

Hi there,

I feel the survey was a bit bland and didn't really give me an opportunity to reveal much of myself. I thought I'd just copy the "about me" page from my website as I feel that covers more about me.

I've been doing back to back surveys so I really do apologise for the brevity of my responses.

I feel I need to send as I am getting disrupted on a Friday arvo at work and I know it has to be in by 6pm.

Cheers and thanks for taking the time to want to get to know me,

Ruth Allen

My name is Ruth Allen and I have been a resident and a trader on [Fitzroy St, St Kilda](#) for almost 30 years. My 7 year old son, Billy, attends the local Primary School([SKIPPS](#)), he loves playing basketball with his buddies from school at [MSAC](#) and footy with [South Melbourne Districts](#), we go to [South Melbourne Market](#) every week, support local shops wherever possible, I sail at [Royal Melbourne Yacht Club](#) and am a member at [St Kilda Bowlo](#).

Consequently my life revolves around [City of Port Phillip](#).

My reach and involvement in our community is long serving, wide and diverse, which means I am able to serve a broad cross-section of people. Small business ownership, especially during tough times such as the last few years on Fitzroy St, means I am determined, hardworking and resilient. I owned Tolarno Bar and Bistro with Iain Hewitson for 15 years, and then Barney Allen's for ten years with Iain and my brother, Barney; we only sold earlier this year. This time as a trader gave me so much joy; the staff, customers and whole community were my day to day life. It was a privilege to watch and participate in people meeting, celebrating, getting married, having children and enjoying life.

Along the way I studied a Masters of Business Administration, and opened and closed another bar called Phoenix in the city of Melbourne. I have volunteered over the years at Sacred Heart Mission, mentored young people through The Good Shepherd, and sat on boards such as Inner Eastern Learning Network, Fitzroy St Traders and St Kilda Tourism Board.

Anyone reading this may be sitting there saying I don't care what she has done, how can she help me? How can she make a difference to the City of Port Phillip?

I could bring to Council an in-depth knowledge of and ability to work with people gained from my extensive hospitality experience. My small business experience combined with my MBA mean that I understand how business operates. I am passionate about small business in this area and the effect that trade has on the vibrancy of a community. I know the community through many, so I believe I can be a genuinely representative voice.

I am not a politician, and don't pretend to know everything, but I do have the skills and desire to represent this valuable community. Throw in good old fashioned common sense and I think it's a good combination. I wish to be involved with a municipality which is supportive of all its constituents, and I want individuals and families to feel a sense of belonging and safety. Most of all, I undertake to listen