

# Candidates under the spotlight

By Charlene Macaulay

The Committee for Wyndham is calling on the area's state election candidates to step up and declare their intentions before voters head to the polls in November.

Barbara McLure from the Committee for Wyndham said the organisation would be hosting a candidate forum on November 1, three weeks out from the November 24 state election, to allow candidates contesting the

seats of Werribee, Tarneit and Altona to speak directly with voters and to share their vision and plans for the seat they hope to occupy.

It's the first time this type of forum has been held in Wyndham prior to a state election. The committee had originally planned to run another forum in June, but has scrapped those plans because a number of potential candidates have yet to formally state their intentions.

Ms McLure said Wyndham was well behind in government support and funding, with the

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area's phenomenal growth exacerbating traffic and other infrastructure needs.

“Our role in the community is to advocate for Wyndham, and that's what our members want us to do,” she said.

“I think we've got to give candidates the opportunity to say what they're going to do for Wyndham, I think that's really very important. Wyndham people are really interested in Wyndham. Don't give us the global stuff, just tell me what you're going to do for Wyndham.”

Ms McLure said the committee had invited Premier Daniel Andrews and Opposition Leader Matthew Guy to meet its members and provide any policies that have been developed for, and are relevant to, Wyndham.

## Diversity by the book

Accountants aren't boring – just ask the team at Bookit Bookkeeping.

Business founder Karen Kennedy says she and her colleagues work with more than 130 clients in 50 different industries.

“But we treat everyone exactly the same,” Mrs Kennedy said. “Some people want to go into business to be a sole trader – they're just as important to me as someone with 50 stores.”

Mrs Kennedy said she enjoyed helping businesses and being able to make a difference for them.

“I say to people, ‘I've never worked a day in my life, because I love what I do,’” she said.

Mrs Kennedy said she also liked being part of the “close-knit, amazing team” at Bookit Bookkeeping.

One of her team members, account manager Marilyn Gauci, has been with the business for almost four years.

“Some people might think accountants are boring, but we're not,” Mrs Gauci said.

Bookit Bookkeeping entered the Wyndham

Business Awards last year and was named a finalist in the Professional Services – Small category.

This year, the business has again entered in the Professional Services Category.

*Star Weekly* is a media partner of the Wyndham Business Awards.

Entries and nominations are open until June 8, with award categories including home-based; logistics; manufacturing; new and emerging; personal services; professional services; trade and construction; people's choice; arts, experiences and hospitality; business person of the year; young business person of the year; mayoral award; and the prestigious business of the year.

Details: [wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://wyndham.vic.gov.au)

Alesha Capone

Mel Morley, Marilyn Gauci, Karen Kennedy, Michelle Petty, Zada Dedic and Elissa Valletta. (Joe Mastroianni)



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