



## Welcome to our first newsletter!

Goodness. What a wonderful, positive and enthusiastic response we've had as we build the movement towards participatory democracy and political representation that reflects the community's priorities not the major parties.

Thank you to everyone who has shown their early support by becoming member, volunteering, completing the survey and donating.

### Hello VMP Hubs!

For those of you who are yet to join, we now have VMP Hubs around the Peninsula based on Council ward areas:

VMP Briars, Nepean, Cerberus, Red Hill, Seawinds and Watson.

The idea is that each regional group will be able to tailor communications and activities to their area's particular geography, demographics and facilities. You all know the places you live really well and that is the key to reaching out and listening to our communities!

At the moment, these groups are meeting online on a regular basis but are planning for the day they are able to get out into their neighbourhoods to chat with others, hold events and more.

If you are interested in becoming part of your VMP community, please visit our [website](#) and join as a member. Or [email](#) us.

PS: VMP needs a Treasurer. Is that you or someone you know?

### T-shirts!

Finally, our tees will be arriving any day now..... lockdown fun – they're late! But, they're also fab and ethical.



We'll be offering them to volunteers and members first and then we'll put the details on our social media and website so keep an eye out. \$35.00

### Generous donors seeking like-minded

Two wonderful residents each gave us \$1,000 to kickstart a fundraiser to reach \$5,000. VMP will seek to match it.

We need only three more \$1,000 to get to our goal.

Our donor wrote:

**"I'm not wealthy by any means but I can afford \$1,000 to help save the world."**

What a legend. Can you help him to help us?  
<https://www.voicesofmornpen.org.au/donate>

### What are surveys are telling us?

*The information we have gathered so far, shows that you care very much about the environment and climate change, over development, aged care and transport. This data is vital to VMP as it will ensure that the Independent candidate who is elected will represent your views.*

*Want to know how Independents can influence our lives? At the end of every newsletter we'll tell you.*



## Our Independent Candidate

We recently advertised for expressions of interest from residents as we begin the search for that community-minded and dedicated local to represent us at the next federal election. Someone who believes in participatory democracy, honesty and an all-round much higher standard of political behaviour. The first round closing date was August 15 but as the election now looks more likely to be closer to May 2022, we're leaving it open a bit longer.

If you know someone who thinks they could be the Morn Pen's independent star, perhaps tap them on the shoulder and let them know you think they should contact us. Reassure them that we are here to support the VMP member endorsed candidate. We can also follow up on nominations. See the '[Candidate](#)' page on our website for details.

### Tagline Competition Winner

Recently, we had a bit of fun one weekend on Facebook in our search for that right-on-the-mark tagline for Voices of Mornington Peninsula.

The 'thumbs up' winner is the lucky recipient of a VMP t-shirt. We look forward to contacting Jared when the t-shirts arrive so he can select his favourite colour.

The tagline? *YOUR VOICE MATTERS.*

We love it too, but unfortunately there are others already out there that are very similar so we might have to keep searching!

### Kitchen Table Conversations (before lockdown boo hoo!)



Some of our gorgeous volunteers learning how to run an inclusive and safe space for locals to talk about what matters to them. If you'd like to join in, go to our [events](#) page to RSVP for online chats.

### Action stations!

- Despite lockdowns, we still have events online so keep an eye out for these on our [website](#).
- We try to keep up with updates on our website, there's so many interesting forums happening all the time and we'll put the best under "Inspiration".
- Announcements re candidate progress – this will be on our social media and website.
- Fundraisers – improving our lot doesn't come cheaply. Printing, website hosting, stickers, insurance and other operational costs requires constant funds. All of us are volunteers and we are the only part of campaigning that's free!

Don't forget to spread the word. 😊

Growing our [membership](#) to benefit everyone is fundamental to our success. From our Victorian and nationwide networks we know that there is a collective restlessness and knowledge that we need to do better and we can.

We hope you are all managing OK and keeping energy up for our brighter future.

See you soon, the VMP team.



## Episode 1: Exactly how do Independents make a difference?

Why do we need Independents in our Parliament? Each newsletter, we're going to provide an example.

Solar-energy industry insiders call it the 'solar coaster', the extremes of business going up, then rapidly coming down as governments shift their policies and change rebates. In a recent interview, Bobbi McKibbin of Solar Integrity in north-east Victoria talks about how having an Independent MP brought local renewable energy providers together.

*In the electorate of Indi, independent representation made a real difference to local business owner, Bobbi McKibbin.*

"The solar industry is highly regulated, but also at the peril of the government of the day". Bobbi describes the positive impact of Independent Cathy McGowan (then Helen Haines) as they helped businesses clarify shared goals, develop a 'local power plan' and ultimately, to ensure they are 'at the table' when decisions that impact their industry (and community) are being made.

*"We know that we have an Independent in our corner that doesn't have to vote with 'the party', because they can vote independently on behalf of their constituents - it's so different because they're accountable to their constituents."*

Want to understand more about how an Independent could better represent your community?

The full interview with Bobbi McKibbin as part of the Voices of Goldstein broadcast can be found on our [Inspirations](#) page on our website.



Newsflash.....Newsflash.....Newsflash

Before going to print we have *another donor of \$1,000* – now only \$2,000 to hit target of \$5k then to match it to \$10k!

Website [www.voicesofmornpen.org.au](http://www.voicesofmornpen.org.au)

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