

# CANDIDATE INFORMATION STATEMENTS

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## **BIRNEY, Brad**



I am born and bred in Casino, with my family on both my father and mother's sides going back many generations. I have previously sat on the Casino RSM Board, before moving to Gold Coast & Brisbane for a few years. My wife Belinda and children Kharis and Jonny have now been settled back in Casino for nearly three years.

There are many local organisations that would not survive without the support of the Casino RSM Club. I hope that by being elected to the board, I can be involved in making the decisions that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the Casino RSM Club and ultimately ensure the long-term survival of those organisations relying on the RSM's contributions.

I am heavily involved with the Casino RSM Cougars rugby league, coaching at both junior and senior level having also played for the club and have also been the President of the senior club. I play cricket in the local competition and I have also previously played soccer for the Casino RSM Cobra's.

I feel I can bring some important skills to the role of director, unique to the other sitting directors. Whilst I am proud of my previous contribution to the board, I now believe I am better prepared to serve the RSM members if elected. I have a solid employment experience in Management, Sales, Marketing, Performance Monitoring and Projects. I'm currently part of the Projects and Performance team for the Richmond Valley Council.

I am very passionate about the local region, and I believe the Casino RSM Club is an extremely important part of our community. I would be honoured to be elected to the board and to serve the members of the Casino RSM Club

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### PHILLIPS-MCAULIFFE, Barb



I'm Barbara Phillips Mc Auliffe I am seeking a position of Board member as I feel there needs to be more Women represented on our Club Board.

I have been a member of Casino R.S.M. Club for 30 years and supported all club activities, 2 Terms as Club President of Casino Womens Bowling Club, 3 years as Treasurer for the Womens Bowling Club.

Have worked closely and Supported Casino R.S.M. Mens Club.

Treasurer 2 years for Casino Mixed Probus Club and I currently still hold this position.

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## SHEPHARD, Trevor



Retired Primary School Principal, Ex RAAF and currently Secretary/Treasurer Casino Auctioneers Association Incorporated.

I have been a member of Casino RSM Club Pty Ltd on and off for the past 51 years and I have had the privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for the past six years.

I have successfully completed all mandatory Board of Directors' Training accreditations and will continue to update my accreditations as the Board of Directors Institute makes them available.

The Casino RSM Clubs', "Our Community, Your Club" envisages the ideals of the club and I will ensure that, you the members, your guests and other patrons of the Club and the community will always be provided with professional, efficient, and friendly service and support expected by the members and the community.

The Club is for the benefit of you the members and your guests and I will always work towards improving the club as a whole and ensuring that the Casino RSM Club supports Casino and District's community and sporting clubs/groups.

I believe that I can keep you informed and involved in the future developments of your club and I look forward to your vote and continuing as your representative as a Board Member of the Casino RSM Club.

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## MACK, Murgha



I would welcome your vote to represent you on the Board of Directors for the following reasons:

I grew up on the land and lived both near Narromine and also near Deniliquin in the Riverina in my early years. Supporting small towns and their Clubs, facilities of the towns and the way of life is in my blood.

My father and his father served in both World Wars and my respect for them continues to run strong.

I lived overseas for nearly 20 years and was instrumental in being on a number of Boards and committees that represented youth travel and tourism in Europe and Australia. (FIYTO, WYSTC and ETOA). (Federation of International Youth Tour Operators, World Youth and Student Travel Conference, European Tour Operators Association)

Great hospitality is something our RSM can be proud of. However it needs an ongoing team to assist in ideas and innovation from a strong team from different walks of life, to work together and discuss and help grow the strength of our club considering best practice, safety and profitability while reviewing the Key Performance Indicators for the club.

Having owned a pub and wine bar restaurant in the UK, I am well placed to know the pressure areas of running a multi-faceted Club that does its best to offer something to all members of the community.

I am a team person as well as a team leader. I have the sense to listen and consider all suggestions and will roll up my sleeves when necessary.

I am a listener and a doer, not just a talker.

I have been a small to medium business owner and know the many pitfalls that a business faces from day to day and throughout the year.

Although not a local, my wife and I love the area and have embraced the Richmond Valley. We have purchased at home at Stratheden and a small grazing property at Yorklea. I work in Casino and my wife in Lismore. We intend to remain and become part of the community and give back from the experience and knowledge gained over many years.

Loyalty, respect and remembering our forebears are important values to me and I hope, if elected, I will be seen as a person who has had a positive influence in the direction and growth of the RSM club in the future.

A Director elected to the Board holds a legal responsibility and I will represent all the RSM members with a passion if elected.

I appreciate every vote I get and will make every effort to represent you for the best interest of the patrons and club alike.

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## HANCOCK, Kirk



I was born and have lived in Casino my entire life and I have strong roots in the area and ties to the community.

I have a beautiful young family with two boys and a girl, who attend St Mary's Primary and College.

Reliable, hardworking and resilient, I have worked at NCMC for over 10 years and have developed strong connections in the industry.

I am passionate about football and have been involved with the Casino RSM Cougars Rugby League Club for 36 years, playing, coaching and volunteering.

I value the role of Clubs in our community and will champion clubs and associations that support our community.

As a board member, I will be a strong advocate for giving back to the community, recognising the significant role Casino RSM Club has as a leader in business and for innovation and sustainability.

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### **KEYS, Peter**



Retired.

Interests include:

Thoroughbred horse breeding and ownership & Rugby League.

Let Keys open the boardroom door where your voices will be heard in our club.

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## **KNIGHT, Bruce**



I have been a Director for the last four years and am currently Junior Vice President.

Have been actively involved in the set up of the RSM Community Transport and the smooth transfer from the Uniting Church Community Transport that is closing down.

Been the Secretary of the Casino RSM Cougars Senior Rugby League for six years and keenly interested in all of the sports that the RSM Club sponsors.

I have completed the mandatory Directors Training course.

Before retiring I was the CEO of the Casino Greyhound Racing Club and prior Tweed Heads Trotting and Coursing Clubs. Earlier sales manager of a large Australia wide Packaging Co.

I am a regular attendee and if re-elected I am looking forward to tending to all interests of members and keeping the RSM Club the leading venue in the Richmond Valley.

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## COMERFORD, Peter



I am one of two principals of Parker & Kissane, Solicitors. Our head office is in Casino with branch offices in Lismore and Kyogle. At all time I attempt to bring a professional aspect to my dealings with the Club on behalf of all members.

I have served four terms as an elected Board member, two of those terms as President. The guiding principal in conjunction with the sitting Board members is to always act in the best interest of the Club.

In order to provide the many benefits that the Club provides its members, it is necessary to run the Club in a financially responsible manner, because without those profits we are unable to provide the members with the benefits they receive.

As President of the Club for the last four years I take great pride in the outstanding profits the Club has returned. This is a position that many other Clubs in NSW envy given that many of them have struggled financially.

The Club under the current Board has also attempted to be generous to numerous community and sporting associations throughout the Casino area. This includes the schools in Casino, almost every sporting organisation ranging from men and women's bowls, netball, most of the football codes, cricket and many other sporting and cultural activities for example, the Bentley Art Show.

Under the leadership of the current Board we have very close to 7000 members so I am aware of our responsibility to give back to the community in as many ways as we possibly can. Once again it should be recognised that this can only happen if the Board remains in safe hands.

I thank the members for the privilege of serving the Club and if re-elected undertake to carry out my duties in a professional manner.



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## HYDE, Peter



My name is Peter Hyde. I am a 56 year old local man who graduated from Casino High School. I have worked in saw milling, opal mining and more recently as a home care professional for Home care Service of NSW where I obtained a certificate 4 in Aged and Disability Services. I then left this occupation to build bowling greens all over Australia.

I live locally and have supported the Casino RSM Club for many years. I play bowls for the club; assist Mick in maintaining the bowling greens and have been a courtesy bus driver on many occasions as well.

I am applying for the board of the Casino RSM Club because I feel that the club is a great sporting and community organisation that I would be proud to help grow. I believe that I am a perfect advocate for a position on the board as I have always had a strong passion to assist the members, subsidiary clubs and the club in general.

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## BLACK, John



Hello Members

I am a Pharmacist and have operated McDonalds Pharmacy in Casino since 1986. It is these professional and business skills that I have used as a Director here at the Casino RSM Club for the last 31 years and as your current Treasurer for 12 of those years.

Whilst the Board plan, and the Management operate, the critical element to the success of the Casino RSM Club is that Members participate in the club by attending for food, drink and entertainment and or being involved in any of the 12 or so subsidiary clubs like bowls. Clubs are a unique industry where each Member has an equal share in the expectations and outcomes of their Club. I am pleased to see that 18 members are wanting to make a difference by seeking election to the Board and my best wishes to all candidates. This is your club and to be involved I urge you to vote, attend the AGM, talk with me at the pharmacy or write to the Board about your concerns and suggestions as the Board seeks continual improvement.

My main objective as a Director is to enable the Club to continue to trade strongly so we can reinvest in improving the member's experience, like with the recent refurbishment of the main bar. Trading strongly means we can continue to fulfill our motto of "Our Community Your Club" by investing in the Casino Community like the club being involved in maintaining the Uniting Care Patient travel service that transports patients to important medical services in our region. A better Community includes sponsorship of the many sporting clubs, events like Beef Week, the Bentley Art Show, providing meeting rooms, the RSM Club Shopping Centre, employment opportunities and supporting charities and other local organisations. Purchasing the Royal Hotel building means that instead of having a vacant building in a prominent location in the CBD the Club will give the building a new life.

I am most proud of the Club's achievement to build the shopping centre because prior to this Woolies had a monopoly on the supermarket business and people searching for savings needed to travel out of Casino. When the Club brought in Coles there was competition which meant lower prices for the essential items we need to live. Further competition led to Aldi and the benefit of further lower prices meant that these savings can be spent in local businesses which employ local people and strengthen our local community.

I am also proud of the Club's commitment to the environment through its investment in solar power panels which has halved our electricity costs to about \$13000 per month. Further power savings will come from the Shopping Centre car-park panels and the proposed Bowling Green cover panels which will also allow for water re-harvesting. The Club has installed a rubbish re-cycling facility that is used widely by the community and invested in the proposed Utilitas Casino Bio Hub that creates energy, jobs and value from organic waste.

I sincerely thank members for their support in my role as a Director of the Casino RSM Club since 1987 and I hope that your confidence will continue at the upcoming Board Election.

Best Wishes and Enjoy your Club John Black Treasurer

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## **MCKEY, Frank**



Francis (Frank) McKey J.P.

Owner Operator Frank McKey Jnr Monumental Masonry with wife Lynn for 25 years.

Casino RSM Club Director 21 years, current Senior Vice President.

Past Councillor of Richmond Valley Council, current President of Casino Beef Week and current President of newly formed RSM Community Transport Incorporated.

Long time sponsor of Casino RSM Football Club and Men's and Ladies Bowls.

It is very important to keep a stable board and currently we have put your Club in a very good financial position and have a lot of positive projects underway.

I would seek re-election to see these finished for the benefit of our approximate 7,000 members and the Casino community.

It would be beneficial to the current committees that I am on to be re-elected as I have put a lot of hard work and time into these projects as this experience will be lost.

There are 18 candidates running for the Board. Please consider each one and don't simply vote 1 – 9 but please consider each one and vote for the 9 you think will do the best job for your Club.

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## DAVIDSON, Sharon



Journalist by trade (print media).

30+ years experience as a communications specialist in the government and private sector.

Six years as Manager Communications, Events and Tourism with Richmond Valley Council.

Volunteer driver for Casino Meals on Wheels and volunteer presenter on COW FM

Richmond Valley Council's representative on RSM Community Transport

Committee.

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## CROUCH, Neil



Retired local government overseer.

I have been a member of the Casino RSM club for 58 years and a director for 38 years I was honoured to be awarded life membership of the club in 2001.

As a director I have seen many positive changes in the club industry and in our own club of which I am most proud. We have a membership of over 7000 and as a board, we strive to provide a friendly atmosphere one that all members can also be proud of.

We are always looking for an opportunity to serve the future of our club. The shopping complex is one of the major projects that we have undertaken to secure this and to provide many opportunities for employment for the young people of Casino.

As a director, if given the opportunity to continue, I will be looking to the future growth of our club and if re-elected I will continue to work to ensure our Club remains the leading social facility for our members and their guests.

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## **BATTESE, Jim**



Member of the Casino RSM Club since 2002 and Board member for eight years (2010-2018). Active member of the Casino RSM Club Men's Bowling Club. Currently employed as Assistant Purchasing Officer at the Northern Co-operative Meat Company.

My experience in the Hospitality Industry equates to over 40 years, this includes bottle shops, Hotel and Club Industry from Sydney to the Northern Rivers. I have completed the mandatory training for Club Directors in Finance for Clubs Board Members and Director Foundation, Member Collaboration and Awareness.

I find it extremely satisfying to be involved in the decisions which benefit the Members, Schools, Sporting Groups, Cultural Organisations and the Community in General.

I have found over the past eight years with strong, reliable and dedicated leadership your Club has continued to grow. Our membership in this time has grown from 5000 members to now having just past 7000 members, an extraordinary effort for a country Club.

In this time we have continued to monitor our energy costs, in particular electricity with the installation of solar panels on the Club roof and the nearing completion of solar panels covering part of the shopping centre car park.

Recently, our community benefits with the support of your Club with assistance to the Uniting Car Transport Group to continue operating.

I am still passionate about the future of our Club and with your continued support I look forward to being involved in the implementation of future developments and improvements.

I would like to close by thanking the Members, fellow Directors, Management and Staff for another successful trading period.

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## COE, Rohan



Current member of Casino RSM Club from 1990.

I own and operate Coey's Driving Academy, am a retained fireman at Casino Fire Station. I have a wife Deidre and 2 children Mikayla and Lachlan.

I have an interest in the future of the club and to see it succeed. I have ties to many sporting groups sponsored by the Club. I have driven the Club Courtesy bus on a few occasions.

I feel the Club is heading in the right direction and look forward to joining the team.

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### MCALISTER, Vickie



I am a local girl born and raised in Casino, completed my education here and 28 years of my working career was at the RSM Club. I enjoy playing bowls and I am a member of the Casino RSM Women's Bowling Club. My husband and I are currently owner/managers of the Milgate Motel. We have been in business for 13 years and have sought the knowledge to grow our business successfully.

I have enjoyed the past 5 years as a Director and the experience of making professional business decisions for the club, ensuring it's sustainability moving forward. My experience in the hospitality industry spans over a period of approximately 40 years. I am very proud of our club, extremely proud of the management team and our dedicated staff members for they are our biggest assets, together they make it work. I thank you the members for your support and if successful this election will continue to work hard for you and your club, the community, in providing a top class venue for members and their guests.

There are exciting times ahead with future developments of your club and I look forward to representing the members and being your voice if successful. The Casino RSM Club continues to grow and support the community and many sporting clubs/groups and will continue to do so into the future.



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## **BERETON, Scott**



Hi I'm Scott Brereton,

I have lived in Casino for 42 years, I am the Director of Casino Tyre Professionals a locally owned and family run Bridgestone Franchise. I am also the Director of the Bridgestone Select Franchise in Grafton with my Partner Leah. We have 2 teenage children Logan & Alexis.

The majority of my life I have been a resident of Casino and have grown up being involved in many sports and clubs in Casino. My son is a keen junior Rugby League Casino RSM Cougar and we are a major sponsor of his team. I am very community minded and know how important it is to support and give back to the community that support our local business.

My interest in nomination of the board of Directors is to provide some new direction and continue the great work of the current Directors in keeping the future and growth of our club sustainable with some fresh new ideas.

I take pride in always making myself available to listen and work with people, I feel that I have the necessary attributes and the willingness to work hard with fellow board members and most importantly the members and guests of the Casino RSM Club.

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## GIBBS, Jeffery



Jeff originally from Kyogle, moved to Sydney in 1977 as a 15 year old to gain work as there was nothing available in the northern rivers.

After a month in Sydney Jeff gained an apprenticeship and started his work life out as a Locksmith. After gaining an interest in automotive electronics he put himself through university and gained a Diploma in Electrical Engineering (specialising in Automotive), he then combined the Locksmith and Electrical expertise and developed an automotive deadlocking system (Patent No. WO1992019832A1) which was successfully sold as original equipment and aftermarket to a number of large auto manufacturers overseas.

Jeff was then approached and worked for companies such as Porsche, Holden, BMW, Nissan North America, Rolls Royce and Isuzu Japan and Australia. After some time working and living in Seattle Wa. Jeff was approached by Ford Motor Company to head their after marker division in Australia.

Jeff's marketing expertise has seen him travel the world helping manufacturers of all sizes.

When the dot com boom started in the mid 1990's, Jeff took an interest in website development and graphic design. He has a Bachelor of Art and Graphic Design as well as Bachelor of Computer Science & Information Technology with a major in Web Design and Development.

Jeff set up Image Website Studios in the western Sydney are of Macarthur which was sold in late 2017. At the time of the sale of the company, Jeff was employing 18 Website and Graphic Designers.

Jeff now runs the very successful NSW Northern Rivers Heartland Magazine based in Casino with partner Sharon Bateman. Heartland Magazine has become a runaway and award winning magazine in its own right. The quality and content of the magazine is second to none and has become a collectable editorial each month. Heartland magazine is now promoted monthly by Sydneys 2SM as well as many other media outlets around the country. Using Jeff's experience in Graphic Design, website development and marketing expertise Heartland has not only a loyal readership but support from Communities across the SNW Northern Rivers. The website for Heartland now has readership of over 450,000 per month and ranks page 1 in most Google searches.

Jeff has two adult children and lives in Casino NSW. He is involved in many community and charities in Casino and was a Nominee in the 2018 Australian of the Year for the Richmond Valley.

I believe I can be an asset to Casino RSM and look forward to the commitment and challenges of the role.