



This edition of the Voices of Malvern Newsletter looks different.

Yes, we have a logo and instantly recognisable colour scheme – purple wisdom.

And if that is not enough to get you engaged, we want your help to raise awareness of Voices of Malvern at several community engagement events across the electorate.

And there's much more new to enjoy, digest and take part in.

Please, read on.

## Donate here, now

Voices of Malvern now has a bank account where our supporters can contribute financially to our campaign.

In the coming weeks and months we'll require funds for leaflets, signs, tee-shirts and targeted online advertising to increase our visibility in the community.

From little things, big things grow, so any contribution is welcome.

And in the current climate - as a result of a High Court decision which set aside Victoria's political donation laws - there are no legislative guardrails on how much money can be donated to political campaigns.

This situation is currently under review by the State Government with new donation laws to be rushed into Parliament in the current sitting session and before the election on November 28.

But in the meantime, any contributions can be made to **Voices of Malvern Inc.**

**BSB 633000**

**Account number: 243211158**

We are working to build our presence online with a website not far away.

And you can find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61589352115577>

If you are on Facebook, please follow the page and share it to encourage potential supporters to become volunteers.

## First time Independent a real alternative in Nepean

On Saturday, the by-election for the state seat of Nepean was retained by the Liberal Party, but with significantly reduced primary vote. One Nation took votes from the Liberal Party, recording a primary vote of 24.7 per cent at time of writing.

Pleasingly, first time independent candidate Tracey Hutchison polled 21.3 per cent and is expected to come second after preferences – encouraging her to re-commit and run again in November.

To contact the Editor, please email to: [hello@voicesofmalvern.org](mailto:hello@voicesofmalvern.org)



## Meeting with Member for Kooyong, Monique Ryan MP

On Monday most of our committee had the opportunity to meet with Independent Member for Kooyong Monique Ryan in her electoral office.

Dr Ryan has been engaged in two successful federal election campaigns and her insights and knowledge of what is required for a community independent to succeed can translate directly into our State campaign.

It was an informative meeting which provided us with many ideas and worthwhile suggestions. We thank Dr Ryan and her staff for their support and encouragement.

## Over to you! Community outreach at local sporting grounds

Another round of Street Corner Chats will take place on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**.

Teams of two will ask members of the community about issues they feel should be addressed by our next State Government.

We plan to do these chats at sporting ovals across the electorate where residents will be watching their kids playing a variety of sports. We'll be asking for around 90 minutes of your time during the late morning/early afternoon to engage with Malvern voters.

You'll be provided with feedback forms to prompt voters about the issues that are affecting them.

**Can you help?** Please contact Christina Zigouras 0422 922 407 or [christinazigouras@gmail.com](mailto:christinazigouras@gmail.com) before May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Common Threads and Treaty

Our committee member Dr Ruth Abbey recently took part in an online forum with Common Threads, a community group that supports Victoria's treaty with First Nations people. Around 100 people took part in the virtual meeting.

There is more information here about Common Threads: <https://www.commonthreads.org.au/>

The group is building grass roots support for Victoria's treaty and collaborate with groups that already support this, as well as prepare for the coming State election.

Common Threads is non-profit, non-partisan, and independent.

They are concerned about the current Liberal Party plan to revoke treaty with Victoria's First Nations and about the rise in support for One Nation.

According to Common Threads, most Victorians support treaty - especially younger voters - but many remain uninformed. Therefore, it is important to encourage community conversations

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about the importance of Treaty. Support for the Voice was particularly strong in seats around us including Kew, Hawthorn and Caulfield, with similar levels of support for Treaty.

Common Threads are planning to host candidates' forums about treaty from September to November.

For anyone interested in this issue for themselves, there is a petition to Defend Treaty here:

<https://act.togetherfortreaty.org.au/petitions/wilson-dont-wreck-treaty>

## A special event – Does our media help or hinder democracy?

The Voices of Chisholm already have their eye on the Federal Election due in 2028.

Sue Barrett & Rachel Withers will be taking part in a forum on Tuesday 12th May at the Matthew Flinders Hotel, 667 Warrigal Rd, Chadstone, to discuss: Does Our Media Help or Hinder Democracy?

Join us for an evening of lively debate, speeches, a Q&A session and more.

We'll be there, seeking volunteers to become involved in Voices of Malvern.

A number of the committee and supporters have been out letter boxing the electorate with flyers about this event. If you've received one, put the date in your diary and we'll see you there.

\*If you don't want food, arrive 7:30pm for presentations only.

VOICES OF CHISHOLM PRESENTS

**TUESDAY  
12TH  
MAY**

**6:30-9:00**

Join us for an evening of lively debate where we discuss...

# Does Our Media Help Or Hinder Democracy?

Special Guest Speakers

**Sue Barrett**  
Voices Of Goldstein - Democracy Watch AU

**Rachel Withers**  
Freelance writer & journalist (Crikey, The Politics)

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