



# LARA DENES

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## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House inc.

### Why did you nominate for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?

My children are getting older and I was looking for a way to contribute to my community.  
I have completed a few courses at SNH over the years and I have a keen interest in the development of the house and other courses.

### What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?

I will represent the local community as I have lived locally for over 20 years.  
I have a special interest in CALD community.  
I am passionate about life long learning and would encourage courses for all ages.

### What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?

I would like to see SNH have a visible online presence as well as advocate for its Members with Moreland Council.  
I am also interested in ensuring SNH is self funding through memberships, grants and fundraising to enable growth regardless of financial climate.

### Qualifications, Certifications and Associations

Bachelor of Youth Studies and Social Work.  
Advanced Diploma in Community Development.  
Member of Fundraising Institute of Australia.  
Business Director and Bookkeeper Skills.

### Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)

20 years experience in Community Development, Volunteer Development, Fundraising and Event Management.  
Current Committee of Governance member at SNH  
Parent Representative at St Oliver Plunkett Primary School, Parent Advisory Council.  
Life Long volunteer at heart.



# ANGELA COLLIER-GIOULEKAS

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## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House inc.

### Why did you nominate for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?

I am already a committee member and have thoroughly enjoyed this role, believing there is still much work to be done, particularly as we move towards a new phase of leadership (manager) and hopefully beyond Covid.

### What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?

I am particularly interested in a number of areas, interest groups including: communication, improving IT, enhancing and broadening the House's role within the community – particularly with youth, CALD and Aboriginal families.

I have a keen interest in all things Green and would love to be involved in the CoG's role in improving the House's policy in this regard. I am also very interested in how we maintain traditions - ensuring everything people love about the House, the culture, is maintained and encouraged how do we capture other voices, interest groups eg older people, single parent families, older men, - and lots to get involved in.

### What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?

I wish to achieve a greater sense of community for myself, SNH and for the CoG, the House. I would love to be able to walk around the community and for the general public to 'know' there is SNH. I still think there is a general lack of knowledge and understanding about Sussex NH.

I would hope my tenure achieves an implementation of systems and mechanisms which extend to safety, security and stability of the staff, community and CoG regarding risk management, IT and communication, ensuring there is an updated computer and software package to meet the needs of above; train the trainer..etc

### Qualifications, Certifications and Associations

Bachelor of Social Work - Cert IV TAE 2017 - Diploma of Family History 2017

### Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)

I work at both DET: LOOKOUT Centre as a Practice Lead for Children & Young People in out of home care while also working at DFFH: Child protection with various roles namely as Practice Leader working with children, families regarding identifying risk, improving outcomes for safety, stability and developmental needs for children and young people particularly for those in out of home care.



# RUTH ROBLES MCCOLL

## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House inc.

### Why did you nominate for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?

I served on the SNH Committee from 2007- 2010 and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to give back to my local community. I had to resign my position as chairperson of SNH when I accepted a job at Moreland City Council as it presented a potential conflict of interest.

I continued to be an avid supporter of the SNH and remained a member as well as having a keen interest in the developments of the house. In 2019, I rejoined the Committee and now I am renewing my commitment to serving the community as a member of the CoG

### What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?

I represent the local community through lived experience and local knowledge (having lived in Pascoe Vale ~15 years). I know the area well also, through my many years working for Moreland City Council and have an in depth

understanding of the history of the neighbourhood and, changing community needs.

I am passionate about diversity & inclusion and ensuring equity for people from all walks of life.

I believe in lifelong learning and community connectedness and have been around neighbourhood houses all my life.

### What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?

SNH is a thriving successful community of lifelong learning and my goal is to support this wonderful organisation to be sustainable for the long term.

I am keen to ensure that SNH is well represented with state & local govt bodies to ensure the needs of our community are considered during key decision making processes such as infrastructure master planning, budget allocations, community grants programs.

Financial sustainability is critical for non-profit organisations and I am certain I can support the SNH through my experience in financial management and risk assessment as well as commercial acumen and advocacy.

### QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

1.Senior infrastructure project & program management professional with strong leadership and relationship-building skills. Results focused and skilled at motivating diverse staff to meet organisational needs. 2.Member Institute of Public Administration Australia Vic. 3.Graduate Dip Project Management.

4.Advanced Diploma in Management.

### Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)

20+ years corporate and government sector experience (Macquarie Bank, NGV, Dept of Defence, Shell, Moreland Council, Moonee Valley Council, Melbourne Water) / I have extensive board governance experience, having served on non-profit community boards for over 20 years.

Recent volunteer work: Mentor, IPAA Peer Plus Mentoring Program/Mentor, Women@RMIT mentoring program / Treasurer, St Olivers Parents Association / St Olivers Parish Children's Liturgy leader / Group Chairman, 1st Strathmore Scouts (resigned when I started at MVCC).



# CLAIRE MARTIN

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## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House Inc.

### Why did you agree to be nominated for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?

After retiring from 30 years of full time employment in office administration, management and private assistant roles within the mental health sector of the health industry, where I gained a vast knowledge of management project structures, I realized that there was an opportunity to bring that expertise to the House and assist in maintaining the standing of SNH within the community in promoting programs and projects.

### What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?

I will continue to give ongoing support to the SNH by advocating for and being a representative of the House at Seminars, Focus Groups, Presentations and Fundraising opportunities. Also, in being part of the House offering the very best quality programs, projects and events to every member of the local community. Advocate for the different generations and multicultural diversity of the community surrounding the House community.

### What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?

To actively support the House in its endeavour to deliver interesting, and challenging programs and events to all the community.

### Qualifications, Certifications and Associations

Highly developed Office Management skills.  
Professional training in Human Resources, Public Relations/ Communications, and IT.  
Trained in, and implemented, a new electronic program to replace a paper based system of Critical Incident reporting for the Health Industry.  
Administering a large budget in a program supplying financial support to carers of clients with a mental illness.

### Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)

In 2007 I returned to a part time position in the mental health sector until 2016.  
At the same time until present, I became an active member and volunteer of the House, and joined the Committee of Governance, holding roles of Assistant Secretary, Secretary and Chair.



# PREET TOKI

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## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House Inc.

### Why did you agree to be nominated for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?

As a local resident for over 7 years I wanted to find a way to give back to our community as we collectively battle Covid-19. I'm passionate about our community maximizing the return from this great resource and feel my diversified skillset could enable the NH to thrive

### What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?

I aim to bring a balanced and levelheaded approach to the committee. As a father of 2 young kids and a migrant I would like to see the NH cater more to these groups in our community. The demographics in our community are changing and the NH has a great opportunity to lead with inclusivity and development and build upon the rich cultures we all share.

### What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?

On a personal level I would like to use the opportunity to meet other passionate individuals in the community. From a community perspective I would like to see the NH become the epicenter for personal and professional development for key stakeholders in our community.

### Qualifications, Certifications and Associations

Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors  
Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (CA).  
Keynote Speaker at Conferences held by Marcus Evans Group.

### Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)

Executive Lead – Young Sikh Professional Network (YSPN) – 2013 to 2020 (Unpaid). Role entailed creating the conditions for Sikhs to succeed and amplify their influence in the wider Australian community.  
Revenue Management Lead – Stanley, Black and Decker – 2021. Role's key focus is to enable the creation, execution, and evaluation of growth plans.  
Pricing Manager – Nufarm – 2018 – 2021.  
Demand Planning Manager – Nufarm – 2015 -2018.



# YVETTE JONES

## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House inc.

### Why did you agree to be nominated for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?

- I am a proud third generation Pascoe Valian with strong roots to the community.
- I was a member of SNH's "Girls Group" in the early 90s and have witnessed SNH grow and become the heartbeat of our community since then.
- I would like to be a part of a reputable establishment that gives so generously to its community.

### What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?

- Events, Marketing, Communications and Community Engagement.

### What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?

- Finding ways to better connect individuals through community learning, sports, social, educational and recreational opportunities.
- Delivering services to meet local needs; striving to improve quality of life and community wellbeing, especially post lockdown where isolation and mental health issues have been prevalent.
- Establish connections with council, local businesses and government to understand (any) future developments and how they may impact locals.
- Gain a greater understanding into the structure of Neighbourhood Houses and the impact they have on community.
- Overall, community connectedness, awareness and improving the quality of living for community members

### Qualifications, Certifications and Associations

Bachelor of Media & Communication (Public Relations)  
Creative Writing (Stage 1)  
Certificate IV in Project Management  
Certificate IV in Human Resources  
Certificate in Public Relations & Event Management  
Executive Certificate in Event Management  
Advanced Diploma of Business (Legal Practice)

### Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)

I have over 20 years working in various roles including Marketing and Communication, Branch Executive Officer (for a Go8 University), Law Clerk, Office Manager, Business Development and Human Resources.

In addition to my work experience, I spent over five years in the Middle East where I volunteered my time as Major Events and Excursions Co-ordinator and Newsletter publisher for Abu Dhabi Ladies Committee. I also assembled and provided care packages and organised recreational activities for Labour Camps members. Furthermore, I established an expatriate mothers group and engaged health care services to provide support and information to new mothers in the region.

Prior to the Middle East, I volunteered for various organisations including Brotherhood of St Laurence, Run for the Kids, Food and Wine Festival, Melbourne Jazz Festival and Able Art.





# ELISABETH TA

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## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House inc.

### **Why did you agree to be nominated for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?**

My parents, who are both refugees, instilled the importance of giving back to the community that embraced them when they arrived to Australia. During the pandemic I was searching for a way to reconnect with my local community and SNH was a perfect fit, as it looked like a great opportunity to use my skills to make a difference.

### **What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?**

I've lived in the local area for over 30 years and have seen how the demographic has changed. I love art and music and love learning new skills. I believe that once you are determined to learn no one can stop you.

### **What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?**

I hope to see SNH become a place for the local community to meet and learn again. SNH during covid was a little quiet. I would love to see the facility being used to its full potential and help the local community, whether its upskilling or connecting with people. I hope to see SNH thrive and ensure the longevity of the House.

### **Qualifications, Certifications and Associations**

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants  
Bachelor of Business

### **Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)**

I have over 10 years' experience in financial services, working in both public and private practices. I was an auditor for NFP for a number of years and gain a great appreciation for the work charity perform in society.

I started volunteering at a young age with my parents at local fund raisers. As I matured, I started using my financial services background to help local charities like Don Bosco and Australian Vietnamese Christian Association Incorporate.



# STUART POLWARTH

## Committee of Governance Profile of Candidate for Election 2021-2022 Sussex Neighbourhood House inc.

### Why did you agree to be nominated for the Sussex NH Committee of Governance?

I contacted SNH to discuss ESL options for an asylum seeker I have been assisting. I found the response from SNH to be compassionate, inclusive, and purposeful. I had been considering options for engaging in more volunteering and how I could make the best contribution based on my interests and experience. The values demonstrated and the way support was provided by SNH aligned strongly with my personal values and beliefs regarding community. This motivated me to explore how I could become part of SNH and my nomination for the Committee of Governance.

### What areas, groups or special interests will you represent while on the Committee?

Having worked in the Community Mental Health Sector for over 25 years I have an interest and experience in supporting the marginalised and vulnerable. I have specific interest and experience in diversity (LGBTQIA+), asylum seekers and refugees, family violence, mental health, and wellbeing. Being the Founder of two start-up businesses I have an interest in exploring how for-profit and not-for-profit can work together to build healthy communities. My work in both physical and mental health has led me to an interest in community wellness and healthy societies.

### What do you wish to achieve during your tenure on the Committee and as an active member of Committee?

Increase awareness of SNH as an inclusive and progressive resource that is responsive to and can assist community leadership. Establish dynamic networks, affiliations, collaborations, and partnerships with external organisations that support the values and purpose of SNH and bring benefit to the local community. Increase wellbeing in the SNH community by incorporating holistic principles in committee processes. A strong financial position that will allow SNH to take advantage of opportunities of benefit to the community when they arise and into the future.

### Qualifications, Certifications and Associations

Executive MBA

Leadership Council Developing Dynamic Youth for the Future

American Chamber of Commerce/Big Brother Big Sister Charity Partnership

Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health

Certificate IV in Fitness & Small Business Registration

### Work & Activity History: Please provide a brief overview of roles you have held over the last 10 years (paid/unpaid)

1. Founder/Director Stuart Polwarth Wellness Advisory
2. Program Lead Voices Vic, Peer Cadet Project, and Outminds Uniting Vic. Tas
3. Program Facilitator Psychosocial Support Services cohealth
4. Pro bono wellness and mental health training and support delivered to asylum seekers, LGBTQIA+ community members, and survivors of family violence
5. Founder/Director Recovery Fit PTY LTD
6. Area Manager Melbourne North Mind Australia