



Announcing MICHAEL NUGENT as candidate for BUNURONG WARD

21 August 2020

Michael Nugent, community-oriented chartered accountant with family roots in Wonthaggi, has announced his candidacy for Bunurong Ward at the October council elections.

Community, economy, and nature are all high on Michael's radar. "Each one is so important that any significant decision Council makes must take account of all three in equal measure."

As a chartered accountant with an economics degree he has solid credentials in financial accountability and can help improve the rigour of Shire finances.

Until 2016, Michael was also vice chair of the Global Sustainability Standards Board. "For over 20 years I've specialized in helping organisation combine financial reporting with measuring and reporting on their social and environmental impacts, balancing my work in finance with care for the community and the environment. I want to use that expertise to help deliver for Bass Coast."

"My grandparents met and married in newly-founded Wonthaggi during the 1910s. My father grew up here. I was born in Geelong but moved back to Bass Coast, to Cape Paterson, 3 years ago because I always knew Bass Coast offers the very best of regional living."

Since moving here, Michael has thrown himself into the local community. He co-founded the Wonthaggi Food Collective and the Bass Coast Climate Action Network, participates in the library's ethics discussion group, and tends plots in Wonthaggi's two community gardens.

He is a committee member of the Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association and Save the Holden Bushlands, is convenor of the Bass Coast Greens and until recently was a director of Grow Lightly. He is also a member of many other community groups, like Friends of Inverloch Library, the South Gippsland Conservation Society and Mitchell House Neighbourhood Centre.

So, what convinced Michael to run for Council?

"I've been thinking about what our growing population means for the Shire. Bass Coast's population is expected to grow by over 30% in the next 16 years. Cardinia and Casey will grow even faster and increase the pressure on our towns, our coastline and our farms."

"That growth will coincide with increasing financial constraints plus the inevitable changes our climate has in store for us, like erosion of the beach at Inverloch.

"Council will have to be on the front foot through all of this to avoid overdevelopment, preserve our beautiful natural environment and ensure economic prosperity".

These are challenges Michael feels well equipped to work with the community on solving, and invites you to find out more on Facebook @NugentForBass.

Michael Nugent
Candidate for Bass Coast
Bunurong Ward

Community, economy and nature
We can ... we must, do them together

