

## VOICES OF MALVERN NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Dear Friends,

Our Inaugural Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> was a lively gathering of committed and enthusiastic people wanting to see politics done differently in the State of Victoria.

The meeting resolved to proceed with an ***Independent Campaign in Malvern*** at this year's State election.

8 attending persons offered to join 2 absentees on the Campaign Committee and several others registered as field volunteers. We are up and going!

Your Committee members are people of diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, which augurs well for balanced and well-informed future decisions. They are:

Ruth Abbey, Christina Zigouras, Ed Smith, Anthony Mannering, Peter Sloan, Jem Twitt, Scott Samuel, David Williams, Bram Alexander and Remy Favre.

### **Early Miles**

We are on a steep learning curve and there is no time to lose! Since March 4<sup>th</sup>, Committee members focused their attention on establishing the necessary regulatory and internal structures. Another focus is to liaise with established like-minded groups. This will save time and effort as we benefit from their experiences.

The State electorate of Malvern straddles the two Federal seats of Kooyong and Chisholm. We established contact with both Voices of Kooyong and Voices of Chisholm, met with the President of Voices for Hawthorn and the initiators of the new Voices of Ashwood.

We received support and encouragement along the way from Brent Hodgson of the Community Independent Project.

### **Our Decision on Candidate Selection**

1. We resolved to be true to the philosophy, values and practices of the Voices Of Movement: true Community representation, independence, transparency, accountability, a fair go for all, and meaningful action on climate change. Candidates will be required to adhere to these values.
2. We will seek to identify key State issues by asking the Malvern community.
3. The candidate selection process will involve a call for applications, preliminary candidate vetting by the Committee, and ultimate candidate selection through a vote by our volunteers and supporters.

## Other Decisions

1. We determined Committee decision-making rules and procedures.
2. We appointed Interim Office Bearers:
  - President: Remy Favre
  - Treasurer: Christina Zigouras
  - Secretary and Fundraising: Ed Smith
  - Marketing and Media: Bram Alexander, Jem Twitt
  - Volunteers Training and Onboarding: Anthony Mannering
  - Data and IT: Scott Samuel
  - Web site: Jem Twitt
3. We chose Royal Purple as our Campaign colour.

## Work in Progress

We are currently:

- Working on job descriptions for office bearers
- Reviewing alternative constitutions, incorporation documents, etc.
- Educating ourselves on Campaigning and how to get elected.
- Reviewing current State Planning strategies

## Over to You!

Do you have ideas and suggestions, wishes and objections that you would like to share with us?

Examples of topics where we would love your input:

- How can we recruit volunteers and supporters?
- How should the Committee communicate with everyone involved?
- Ideas for fundraising?
- How shall we keep our people involved and motivated?
- Any specific groups of people that we should approach, and how?
- How can we identify and attract the best candidates?

Please send all your feedback to [hello@voicesofmalvern.org](mailto:hello@voicesofmalvern.org)

Thank you for your interest and support. We hope to catch up soon!

The Voices of Malvern Committee