out for help, especially Cowes West, with no recovery to date to protect our coastline. As a rate payer and resident there, nothing is being done year after year – we should have a council that acts quickly. Our foreshore needs attention, in Summer fires are lit by holiday makers in amongst the tea trees, there is dead wood which could ignite and flame up at any time, endangering our homes.

3. I believe rate payers should feel they are involved and consulted, in all matters on our island. Council need to be totally transparent, allowing residents' concerns to be heard, working together; our islanders need to be encouraged to be involved and listened to. Our garbage collection requests are not being heard, nor are our dog ownership groups, these are important resident matters and promotes a healthy lifestyle for us all.

I will also be working hard to lobby for our health system, to ensure we receive a fully functional hospital to service all the needs of young families and retirees.

4. With the new Cultural Centre design, our Community Arts and Crafts Gallery have not been given a designated permanent area, a community enterprise space, within the centre. They have been involved for 27 years and I myself have these various art pieces displayed in our home. Island residents art and craft are an important component of our island, we have many various talented individuals residing here, we need to treat their creativity with the enjoyment & respect they deserve.

5. Our ecotourism; we need to service families and all residents by completing and connecting bike paths around the island. Council can join in with the many young groups and hear what they have to say, hear their requests and ensure their ideas are worked with and implemented. Give them hope of an outdoor plan which promotes health and well-being for islanders and visitors all year round. Our beach car-parks need to be upgraded and sealed, with appropriate rubbish and recycling bins provided to minimise our human impact on the environment. In addition all of our sporting facilities need to be upgraded including a Cowes skate park and swimming pool.

6. We residents love our dogs, they should be able to run on off leash beaches, but only where good protocol & respect is observed, where clean up bags are provided with more bins available to keep our island tidier. Our garbage cycle is an important issue which needs to be resolved, I will work tirelessly to ensure all these issues are addressed and obtained, our island needs to be treated with the respect it deserves.

Authorised by Trish Cerini, 2 Beach Street, Cowes

Hello Bass Coast, my name is Jeni Jobe and I am a supporter of Arts, Community, Economy and Environment. My thanks to candidate Geoff Ellis and Waterline News for inviting myself & all candidates to share their campaigns here.

Here are my responses to questions 1, 2 & 3 from Bass Coast Ratepayers & Residents Association's (BCRRA) 88 questions.

To see the other 85 answers, go to the Council Elections 2020 section on the basscra.org website.



Why do you believe the community should vote for you?

I have a proven track record of serving my community in a voluntary capacity with Totally Renewable Phillip Island, Boomerang Bags, Preserve Western Port, PICAL, Island Story Gatherers, various schools and more. I was born and raised in Bass Coast and live here permanently, and have a connection with the community that spans my entire lifetime. I am a hard worker and always listen to all sides of an issue to work respectfully towards a common ground.

What are your strengths in working with people?

I listen deeply and without judgement. I am respectful of the differing personalities and differing needs of people within communities.

I don't see compromise as a weakness, and will work tirelessly towards goals I believe in.

If elected, how will you demonstrate that you stand at the front of the community rather than standing beside the bureaucracy?

If elected, I will be taking on this role to be a voice for the people of Bass Coast. I will be present and accessible to the public, and will always act with loyalty to the people of Bass Coast in the face of the machine of Council.

These local residents are each active in their Bass Coast Shire communities and I value their endorsement of my campaign for Council.

Anne Davie OAM - Ventnor
Phil Dressing - Smiths Beach
Mike Cleeland - Surf Beach
Samiro Douglas - Cape Woolamai
Warren Reed - Kilcunda
Camille Monet - Smiths Beach

My Campaign is Carbon Neutral
Inset locally in the rich soils at
Bimbadeen Farm on Phillip Island.

www.facebook.com/jenijobecandidate



jenijobecandidate4islandward.weebly.com

Vote 1 Jeni Jobe

Then number every other box on the postal ballot in order of your choice

**Island Ward Candidate
for Bass Coast Council
Oct 24th 2020 election**

Self-funded Independent Candidate. Authorised by J Jobe, PO Box 900 Cowes 3922

Michael Whelan Island Ward

Leading the way



Why I'm standing

To make a difference for my grandchildren on climate change. My training in economics and environmental science and senior government and business experience allow me to make an impact, as shown by great projects such as the Cowes Cultural Centre and the climate emergency declaration. That work needs to continue and requires experience and strong ongoing leadership.

Climate Emergency



The declaration of the climate emergency and the Climate Emergency Action plan has produced a blueprint for Phillip Island and Bass Coast to be carbon free by 2030 and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

A key area of concern is coastal erosion. My work on the Australian Coastal Council and with local groups the Cowes East Foreshore Group and the South Gippsland Conservation Society I have made coastal erosion a priority in Council advocacy and action.

Investment in Phillip island

Cowes Civic and Cultural Centre

Stewardship to deliver on time and budget.

Phillip Island Aquatic Centre

Safer Cycling and Pathways

- Build a shared path from Cowes to Summerland
- Make cycle lanes on Thompson Ave safe.

AGL-APA Crib Point Gas Import Jetty and gas pipeline project

See the link to his personal submission:

<https://michaelwhelanforislandward.weebly.com/policies/agls-crib-point-gas-import-jetty-and-gas-pipeline-project>

Authorised by Michael Whelan 69 Coghlan Road Cowes Mobile 0418356301

<https://michaelwhelanforislandward.weebly.com/> Email: michael.whelan3922@gmail.com

Western Port Ward: Bruce Kent

Bruce Kent Candidate for 2020, Western Port Ward

Vote 1 Bruce Kent

Western Port Ward Candidate

Dear Community Member,

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Bruce Kent. My wife Jenny and I have a family that includes our 4 children, their partners and 6 grandchildren. We moved to Bass Coast in 2010 to follow a career opportunity, and we have not looked back. I am passionate about Bass Coast. The people and what the area has to offer are truly unique. We have just recently completed our new home in San Remo.

I joined the Victorian Police Force in 1980. I took the opportunity to run my own business in 1996, and then rejoined the Victorian Police Force in 2000. As the Station Commander of the San Remo Police station, I have had the privilege of working with and getting to know members of the community from all walks of life and across many businesses.

In 2016 I was elected as a councilor for Western Port Ward forming a strong, productive and working relationship with Councilor's Clare Le Serve and Geoff Ellis. Working together achieved a very strong representation at council for our community. During the past four years I have chaired the council committees of 'Emergency Management', 'Road Safety' and 'Fire Management'. I have also been involved in numerous other community groups covering areas of transport, roads, environment, family violence, mental health and housing.

During this period, we have achieved positive outcomes for the community. Some of these include:

- A strong representation for the saving of the Holden Proving Ground
- Skate parks at Waterline Communities and future planning for Kilcunda
- Extensive sporting upgrades at Dalyston, Bass, Grantville, Newhaven and Wonthaggi Secondary
- Bus shelters at The Gurdies
- The reclaiming of The Carnival Site, Cowes
- Upgrade of Hughes Reserve
- Community Covid Resilience Grants
- Dog off lead areas and fenced areas
- Approval for new Cowes Cultural Centre
- Advocated strongly for University Hub, new Cowes Medical Centre, upgrade to Wonthaggi Hospital and new Wonthaggi Secondary College.
- Achieving future road and drainage improvement of Pioneer Bay
- Street lighting in Corinella Road
- Finally fixed pot hole in Grantville shops
- Safety fencing at Grantville play ground
- Promoted art in Kernot, Corinella and San Remo



I have enormous respect for business owners and operators who are demonstrating their commitment to our community and I have fully endorsed council strategies to reduce the impact of Covid 19 that our community is currently experiencing.

If elected again as your representative:

- To be held accountable as your representative
- Proven evidence of achieving results
- Proven commitment to this role
- Open and honest communication
- I bring 4 years' experience as a councilor including one year as Deputy Mayor
- I bring proven, excellent communication skills
- Commitment to work with positive perspective and strong team
- Active member of the community and more importantly, your active representative on council

In this election, please consider your vote carefully. Your vote will impact on the next 4 years of opportunities and outcomes for Bass Coast and for the recovery of our community.

Yours Sincerely

Bruce C Kent

Email: brucekentbcc@gmail.com

Western Port Ward: Rochelle Halstead



Back to Basics

Over the past few week's I have walked the streets talking to residents and seeking their views on what it is they would like to see from their local Councillor and what is important to them.

The overwhelming majority are seeking the basics. More frequent rubbish collection,

efficient and well maintained drainage systems, improved roads, increased public transport, footpaths providing safe walking access and linking towns, facilities for children and teenagers, street planting and landscaping that instils community pride, public space furniture, shelters and improved public facilities. All the traditional services and facilities that the community rightly expects local government to provide.

Areas such as Grantville need to progress and become the commercial hub for the waterline properties. There have been plans for a long time to make this area a destination rather than a drive through. The structure plans are there and should be driven by Council.



Roads such as Shetland Heights Road must be sealed as a matter of priority. This road is used by VicRoads whenever there is a need to detour from Phillip Island Road.

With plans by the state government for a secondary college in the area and the many residential estates being approved here, the need for the sealing of this road is urgent.

Council has a long list of capital works and each individual item listed is needed. Any agreement for funding needs to be fiercely negotiated, the new Cowes Cultural Centre is the perfect example. It is a wonderful facility for the community however it has come at a significant cost. The total budget for this project is \$19.2million, Bass Coast ratepayers will pay \$16.7million with the state contribution being \$2.5million. In comparison Torquay received a non-repayable grant of \$10 million from the state government and \$20million from the federal government toward a \$39 million project for a community aquatic centre.

<https://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/news/geelong/surf-coast-shire-votes-in-favour-of-building-39-million-aquatic-centre-in-torquay/news-story/1344f89067ff3e445085d696c6b15003>

The Victorian Government introduced a rate capping system in 2016 with the Minister for Local Government responsible for setting the rate cap each year. This is seen as a positive move for communities however it does put a restraint on budgets and limits municipality capital works. This is why it is crucial for Council to be alert and efficient in seeking grants to provide much needed facilities across Bass Coast. Increasingly we have seen greater investment by ratepayers in providing what has historically been funded by other levels of government, and this has impacted on the Councils ability to keep up with demand for basic services as they are forced to shift funds in order to be eligible for state and federal government grants to expand on infrastructure desperately needed to service our growing population. Council should be relentless in their advocacy to state and federal government as we see the Bass Coast becoming a more attractive option for those in metropolitan Melbourne seeking a lifestyle change.



With the pressure of population growth comes the responsibility for Council to ensure a strong Municipal Strategic Statement is in place with planning policies and water tight protections for vulnerable areas of environmental significance and protection of our agricultural sector. It is important for the Western Port Ward representatives to always be mindful that this ward covers the majority of our farming land and they too require the assistance of Council, often with very different issues of concern.

There are so many topics of discussion for a prospective Councillor to address and I hope this first contribution to the Waterline News gives you an indication that I am experienced, I

offer fresh eyes with new ideas. I am friendly, approachable and keen to immerse myself in my community and fiercely lobby for the long list of services and facilities needed for the residents of Western Port Ward

Authorised by Rochelle Halstead PO Box 90 San Remo Vic 3925

Western Port Ward: Clare Le Serve

Vote 1 Clare Le Serve Western Port Ward Candidate (Bass Coast Council Election 2020)

Clare is a long-term Bass Coast resident and a current Western Port Ward Councillor. In her eight years in Council she has been Mayor, mentored and guided newly elected Councillors and participated in many successful regional projects.

Clare stood as an Independent at the 2014 and 2018 State Elections. She considers her strength is being a strong advocate for the community.

If re-elected she will lobby all levels of Government so Bass Coast residents receive infrastructure grants and major project funding.

Clare aims for the improvement of Council's governance and accountability offering strong leadership.

Clare will advocate for road maintenance and improved road management solutions, examples are San Remo, where there are safety concerns and poor road conditions, and Newhaven, where strong advocacy is needed on a long-standing issue.

Clare supports environmental management and protection programs and understands the need to act on climate change and coastal erosion. She knows our coastlines are in need of an urgent plan and that we need to act now to fix the problems faced within coastal regions.

Clare is opposed to AGL's plans to turn Western Port into a gas import terminal. She will lobby hard to protect the Bay and continue to campaign against the industrialising of Western Port and will continue to advocate at all levels of Government to stop plans that spell disaster for the Bay.

Clare supports recreational fishing and the region's way of life. Clare is also committed to the revitalising the tourism and business sectors after COVID and believes it is important to create economic and employment opportunities across Bass Coast.

Her farming experience gives her an awareness of the importance of the agricultural sector and Clare is committed to supporting farmers needs.

Bass Coast has many talented creative people and a vibrant arts and cultural community and Clare aims to support this sector that helps drive diversity, economic benefit and recovery, aid in mental health and she will encourage community lead arts projects and public art.

Clare says she has enjoyed her role as a Councillor and wants to continue. She has worked well as part of the Western Port Ward multi-member team for 4 years with Councillors Kent and Ellis.

Together they offer voters a diverse range of skills and strong representation for the region. Clare is seeking your vote and thanks the community for their ongoing support.

Authorised by Clare Le Serve, PO Box 2050, Corinella, Victoria, 3984. – clare.leserve@gmail.com



Western Port Ward: Geoff Ellis

No more Dirt, Dust and Mud.

Bass Coast has over a hundred kilometres of unsealed urban roads.



At the present rate of sealing, a lot of our residents will be living in sub-standard conditions for the rest of this century.

Currently a large chunk of the cost of upgrading these roads and drains is passed on to people who are least able to afford it.

Since 2019 millions of dollars of Federal funding has been allocated to reduce this financial nightmare and speed up the process in Yarra Ranges. Why not here?

I will push for the same funding model in Bass Coast so the cost of our Special Charge Schemes can be significantly reduced.

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-documents/Policies-strategies/Special-Charge-Schemes-Infrastructure-Improvements/Roads-for-the-Community-FAQs>

Hall and Reserve committees: do the work of council by maintaining and promoting halls and reserves at little cost to council.

I will push for more officer support and increased funding while simplifying the administrative load so these volunteers can spend more time looking after our community assets. I will work to increase transparency of Council's interactions with these groups.

Landcare: We increased the budget last year. We can add to that in future years and work more closely with Landcare, individual farmers and communities to mitigate against climate variation.



Garbage: There is constant debate about peak period collections and the need to reduce the carbon footprint of these services. There are still many places in the shire that don't have kerbside collections. Seriously. We need to review these services. ASAP.

Covid19 Recovery: Economically this is 'year zero'. Tourism, hospitality and the arts have been worst hit but every business and every family has less money.

As soon as the next Council is installed we need to get every community group, every industry and people from across the Shire to share ideas and work to pivot our economy to increase jobs and opportunities.

Bass Coast needs to be agile and ready to apply for every grant and funding opportunity to support businesses and the community as we emerge from the pandemic.

Quantum of need: Western Port Ward has legacy issues all over the place. It is the biggest ward, it is the ward that needs to catch up. I am pushing for a swift needs analysis so that we work out what needs to be done, where the needs are and work to provide the same infrastructure and amenity as Cowes, Inverloch and Wonthaggi take for granted.

Communication: I understand the importance of people knowing their concerns are heard. I will continue to work hard at communicating with all constituents in every way possible.

Geoff Ellis

Celebrate diversity



