

**Barwon Heads Association
Ocean Grove Community Association**

**“Meet the candidates”
Community Forum
for state election 2014**

**Wednesday November 5th Monday 2014
Ocean Grove Bowling Club 7:00pm**

**REPORT
(in lieu of Minutes)**

Welcome & Summary Judith Brooks
Chair & Appreciation John Fendyk

Candidates Lisa Neville ALP, Ron Nelson Liberal and Brendon Peake Greens, shared their policies and attitudes to local issues influencing voters to an audience of 55 local residents. Jobs, infrastructure, police services, government funding cuts, roads and the environment were the main concerns of the candidates while education, cuts to TAFE, health and energy featured in the questions.

Lisa Neville announced two funding commitments, \$1.75million for Ocean Grove lights in Tuckfield Road and \$800,000 for pedestrian safety in Barwon Heads.

There was a strong presence from the ambulance paramedics and the CFA who asked pressing and detailed questions about their concerns at ambulance arrival times, roster allocations, and Occupational Health & Safety in cancer risks from fighting fires.

There was also an emphasis on the under-achieving performance of local state secondary schools, particularly in VCE, and the pressures they faced. All candidates agreed that it was a concern but had no specific plans to address the issue.

Local projects such as the need for a cultural centre in Ocean Grove and funding for walking tracks along the Bellarine Peninsula were also a feature of the questions from the floor.

Candidates remained after the main meeting to talk to local residents and answer further concerns.

JBrooks
President

Next Meeting December Christmas drinks TBA