

## Port Phillip Council candidate questionnaire

Candidate name	Jane Touzeau
Candidate for which ward	Canal
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Which political party are you a member	None.
What are your qualifications	BA Community Development, Master of Education
What is your current employment	Councillor
How long have you lived in Port Phillip	40 years, 33 in Elwood
Which ward do you live in	Canal
What is your expertise that you bring to Council	Community Development, community perspective, adult learning, 8 years on Council
What are your personal policy priorities	Environment, community building, caring for this place. In regard to <b>flooding</b> , over the past two terms I have advocated in every relevant forum for the need for integrated water management at a catchment level. Retaining water upstream has four benefits – one is that less water would travel downstream to Elwood in a flood situation; the second is that more water can be retained upstream where the conditions enable water sensitive urban design, thus benefitting parks, open space, playing grounds; the third is reduced consumption of potable water as stormwater irrigated parks won't need watering; and the fourth is cleaning the water before it enters the bay, reducing the pollutant load. The Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum (representing the local governments that make up the Elster Creek catchment) has agreed to focus on the catchment, thus enabling co-operation between neighbouring local governments. Catchments are now included in the current draft review of the Marine and Coastal act (for water quality reasons), as is recognition of climate change. We now have the opportunity to build a framework for co-operation across the catchment, and I am keen for CoPP to find ways to work together with our upstream neighbours and Melbourne Water, ( the Catchment Management Authority and the owner of water assets including the Elwood Canal).
What inspired you to stand for Council	8 years ago – realising that the Triangle saga could not have got to where it was without a failure of governance. With a mindset of good governance, and respect for the possibility of reform through the processes of democratic local government, campaigning for Council seemed not only the right thing to do, but necessary.
What is your policy on council issues relating to	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council governance</li> </ul>	Ongoing effort for good governance essential – part of the above alluded to failure of governance had been the downgrading of the independent Audit and Risk committee. This committee has been strengthened in the past 2 terms of council. Respect.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council finances</li> </ul>	Public money Needs to be well managed. There are multiple checks and balances at CoPP, and a high degree of transparency.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council rates</li> </ul>	Rate system is set by state Government, based on property valuation. Property values continue to rise due to the attraction of living here. Rates go back out into the community through services and raise quality of life for our citizens.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social housing</li> </ul>	Very important to our city to share the benefits of living here and maintain a healthy social mix. City of Port Phillip leads local governments in Australia in support for social housing, and the intention of the “in our backyard” housing policy is to continue this.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Development</li> </ul>	While increased density offers many benefits, neighbourhood character needs to be protected. Council is a Responsible Authority under the Planning and Environment Act, and council decisions can be subjected under the Act to both VCAT and Ministerial decision. The world’s, and Melbourne’s, population has doubled over the last 30 years and our city is under pressure to increase density for good planning reasons – proximity to employment, transport infrastructure etc. We have good local policy, but local government does not have ultimate planning power.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triangle project</li> </ul>	We have been through a thorough process of co-design to establish a widely accepted outcome for the Triangle site – public open space, cultural institution, out of sight parking, and some commercial activity. However development of the site capable of realising this vision requires a significant investor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisherman’s Bend planning</li> </ul>	Council needs to remain in the process to advocate for future residents, despite having only minimal authority. This Urban Renewal Area was fatally flawed from its overnight declaration as a Capital City Zone, and council needs to consistently focus on its future liveability, in an effort to ameliorate development driven opportunism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts &amp; entertainment</li> </ul>	The Arts are highly valued by our community. It is valid for local government to invest in cultural development, and CoPP has a significant art collection and range of studios, venues and grant programs. Entertainment is also important to residents and visitors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport &amp; recreation</li> </ul>	Health and wellbeing are important to any community, and in CoPP although playing areas and facilities are limited by our geography and urbanisation, Council works to ensure facilities are shared to optimal capacity, while still preserving playing surfaces etc. This is a walking city – and walking is good for us!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community services</li> </ul>	In a diverse community, a range of services is necessary to support the vulnerable, isolated and needy to achieve social justice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aged care services</li> </ul>	Local government is not an aged care provider, however Council supports community based aged care providers with discounted rent. Council also supports various community care programs, which are significant to older residents. Changes in state and federal funding models would impact the traditional delivery of various services, and officers are currently working to understand impacts in an effort to continue these valued services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child care services</li> </ul>	Most local governments got out of providing child care a long time ago, while CoPP has maintained council run centres, and continues to support community managed, council owned,

	centres. This is an expensive exercise, but important for community building and for ensuring care for vulnerable children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLBTIQ</li> </ul>	GLBTIQ people have been at home in our diverse community for a long time. Acceptance of all is a sign of a healthy community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Kilda festival</li> </ul>	The history of the Festival shows many changes in our community. In the past two terms of council a lot of effort has been made to organise this Festival better so that it is now a happy, peaceful, celebration of music and this beautiful place. It is well organised, clean, alcohol is contained, and it is now almost totally incident free, greatly enjoyed, and a boon to local businesses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads</li> </ul>	This is an old city, and there are now more cars in it than roadspace to house them. Roads are expensive to maintain and necessary, but our city will be less liveable the more cars there are. The car share program is well-supported, more people are cycling, walking, using public transport. Cities around the world are trying to reduce traffic.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubbish</li> </ul>	Overwhelming! Council brought the street and beach cleaning service back in-house after years of a joint venture with Stonnington following on from the “compulsory competitive tendering” days. The service is now much improved, but the vast amount of waste manufactured in the plastic age is the real problem. Less rubbish is being dumped on our nature strips due to “illegal dumping” signs/taping of rubbish program, but the volume is still high.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council website and use of technology for communication</li> </ul>	These areas have been much improved starting from quite a low base 8 years ago.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council response and finalisation of complaints</li> </ul>	A lot of work has gone into council/community communications over the last 8 years, and some effective systems introduced particularly since the organisation adopted a “community first” mindset.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing community</li> </ul>	Youth leadership program has been a great success over a number of years, and young leaders from many different schools are brought together by council youth team with inspirational results. Enabling such events as farmers markets, and small grants supporting groups around their interest base, supports others to create community. Linking Neighbours brings older people together for coffee in many parts of the CoPP and is very popular. Professional development and training sessions bring local businesses together productively.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>	<p>Over the last 8 years as a councillor I have seen the organisation go from being one damaged by failure of governance, through restoration of confidence, to one that now better communicates with the community, better husbands its resources, has a management team capable of a higher order of thinking and planning, and quite high levels of satisfaction reported in the quarterly surveys. As a councillor, I feel proud of having contributed to this.</p> <p>I feel there is a crisis of self-confidence in the western world as private consumerism overwhelms the public good, as politicians make false claims – glaring examples being Brexit, Trump – miseducate the public, and abuse the public trust by acting as</p>

agents for vested interests. This diminishes democracy – and as I say, if we do not govern ourselves, who will?

We have to start somewhere, and here in Copp, we councillors started with ourselves 8 years ago. The two councils of which I have been part have taken our role seriously, have tried to govern well, have listened, have worked together to understand issues, find the right questions and the right directions. We have managed to solve some long term issues – e.g. saving the Palais from falling into disrepair, and a well managed, more coherent council organisation. Democracy is a serious concept, and to be successful a higher level of civic literacy and a broader spread of community development values is needed. We are all citizens, and we need to balance our responsibilities with our rights. We live in a beautiful place, and in peace. I feel if our little council can do its best, then maybe others will notice and thus influence the spread of values of good democratic governance more widely.

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As such, we are seeking your cooperation and giving you the opportunity to inform our members, supporters and voters, about you, your inspiration to be a councillor and your policies on many issues and questions which we have obtained.

Your responses will be collated, without any editorial comment nor correction, and posted on our website at, [www.unchain.org.au](http://www.unchain.org.au) posted on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/unchaininc/>.

Our members and email list supporters will then be alerted to your responses to inform them of how to locate your responses on the many issues raised in the questionnaire.

All candidates will be given the opportunity to respond with your response or lack of response communicated to the voters in the election.

Please complete the survey and email your response to [unchaininc@gmail.com](mailto:unchaininc@gmail.com) by XXXXXXXXXX.