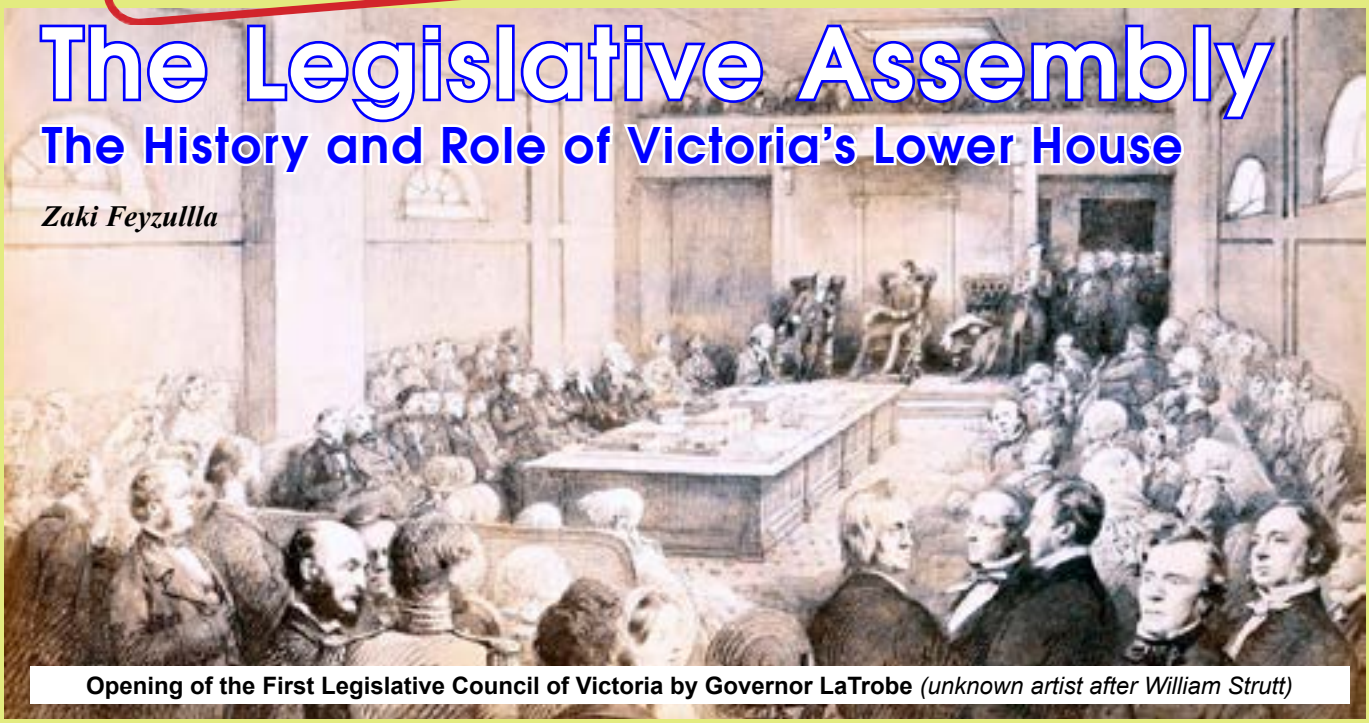
EastsiderNews
Edition Number 40
FREE
November 2026

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

# The Legislative Assembly

## The History and Role of Victoria's Lower House

*Zaki Feyzullla*



**Opening of the First Legislative Council of Victoria by Governor LaTrobe** *(unknown artist after William Strutt)*

VICTORIA'S Legislative Assembly, commonly known as the Lower House, is one of the two chambers of the Victorian Parliament and plays a central role in the state's democratic system. It is where governments are formed, major political decisions are debated and legislation affecting the daily lives of Victorians is considered.

### From colonial beginnings to modern democracy

The history of the Legislative Assembly dates back to the 19th century, when Victoria was still a British colony. Victoria separated from New South Wales on 1 July 1851, and its first Legislative Council opened later that year.

A major constitutional milestone came in 1855, when the Victorian Constitution Act received Royal Assent. The new parliamentary system established two chambers: the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.

The first Parliament of Victoria was elected on 21 November 1856. This marked the beginning of the parliamentary structure that continues to operate today.

However, democracy was not initially available to all Victorians. Voting rights were gradually expanded over subsequent decades. In 1857, voting rights for the Legislative Assembly were extended to all men over the age of 21, although significant exclusions and barriers remained. Women gained the right to vote in Assembly elections in 1908, while the right to stand as candidates followed in 1924. In 1933, Millie Peacock became the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly.

Representation continued to evolve. In 2017, Lidia Thorpe became the first Aboriginal person elected to Victoria's Legislative Assembly.

These milestones reflect the gradual transformation of the institution into a more representative democratic body.

### How the Assembly works

Today, the Legislative Assembly consists of 88 elected members, each representing one electoral district across Victoria. Members are elected for four-year terms through a preferential voting system.

The party or coalition that wins a majority of seats in the Assembly forms the Victorian Government. Its leader becomes Premier, while other elected members may be appointed as ministers responsible for different areas of government.

*Continued on page 3*

# CONTENTS *(Click on area to navigate to it)*

*Eastsider News* notes that although all efforts were made to contact all candidates, at this busy time not all were able to provide details for this Special Election Issue.


**Ashwood 4**

*FREGON, Matt (ALP)*
*JOSHI, Hitendra K. (Independent)*
*MITCHELL, Steven (One Nation)*
*RANDALL, Tim (Greens)*
*UWIMANA, Enid (Family First)*
*VAN DER EYNDEN, Jacob (Victorian Socialists)*
*ZOGRAPHOS, Theo (Liberal)*

**Box Hill 6**

*AFAJ, Saravina (Victorian Socialists)*
*BAKER, Jamie (One Nation)*
*CHEUNG, Heena (Independent)*
*FAGG, Peter (Family First)*
*HAMER, Paul (ALP)*
*HOUGUET, Sally (Liberal)*
*McGRATH, Sue-Ellen (Labour-DLP)*
*QIN, Aaron (Greens)*

**Glen Waverley 9**

*COX, Brad (One Nation)*
*DOBIE, Anna (Family First)*
*MULLAHY, John (ALP)*
*NADARAJAH, Segar (Labour-DLP)*
*SIOW, Nicholas (Victorian Socialists)*
*SUN, Jacky (Liberal)*
*WHITE, Toyo (Greens)*

**Hawthorn 11**

*CROSBY, Clive (ALP)*
*IBUKI, Shima (Independent)*
*McENEARNEY, Tess (Victorian Socialists)*
*NICOLL, Adam (Family First)*
*PESUTTO, John (Liberal)*
*PRIBILOVICS, Paul (One Nation)*
*ROCHA, Kylie (Greens)*

**Kew 13**

*CARTER, Jackie (Greens)*
*DAVIS, Finlay (Independent)*
*HALES, Juliet (Animal Justice Party)*
*LAIRD, David (One Nation)*
*LIANG, Man (Independent)*
*LINCOLNE, Samantha (Victorian Socialists)*
*SEELEY, Ann (Family First)*
*SUN, David (ALP)*
*TORNEY, Sophie (Independent)*
*WILSON, Jess (Liberal)*

**Ringwood 14**

*CUTTS, Prue (Independent)*
*GARDNER, Jack (Victorian Socialists)*
*HALSE, Rachel (ALP)*
*HUANG, Elaine (Family First)*
*McGOWAN, Nick (Liberal)*
*MILLS, Amy (Greens)*
*NORTON, Christopher William (Labour-DLP)*
*O'CONNOR, John (One Nation)*
*WALKER, Lyndon (Animal Justice Party)*


## Acknowledgement of country

Independent Community News Group Incorporated acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waters of the Eastsider News focus area, and pays respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

To learn more about the rich culture and traditions of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, explore their website at www.wurundjeri.com.au

# The Legislative Assembly

**Continued from page 1**

The Assembly has several important responsibilities. It debates and passes legislation, examines government policies, questions ministers and represents the interests of local communities.

One of its most significant powers concerns public finances. The annual state budget must be introduced and passed through the Legislative Assembly. This gives the Lower House a central role in decisions about government spending, taxation and the allocation of public resources.

### Working alongside the Upper House

Victoria has a bicameral parliamentary system, meaning that legislation is considered by two separate chambers.

While the Legislative Assembly is responsible for forming government, the Legislative Council, or Upper House, plays an important reviewing role. Both chambers consider proposed laws, debate amendments and scrutinise government decisions.

This structure is designed to ensure that legislation receives consideration from different groups of elected representatives rather than concentrating parliamentary power in one institution.

### Why it matters to local communities

Although Parliament House is located in Melbourne, the work of the Legislative Assembly affects every part of Victoria.

Decisions made by state MPs influence schools, hospitals, public transport, roads, emergency services, housing-related legislation and many other areas of everyday life.

For residents, their local Member of Parliament is an important point of contact for raising concerns, seeking assistance with state government matters and bringing local issues to parliamentary attention.

The next Victorian state election, scheduled for 28 November 2026, will give voters the opportunity to elect representatives to the state's 61st Parliament.

As Victoria approaches another election, the Legislative Assembly remains a key institution through which local concerns become part of the wider political debate and the future direction of the state is determined.

### Meet the Candidates: Victoria's Legislative Assembly Election 2026

Victoria's next state election will take place on 28 November 2026, with voters across 88 electoral districts choosing their representatives for the Legislative Assembly, the state's Lower House.

Each elected MP will represent a local electorate in the Victorian Parliament, contributing to decisions on legislation, public services, infrastructure and other issues affecting communities.

Ahead of the election, Eastsider News presents the candidates standing for election in the Lower House. In their own words, they explain why they are running, what they hope to achieve if elected and which local issues and priorities matter most to them.

| Electorate | Candidates |
|---|---|
| *Bentleigh* | *Herbert Lonsing, Karli McRostie, Liam Kruger, Nick Staikos, Tynan Putt* |
| *Caulfield* | *Angel Dolejsí, David Southwick, Geneviève Gilbert, Malak Ababneh, Michael Abelman, Mikaela Stafrace* |
| *Glen Waverley* | *Brad Cox, Jacky Sun, John Mullahy, Nicholas Siow, Toyo White* |
| *Oakleigh* | *Brooke Carter, Hsiang-Han Hsieh, Martin Jung, Matthew Grinter, Rowdy Bugter, Steve Dimopoulos* |
| *Box Hill* | *Aaron Qin, Heena Sinha Cheung, Jamie Baker, Paul Hamer, Peter Fagg, Sally Houguet, Saravina Afaj* |
| *Kew* | *Ann Seeley, David Laird, David Sun, Jackie Carter, Jess Wilson, Samantha Lincolne, Sophie Torney* |
| *Hawthorn* | *Clive Crosby, John Pesutto, Kylie Rocha, Paul Pribilovics, Shima Ibuki, Tess McEnearney* |
| *Ringwood* | *Amy Mills, Elaine Huang, Jack Gardner, John O'Connor, Nick McGowan, Prue Cutts, Rachel Halse* |



*Return to Contents*

# Ashwood



## Hitendra Joshi, Ashwood, Community Independent (Voices of Ashwood)

I am standing because Ashwood deserves a representative who answers to the community rather than a party. Too many people tell me decisions are made far from where they live, and that trust in politics has worn thin. As a community independent, I am free to listen first and vote on the merits of each issue.

I will make a difference by pushing for accountability where it matters most: an independent, properly funded IBAC, transparent government contracts and a public register of MPs' dealings with lobbyists. I will be open about how I vote and why, and I will keep asking what a decision costs and who benefits.

My key interests are the pressures families feel every day. On cost of living, I will back faster take-up of cheap renewable energy and help for households to install solar, batteries and insulation, including renters. On housing, I want safer, better community housing to replace ageing facilities in Ashwood and Ashburton, and help for first home buyers. I will advocate for more reliable Glen Waverley and Alamein line services and upgraded station car parks, and for visible local policing alongside early intervention and support for victims of domestic violence. I will also support Victoria's Treaty process.

I would be honoured to earn your vote.

Authorised by G Storer, 16-20 Bulli Street, Moorabbin, Victoria 3189.



## Tim Randall, Ashwood, The Greens

*Authorised by M. Shield, Victorian Greens, 1.05/50 Queen St Melbourne VIC 3000*

I'M an architect with a background in accessible and sustainable design, and I've been part of the Ashwood community for 15 years. It's a community I know and love, and I'm ready to represent it by fighting for affordable housing, cost-of-living relief and meaningful climate action, and to make sure government decisions put people, places and future generations first. Having listened to our community over the past year, these are the local priorities I'm fighting for:

- **Planning & Housing:** I'll work constructively with councils and listen to locals to increase affordable housing on government land, while maintaining the qualities that make our suburbs great places to live.
- **Trees, Parks & the Environment:** I'll work with local environmental groups to support parks and natural habitats, and advocate for more tree canopy to keep us cool in a warming climate.
- **Transport:** I'll advocate for more frequent trains, better station parking and improved bus connections, so you're not watching your bus pull away as your train pulls in. I'll also back safer cycle paths and repairs to major roads in poor condition.

*Continued on page 5*

Return to Contents

## Tim Randall

Continued from page 4

- **Community Safety:** I'll build stronger, safer communities by advocating for full funding of neighbourhood houses and community centres, and back a new Office of Community Safety and Crime Prevention to take an evidence-based, community-led approach.
- **Government Accountability:** I'll get money out of politics by banning big corporate donations, strengthening Victoria's anti-corruption body and stopping the sell-off of our public services.

I've spent my career building homes that work for people. Now I'm asking the people of Ashwood to let me put that same energy into building a state that works for you.



## Jacob van der Eynden
## Victorian Socialists for Ashwood

HI, I'm Jacob. I'm running in this year's state election as a candidate with Victorian Socialists because I believe in a society that puts people before profit.

I'm a Mount Waverley resident and have lived here my whole life. I'm a digital media designer and a student. In the past, I've worked in various cafes and shops in the local area.

While many of us find it increasingly hard to get by, the mega-rich continue to grow their wealth on the back of rising housing costs and price-gouging of essential goods.

Owning a home feels more and more like a distant dream, especially for young people. Housing is a human right—we need policy that foregrounds people's right to a home over the power of mega-investors to turn a profit.

We also need to see urgent action on climate change—the profits of billionaires cannot be prioritised over the health of our planet.

I've been a community organiser and activist for many years, being involved in the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, where I helped organise counter-demonstrations against extreme racists, as well as protests for the rights of refugees and migrants.

Recently, I have been a regular attendee at rallies in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

If I'm elected in November, I'll fight for our community, and for the better world that we need and deserve.

*Blackburn and Mitcham Reporter* June 5, 1936

### FIRE CHIEF DENIES RUMOUR.

At the meeting of the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire Council on 18th May, Cr. Halliday said that it had been reported that the Box Hill Fire Brigade had been seriously delayed in reaching a fire in that city. It was stated, he said, that understaffing and difficulty in starting an engine had been the main causes for that delay. Cr. Halliday's motion that the Metropolitan Fire Brigades' Board be written to asking if the staffing could be improved, and inquiring as to the truth of the report about the engine, was carried. Monday night a reply was received from the Chief Officer emphatically denying that there had been any delay, and giving the times of the brigade's receipt of alarm and arrival at the scene of the fire. Enclosed also were copies of letters from the householder concerned and independent witnesses complimenting the brigade on their work. The Fire Chief said a searching inquiry had been made, and it had been proved that the information supplied was not in accordance with the facts. Cr. Halliday stated it had been reported that a lady had rung earlier. He was not satisfied that the ratepayers were getting the protection they ought to, and replies had not been given to the questions asked by the council. He moved, and it was carried, that the writer be thanked for his letter; that he be informed that there had been no desire to cast any reflection on the firemen, and that the council desired particulars regarding the staffing of the station and the suitability of the equipment.

Return to Contents



Authorised by Dr Heena Sinha Cheung, Level 4, 830 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill VIC 3128.

## Dr Heena Sinha Cheung
## Independent for Box Hill

Box Hill deserves more than a voice. It deserves someone who will make that voice count.

I'm standing for Parliament because I've seen what happens when governments wait for a crisis before they act.

As a public health professional, disability sector leader, social entrepreneur and mother, I've spent years working with people navigating systems that should support them but too often fail them. Compassion without action changes very little.

My guiding belief is simple: Justice Before Crisis.

I'm not entering politics to defend a party line. I'm standing as an independent to challenge decisions, demand evidence and ensure communities have genuine influence over outcomes.

From the Suburban Rail Loop to Box Hill Brickworks and the Blackburn Activity Centre, residents deserve more than consultations that tick boxes. Development must respect local voices, protect green spaces and deliver lasting community benefits.

My priorities include safer, accessible transport; thriving local businesses; practical cost-of-living relief; stronger community services; and protecting children and vulnerable people before harm occurs.

I will demand transparent spending, report back to residents and work across political divides to deliver results.

Our community doesn't need another representative who simply listens, nods and moves on. We need someone prepared to act, question power and be accountable.

That's the independent voice I intend to bring to Parliament.

For Truth. For Justice. For Community.

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*Punch Magazine* 14 May 1859




TRIUMPHANT RE-ELECTION OF MR. PUNCH
AS
MEMBER FOR EVERYWHERE.

Return to Contents



## Peter Charles Fagg, Box Hill district, Family First Victoria

*Authorised by Jane Foreman, Family First Party, Level 19, 180 Lonsdale St, Melbourne, 3000*

I am standing so that voters who have Judeo-Christian beliefs and values have someone to vote for, i.e. people who are interested in matters such as families, faith, life, and Australian values.

I am a Christian and married, with 5 children and 12 grandchildren, and have lived in the Box Hill electorate for 45 years. I have knowledge of families, schools, churches, and requirements of sporting organisations in the Box Hill and Blackburn areas. As a long-term volunteer in the City of Whitehorse I am familiar with at least some of the needs of people who live in the Box Hill electorate, and, having been on various school councils and committees, I am used to resolving issues. Due to past illnesses, I have spent time in the Box Hill Hospital and realise what an asset it is, which needs ongoing government and community support. I strongly support the plan for the old Box Hill Brickworks site to be taken over by the Whitehorse Council and developed as treed parkland.

If elected under the Family First banner, I would raise and debate issues relating to the above matters, and also cost of living, environmental, energy, education and housing issues that are relevant to families and businesses in the Box Hill area.



## Paul HAMER, Australian Labor Party

*Authorised by Steve Staikos, ALP (Victorian Branch), 438 Docklands Drive, Docklands VIC 3008*

WHEN I first ran for parliament in 2018, I committed to be an active advocate for our community and fight for upgraded schools, better community infrastructure and improved public transport.

Since 2018, I have been proud to secure investment for schools across the electorate, deliver more than 6,000m2 of additional open space in Box Hill, upgrade Wattle Park and Elgar Park and much more. Dangerous level crossings have been removed and bus frequencies have been improved. Construction of the North East Link and the Suburban Rail Loop is well advanced, and when complete, these projects will transform the way residents can access education, jobs and healthcare right around Melbourne.

At a statewide level, I have been proud to be part of a government that is planning for our energy future and reducing long-term energy costs by supporting policies that transition the state's electricity system, such as transmission upgrades, emissions reduction targets and increased storage capacity.

Box Hill is a diverse community, and I strongly support an inclusive, multicultural society. Victoria's multiculturalism is a success story that should be celebrated, not dismissed. Over the years, Box Hill has attracted migrants from all backgrounds who have worked hard and made a positive and lasting contribution to our community.

If re-elected this November, I will continue fighting for the Box Hill community and ensure that we continue to receive the investment we need: a brand-new STEAM centre at Koonung Secondary; a new masterplan for Box Hill High; and upgrades to Surrey Park.

Return to Contents



## Sally Hougue
## Liberal Party for Box Hill

AS a local and long-term resident of the Box Hill Electorate, I am standing to represent my community because I believe Victoria needs practical change and a government that works.

With a career in engineering, software design and local electronic manufacturing, I have first-hand experience in small business, along with global companies. I have been an active local volunteer with Our Village, supporting families experiencing hardship, as well as volunteering as a parent at local schools and Scouts.

My plan is to build a Better Box Hill, with liveability, open space and tree canopy protections a priority.

We will deliver a new Park at the 7ha Box Hill Brickworks site, committing $20 million to the remediation of the site, and revoking the state government's plan for 10-20 storey towers on 95% of the land.

We will scrap Labor's Activity Centres including in Blackburn and restore the voice of locals in the planning system.

We will restore the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO9) for Whitehorse Council to manage and protect our important tree canopy cover.

We will deliver the next stage in the Masterplan for Koonung Secondary College, with the Stage 2 STEAM Centre. This is a long overdue upgrade to the science facilities at this fantastic local school, and the next step in the school's redevelopment.

I will always stand up for our community, listen and act for Box Hill, as part of the Wilson Liberal team delivering real change for Victoria.



## Aaron Qin
## The Greens for Box Hill

I'M Aaron Qin – a registered nurse, healthcare founder, and community leader.

I've spent years on the frontline of healthcare and built organisations supporting over 800 people across hospitals, aged care and disability services.

I've seen first-hand how government decisions shape everyday lives – and how families struggle when systems fail them.

As a nurse, I listen. As a business owner, I solve problems. As a community leader, I bring people together.

I'm running for Box Hill with the Greens because I believe leadership isn't about titles or promises. It's about showing up, taking responsibility, and delivering real change for our community.

Return to Contents



## John Mullahy
## ALP (Victorian Branch)

*Authorised by Steve Staikos, Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch), 438 Docklands Drive, Docklands.*

MY parents came from Ireland to give us a good education. I started a business in a spare bedroom in Melbourne's east. Now I'm raising my daughter here. I'm running for re-election so local kids have the same chances I did.

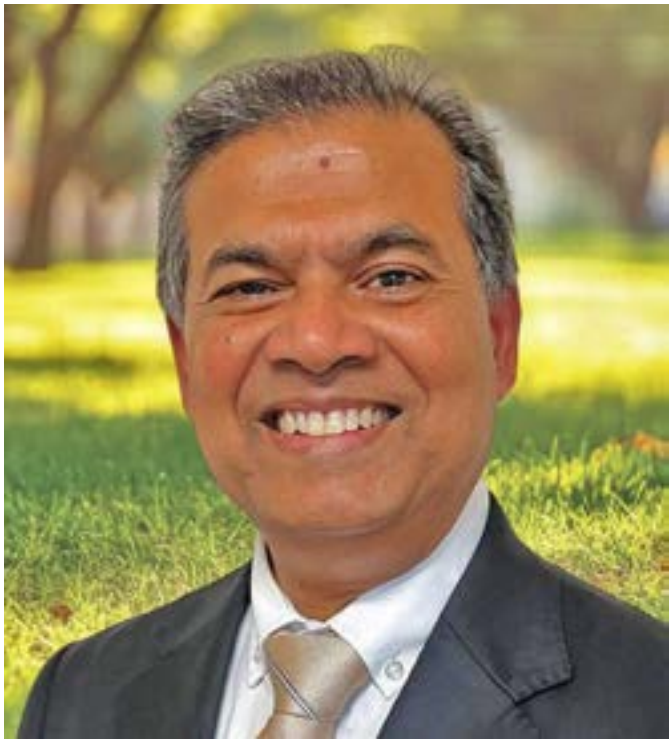
I've helped secure upgrades for more than a dozen local schools. We've opened Blackburn's public surgical centre and Ngarrak Nakorang Wilam Park, and we're expanding Monash Medical Centre. Suburban Rail Loop tunnelling is underway to connect Glen Waverley to Monash and Deakin universities.

In my first speech, I backed the return of the State Electricity Commission and Treaty with First Peoples. The publicly owned SEC is investing in wind, solar and batteries to help Victoria reach 95 per cent renewable electricity by 2035. I'll stand by Treaty. The Opposition has committed to scrap it and open the door to new gas. That's not what our community stands for.

Only Labor will cap adult public transport fares and tolls at $30 a week each, cut land tax and roll out free dental care - making life more affordable. We'll upgrade more local schools. And we'll invest in better green spaces at Terrara and Jells Park.

We've tightened bail laws and it's driving down crime in Whitehorse and Monash. We'll go further and recruit 1,500 more police, with 600 reservists helping keep stations open longer.

Only Labor will keep investing in the services Glen Waverley District relies on. I hope I can count on your support on 28 November.



## Segar
## DLP Candidate for Glen Waverley

### Why I'm standing

My family and I have called Melbourne's eastern suburbs home for 21 years, and I know the pressures Victorian families face every day. I'm standing for Glen Waverley because government must be accountable, economically fair and focused on the real concerns of ordinary people. Public office is not a privilege of power. It is a solemn responsibility to serve with integrity, compassion and dedication.

### How I'll make a difference

I will listen to the people of the eastern suburbs, scrutinise every policy that affects them, and push for practical solutions rather than slogans. My approach rests on compassion, integrity, personal responsibility and respect. I will stand firm on traditional family values and work for a Victoria where every person is treated with dignity and hard work is rewarded with security and opportunity.

*Continued on page 10*

Return to Contents

## Segar
## DLP Candidate for Glen Waverley

**(Continued from page 9)**

### My key issues

- Strong families: real support for parents raising the next generation.
- Safer communities: firm action on crime, so families feel safe in their homes and on their streets.
- Cost of living and housing: easing the pressure on household budgets and making homes affordable again.
- Local jobs: sustainable employment and an economy that makes things here in Victoria.
- Individual freedoms: protecting the liberties that keep Victoria a free society.

I want a fairer, safer and more prosperous Victoria, and I'll work every day to deliver it.

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## Nicholas Theen-Wei Siow
## Victorian Socialist candidate for Glen Waverley.

*Authorised by C. Oakley, Victorian Socialists, 83 Sydney Rd, Brunswick VIC 3056*

I'M running in this election because I believe workers deserve a representative in parliament that fights for working class people and want a world that's built for us. Politicians have been serving the needs of the rich and expecting working class people to foot the bill despite being in such a wealthy society like Australia.

I've been a Glen Waverley local my whole life and have seen residents continually priced out of the area as house prices climb and the price of groceries becomes more unaffordable. I'll fight for more public housing, having observed how necessary it is as people close to me have relied on it in order to escape terrible living conditions. I'll fight against the politics of the far-right with their racism and division. This is why I was part of the protests against Isaac Herzog, the president of Israel to make sure he wasn't welcome. When I see the vicious attacks on Muslims by One Nation I remember Pauline Hanson's comments about Australia 'being swarmed by Asians', targeting people like my parents, myself and the people of Glen Waverley. I want to send a message that racism should never be tolerated and I'll fight to defend migrant rights.

I think real change comes from the ordinary people that built this society. Working at a warehouse taught me it was the workers I could rely on, not the bosses. In parliament I would push for better wages, public housing, better conditions for migrants. I'll also continue organising community actions and supporting workers striking for better conditions. I'll fight for a socialist future that puts people before profit.

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## Toyo White
## Greens for Glen Waverley.

*Authorised by M. Shield, Suite 1.05, Level 1, 50 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC 3000*

I'm standing to represent the Glen Waverley district because I care deeply about our communities. I've spent my whole life as a local in Forest Hill. My parents raised me to live by community-minded values: to share what we have, be compassionate to others, and to fight for what I believe in. Glen Waverley deserves a Green campaign, and I'm intent on delivering it.

The key way our team wants to make a difference to the area is to show that better it possible; that Glen

*Continued on page 11*

**Return to Contents**

## Toyo White

(Continued from page 10)

Waverley could elect an MP who won't make empty promises, won't deprioritise residents behind corporate donors, and will fight for what we know our community needs. Regardless of whether we win, fighting in the way we have can, I hope, prove that politics can be done differently and make Glen Waverley expect more from its representatives.

If I had to prioritise key issues in my campaign, it would be the climate, housing, and schools. Glen Waverley's residents come from all corners of our planet, and we therefore know what the climate crisis looks like. Additionally, as a particularly mortgage-stressed part of Melbourne, the lack of affordable housing and the bite of stamp duty has consistently come up in conversations with residents. Lastly, our schools deserve so much better than systemic underfunding and collapsing facilities. Fully-funding our public schools is an absolute priority.

# Hawthorn



## Clive Crosby
## Labor Candidate for Hawthorn

CLIVE is a Hawthorn local who believes everyone deserves the opportunity to get ahead.

That's why Clive is backing Labor's plan to make renting fairer, faster, and more affordable - including banning rental bidding, no-fault evictions, and removing fees on rental apps and platforms.

As a regular public transport user Clive knows how important reliable and accessible services are. Building from Labor's free PT for under 18s and for seniors on the weekend, Clive is backing half-price public transport and more train services for the Belgrave and Lilydale lines, saving money and time for the community, as well as keeping a lid on fuel demand for everyone else.

Clive will get things done for Hawthorn.



## Shima IBUKI,
## Independent for Hawthorn

*Authorised by Shima Ibuki, Independent for Hawthorn 526 Riversdale Rd, Camberwell, Vic*

I'M Shima Ibuki, and I'm standing as your Independent candidate for Hawthorn because our community deserves a strong local voice in Parliament.

Perhaps you've seen me and my volunteers around the community, listening to what matters most to you?

I'm a longtime resident and raised my family here. As Deputy Mayor and Boroondara Councillor, I've focused on getting things done. I helped build a climate action plan that is electrifying Council buildings and cutting emissions. I served on Boroondara's first Social and Affordable Housing Committee. I fought to protect heritage precincts from overdevelopment and helped secure heritage protection for local homes. I helped

*Continued on page 12*
Return to Contents

## Shima IBUKI,

(Continued from page 11)

improve community consultation on Boroondara's budget to give residents a stronger voice in Council's spending priorities and delivered a surplus.

That is how I will make a difference in Parliament. I listen first, work across differences and follow through.

Hawthorn's issues are my issues. I will fight for:

- Relief from cost of living pressures
- Safer streets, with visible policing and early intervention
- Affordable housing that protects neighbourhood liveability
- A stronger community voice in planning decisions
- A timely transition to cheaper, cleaner renewable energy
- Responsible economic management, including legislated debt targets
- Properly funded state schools
- Victoria's historic Treaty with First Nations people

As an Independent, I answer only to you – not a party.



## Kylie Rocha
## Australian Greens Victoria
## Hawthorn district

*Authorised by M. Shield, 1.05/50 Queen St, Melbourne, 3000*

I'VE lived in the local area for 15 years and I know our community is vibrant, diverse and compassionate. We want action on the environment, real solutions to housing affordability, and investment in the public services that ensure everyone can live a dignified life. Our current representation isn't meeting this moment.

The Greens will make housing more affordable with rent controls and cuts to stamp duty, cut grocery costs through publicly owned supermarkets, and lower energy bills by helping renters and owner-occupiers electrify.

Most importantly, we'll tackle the root cause: getting big corporate and billionaire donations out of politics, so politicians answer to us, not their donors.

As an engineer I've worked on both sides of the energy transition, from coal-fired power stations in the Latrobe Valley to automating manufacturing lines for Tesla electric vehicles in California.

When I asked why climate action wasn't progressing in Australia, I learnt how fossil fuel companies use political donations to the major parties to tip the scales in their favour. I joined the Greens because we are proudly people-powered and we don't accept money from big corporations and billionaires.

As your MP for Hawthorn I'll join a team of Greens representatives who will work hard to make life easier for the many, not the wealthy few, and make big corporations pay their fair share to fund the services we need and deserve.

*The Reporter* October 26, 1923

### Burwood Road Tram.

Auburn Progress Association requested the Hawthorn Council Wednesday evening to urge on the Tramway Board to have a tramway along Burwood road constructed. Cr. Chalmers pointed out that at the previous meeting Cr. Rigby and himself had been appointed to wait upon the chairman of the Board, and find out the exact position. When an opportunity presented itself the interview would take place. It was decided to notify the association to this effect, and also to point out the procedure that must be followed before the Board would have power to have the tramway constructed. It was mentioned that the council had never missed an opportunity of advancing the claims of Burwood road to consideration in this matter.

Return to Contents



## Jackie Carter
## The Greens for Kew

I'VE built a life for myself in our community and have worked for over 20 years as an IT professional in the pharmaceutical sector. I didn't come from a political family, but as I progressed through adulthood I realised that the state of the world was getting worse, our supposed leaders weren't acting, and no one was coming to save us. We deserve politicians who truly work for us, not their wealthy donors and vested interests. The Greens don't take corporate donations, we're entirely funded by people like you.



## David Sun
## ALP (Victorian Branch)

I am standing for Parliament because I believe local representation should be about serving the community, listening to people and delivering real results.

As a parent, community leader and experienced IT executive, I bring more than 20 years of experience in strategic planning, governance and delivering major projects, alongside years of service to our community. Through co-founding and leading a youth symphony orchestra, I have worked closely with families, schools, volunteers and multicultural communities, helping create opportunities for young people to thrive.

I want every child to have the best start in life. I want families to have access to quality healthcare close to home. I want our community to benefit from reliable public transport, vibrant neighbourhoods and a strong local economy.

The Labor Government has a strong record of delivering for Victorian families, including Free Kinder, Free TAFE, 121 new schools and 12 upgraded hospitals.

We have also made public transport free for children and half-price for commuters. If re-elected, Labor will deliver Free Dental, cap public transport fares and recruit 1,500 additional police officers to keep Victorians safe.

I believe the people of Kew deserve a representative who is accessible, accountable and committed to being a strong voice for them on Spring Street.

I am ready to listen, work hard and deliver for our community.

Return to Contents



## Sophie Torney
## Independent for Kew

*Authorised by Sophie Torney, 127 High Street, Kew. Email: info@sophietorney.com.au*

I'M standing for Parliament because I believe Kew is at its best when local people help shape its future. As a councillor and former mayor of Boroondara, I've learned how to turn community priorities into action. I'll bring that experience to Parliament and work with whoever forms government to deliver for Kew.

As former chair of the Accountability Round Table, I've worked with integrity experts on how to tackle corruption. The Liberals set up IBAC without the powers it needed. Labor had 12 years to fix it and didn't. My 10-point integrity plan sets out the reforms Victoria needs. In a hung parliament, implementing that plan would be a condition of guaranteeing supply.

As mayor, I oversaw Boroondara's 10-year financial plan. If councils can plan a decade ahead, so can Victoria. I'll push for 10-year budget projections and public, independent assessments of major projects before funding is committed.

On climate and energy, I'll push for Victoria to move faster towards net zero and a fully renewable electricity grid, with the storage we need as coal plants close. I oppose new fossil fuel projects and will push for electrification subsidies to help low- and middle-income households get off gas and cut their bills.

In Kew, I'll give communities a say in where new homes go and what services support them. I'll also defend Victoria's Treaty against any attempt to repeal it.

# Ringwood



## Prue Cutts
## Independent Candidate for Ringwood

I'M standing as an Independent for Ringwood because our community deserves a voice in State Parliament focused on people, not party politics.

Ringwood is personal to me. I grew up in Heathmont, where my family home was for 23 years, worked in the Heathmont shops and at Eastland, and have lived and been involved across the district. From playing tennis at Blackburn and Heatherdale to raising my son in Nunawading and Mitcham, my family and I have been part of this community for many years.

I bring ten years' experience as an elected Whitehorse Councillor, including twice serving as Deputy Mayor. In that role, I have worked with all levels of government to advocate for our community and deliver projects. Before local government, I was a primary and secondary school teacher, and a psychologist and careers counsellor.

As an Independent, I will uphold integrity, scrutinise government decisions, challenge wasteful spending and work constructively with whoever forms government. I want the Maroondah Hospital redevelopment restored as a priority in the next State health budget, after it was deprioritised in the last term of government. I will also advocate for a permanent home for Whitehorse SES, which has occupied a temporary site for 25 years.

I will bring a Ringwood-first lens to every decision, with integrity, accountability and responsible financial management guiding my approach.

***Return to Contents***



## Jack Gardner
## Victorian Socialists for Ringwood

I'M Jack, and I'm the Victorian Socialists candidate for Ringwood in the coming state election. I'm a bartender, a student and a local community activist.

I grew up with a single mother and two brothers. Watching my mother work long hours in aged care and struggle to raise her sons by herself taught me a deep anger about inequality in our society, and a determination to fix it.

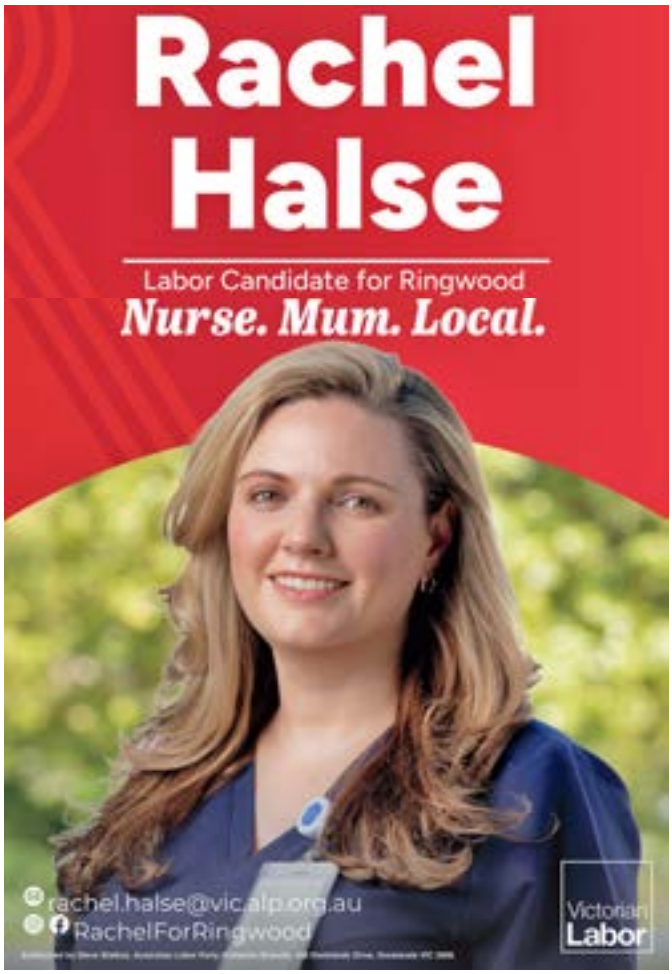
When I was 19, I was elected as a union delegate at Australia Post. There I learned how to fight for my workmates. I was part of campaigns to win higher wages, secure better treatment from managers and get everyone out of the offices during Covid-19.

I've been involved in campaigns to shut down the dangerous Borral Quarry in Montrose, to stop the privatisation of public spaces in Ringwood and to close the weapons factories in Melbourne's east that supply Israel's genocide in Palestine.

I stand for parliament because [I believe in] justice for Palestine, higher wages and secure housing for workers, and fighting racism and the far right.

I think real change in society comes from us. If elected I will fight the professional politicians in parliament on housing, the environment, wages and social justice. Then I will be a part of organizing community actions, solidarity with workers' strikes, and political movements to win the life we deserve. If we want a society worth living in, we have to build it ourselves. No one is coming to save us except us. We need to build a socialist movement that can take on the rich, the banks, the property developers and the politicians.

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I'M Rachel Halse, I'm a local, a mum to two young boys, an emergency nurse and I'm asking for your vote.

As a nurse and a mum, I know how much families rely on good hospitals, schools and transport. That's why I'm proud of what Labor has delivered: we've hired more than 40,000 healthcare workers, made record investment in local schools andremoved the level crossings at Bedford Road and Dublin Road here in Ringwood.

Under new Premier Ben Carroll, Labor is going in a new direction:

- Integrity: The Royal Commission into the Construction Sector is up and running
- Crime: We'll hire an extra 1500 police, reopen police stations and take knives off the streets by giving police stop and search powers
- Economy: Stopping unnecessary government spending and lowering taxes

But I know there's more to do. Labor and I will deliver:

- Free dental for all adults and children
- $30 caps on weekly road tolls and public transport fares
- Upgrades for Marlborough Primary School and Norwood Secondary College
- Sporting upgrades at H.E. Parker Reserve, Jubilee Park and Norwood Sporting Club

I hope I can rely on your support so Labor can keep delivering for our community.

Return to Contents



## Amy Mills
## The Greens for Ringwood

I'M a disability support worker, qualified dietitian and renter who brings lived experience, empathy and advocacy to everything I do. In Ringwood, people are anxious about housing, cost of living, access to mental health care and the growing impacts of climate change. From bushfire risk and the loss of tree canopy, to neglected public spaces, we need policy that addresses the issues of our community. I'm running to help restore hope, push for fair rent and homelessness prevention, protect our local environment, and ensure public resources are spent where they genuinely improve wellbeing and community life.



## Dr Lyndon Walker
## Animal Justice Party for Ringwood

*Authorised by L. Walker, Animal Justice Party, Ground Floor, 470 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne 3004*

### 1. Why are you standing for election to the Victorian Parliament?

I'm standing because I believe animals deserve a stronger voice in our political and social institutions. We need to move beyond treating animals simply as resources and towards a society that recognises their intrinsic value and treats them with compassion and respect. I also believe that the state government can do more to protect our environment and improve outcomes for people. I want to help turn these values into meaningful, evidence-informed policy and lasting change.

### 2. How will you make a difference?

I bring more than 25 years of experience in research, education and statistical consulting, with a PhD in statistics and sociology. My career has centred on understanding complex issues, evaluating what works and helping organisations make better decisions. I also bring practical governance and environmental advocacy experience. I would use these skills to scrutinise policy, advocate for better protections and hold the government accountable for its decisions.

### 3. What are your key interests or issues?

Animal welfare and protection are my primary interests, alongside stronger environmental protection, biodiversity and habitat conservation. I'm particularly concerned about the impacts of human activity on wildlife and marine ecosystems. I'm also interested in evidence-based government, better public services and ensuring decisions consider their impacts on animals, people and the environment.

*The Reporter* May 11, 1923

### SNUBBED BY A QUEEN.

It seems always to have been true that a pioneer of any invention which is afterwards to become indispensable must suffer misfortune, and perhaps even perish, before his creation can win the recognition it deserves. This was the case with the steel loom for knitting stockings, invented in the sixteenth century by William Lee.

Lee took his invention to Queen Elizabeth, but she withheld her patronage. Again he improved his machine, so that it would knit silk stockings – the Queen's love of silk hosiery had been one of her chief reasons for disinterest – but again he was disappointed at not receiving a royal grant.

Things went no better under James I., so he went to France, and when success was almost within his grasp at the French Court the assassination of the king balked him again. Broken-hearted, he died, but in the next century Oliver Cromwell granted a patent on his device to the Company of Framework Knitters.

Return to Contents

## The next edition

The next edition of *Eastsider News* will be our special Christmas issue in December.

We will be accepting articles for the December issue until 20 November 2026. We love hearing from you at all times and we will continue post your articles, newsworthy material, stories and other content on our website. Whenever you are inspired, please send us your contributions, written and visual to eastsidernews1@gmail.com

We encourage you to send us photographs and images that relate to your contribution. Send them as a separate jpg/jpeg file and to get adequate resolution, please try to make them at least 250dpi and preferably larger at 300dpi or more.

## Your opportunity to get published

We encourage our readers to also become writers for *Eastsider News*. Guidelines are available on our website at https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/guidelines/ When writing your article, please consider our editorial values at www.eastsidernews.org.au/editorial-values/

If you have any queries, email us at eastsidernews1@gmail.com

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## Guidelines for writing articles

Guidelines for writing for *Eastsider News* are on our website at www.eastsidernews.org.au/ All contributions should be emailed to eastsidernews1@gmail.com We will always acknowledge receipt.

In summary, we prefer articles of no more than 600 words or 250 words for letters to the editor. Submit your article as a word document and images as a jpg. Editors will usually accept material as written, but may make changes to improve clarity, readability, or focus. Please be respectful, non-defamatory and factual in your writing and choice of topic. As a community newspaper, we seek material of local interest or with a broader context if relevant.

**Contact Eastsider News**

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