

Mayoral candidates:

Philip Spencer philipspencerformayor@gmail.com Attended ACT meeting

I enjoyed last night, but was disappointed to hear Sue say that council took the art funding, out of last year's budget. Let's hope this year will be different.

I believe there is a great deal of synergy between art, culture and heritage and I don't think council is paying enough attention to the benefits they can bring to our entire region. We saw some absolutely wonderful example's of mosaics in Pompeii, Rome (St Peters), France (Bonaparte's tomb) and in St Paul's and Westminster Abbey. So your project certainly has my support. It is great idea.

If elected these are areas that I would like to see council actively pursue.

Rob Berry sgtb@bigpond.com

Hi Mary,

Thank you for your request.

The good news is there is NO bad news.

I am a strong supporter of the Arts & Music I believe any promotion that is tasteful will be welcomed by me if appointed Mayor. You will have my pledge to support your displays in the Toowoomba regional area and encourage you to submit in advance your detailed request.

regards

Rob Berry JP

Mayoral Candidate Toowoomba Regional Council



Paul Antonio paul_antonio@bigpond.com Attended ACT meeting. No response to email.

Nicholas Hales nichales@tpg.com.au Attended ACT meeting.

Hi: marykate, I have received your questions and will get back to you asap, with answers to your queries



Kind regards **Nicholas Hales**

Nicholas Hales Computer Training & Services P.O. Box 1188 Toowoomba, Qld, 4350 Phone: (07) 46 599 802 Fax: (07) 46 599 940 Mobile: 0412 900 124 Email: nichales@tpg.com.au

No further response received.

Peter Taylor - PeterTaylorMayor@gmail.com

Mary-Kate Khoo, Hi. Thank you for contacting me. I have a record of being very supportive of the Arts with personal attendance and council decision making. There are many projects which have made a major contribution to our arts/cultural life. If re-elected I will follow up on the Public Arts Policy.

Thank you again for contacting me. Best wishes, Peter Taylor

Joe Ramia info@joeramiaformayor.com

Hi Marykate

I am very supportive of the great work your organisation has done for the carnival in the past Thank you

As we are all waiting for this policy to come forward it would be preemptive to comment one way or the other on this issue

I do support your work and believe that visuals has a big part to play in a city joe ramia

Councillor Candidates:

Greg Bryant gregbryant@live.com.au Attended ACT meeting

Hi Mary-Kate

Thank you for the email, wonderful Ideas and I fully support your initiatives.

It is great to see a group such as yours stands behind trying to promote this wonderful City. Toowoomba has untapped beauty and potential, and the Art Council Toowoomba is wonderful organisation that can visually promote our City.

We do lack vision and decisiveness, when it comes to the issue putting Toowoomba on the map, on a grander stage.

Again great initiatives and I fully support adoption of the TRC Public Arts Policy.

Available at any time

Sincerely

Greg Bryant

New Candidate for TRC

Andrew Hemming n.a. andrew.hemming@usq.edu.au

Dear Mary-Kate,

As a keen supporter of the Arts (as is my musical and literary family), I would be a strong advocate for the Arts. I would seek to make the Arts a funding priority given it is largely neglected by all tiers of government eg Premier of Queensland abolishing literary awards. It fits with my broader goal of seeking to make Toowoomba an educational hub given it is a university town

with good schools and affordable housing.
Regards,
Andrew

David Campbell n.a. david@davidcampbelltrc.com.au No response.

Nancy Sommerfield nancy.sommerfield@bigpond.com Apology for ACT meeting

Hi Mary-Kate

I appreciate what you have provided below and I would be interested to read the Arts policy that Council is currently working on to see what they have in mind.

I am most enthusiastic about the creation of artwork in the CBD and in other areas around our beautiful city as I believe the artworks help to create a humming vibrant community which people are drawn to. I attach a couple of photos I took when travelling. One was in Hahndorf, a little village outside Adelaide and the other in the Adelaide Mall. When I see this type of thing it makes me want to hang around and that is what we need to create. I am hopeful that if I get on Council I can be part of a council that wants to make our whole region, not just the Toowoomba CBD, more vibrant and the arts – in its many forms – is definitely one of the factors in getting this to happen.

I took pottery classes many years ago, had my own wheel etc. I also used to do a lot of quilting – have a number of UFOs in the cupboard still along with a gathering of material scraps! Tried my hand at mosaic work in pavers under my pergola, too – it didn't look anywhere near as fabulous as what you have on your website I might add!! Whilst living in the bush and for the first few years of living in Toowoomba I did lots of arts and crafts but then as my children grew up, my career took up all my time and I have had to put it all aside. I only mention this so you know that I have an interest.

I do like the sound of the mosaic work and it has a memorial factor as well as vibrancy, which is a nice touch for residents and visitors alike. I would definitely be supportive of the arts and if elected, I would like to think I could come along to some meetings and hear more thoughts on what you as a group have in mind. Thanks for getting in touch, and once again, sincere apologies for my tardy response. In normal circumstances I try to respond to any communication on the same day but I'm not in 'normal circumstances' at the moment as I am sure you can appreciate. ☺

Best wishes



nancy sommerfield ☺ Candidate for Toowoomba Regional Council ☺

Have your say on election day!!! View website to see my ideals and vision for the future...

M. 0419 789 142 W. www.nancysommerfield.com



Hi Jennifer

I do apologise but I will have to withdraw my acceptance to tonight's meeting as I now unexpectedly have to be in Brisbane later this afternoon. Would it be possible to get a copy of the minutes or perhaps a summary of the 'Splashing Back' project as I am keen to know more about it...

Once again – sincere apologies.

Best wishes



Jim McEvoy 268 REUSHLE Road, CABARLAH QLD 4352 (no email address on electoral website. Letter sent no response thus far)

Phoebe Mitchell pmitchell459@gmail.com Apology ACT meeting

Good Morning Mary Kate,

ACT has played an integral part in providing visual arts to the community of TRC and the many visitors to this city. I would hope that this relationship would continue to be mutually beneficial.

I too am interested to see the outcome of the TRC public arts policy and to hear the response to that policy.

This is a city in a growth sphere that needs to embrace the arts, including the visual, and cultural resources so that we are not only known for our excellence in education but also our diversity and embracing of arts and culture.

Have a great day

Phoebe

"one of you, working for you" Phoebe Mitchell PO Box 9163, Wilsonton TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350 P: 0438 064 996

ACT Meeting apology:

Good Morning Jennifer,

Thank you so much for the invitation to attend your next meeting, unfortunately I had work commitments that night with branch meetings that I need to attend. (I work for the Leukemia Foundation).

I have attached my letter and flyer for your information.

Please convey my apology for your meeting.

Have a good day. Phoebe

Andrew Kucks info@andrewkucks.com.au Apology ACT meeting.

You can most certainly count on my support for these programs.

You may not know my background but I am a musician, and I have plenty of sympathy for the arts.

If elected I hope that I might be considered for one of the portfolios that will help me to follow through on my arts sympathies. I wonder if you remember me from many years ago when I used to come to the pharmacy. Feel free to

ask any further questions, sorry I've taken a while to respond. It's a bit busy at present.

Andrew

Re. meeting apology

Thanks for the invite

Please accept my apology, as I have a p&f school meeting. If I am successful in this campaign I hope that I am considered for one of the arts portfolios. Regards, Andrew

Peter Marks CrPeterMarks@gmail.com

Mary-Kate, without sounding patronising I think the work you have done in the past needs to be continued and I too am looking forward to viewing the public arts policy as well as other reports which should be forthcoming in the next few months. I do think it is important that council provides some funding but at the same time, it is just as important to ensure that businesses become involved to ensure the viability of what you are doing for the future.

I am happy to support the work you are doing as I have in the past.

If you have any other questions, please give me a call.

Regards

Peter Marks

Ros Scotney ros.scotney@toowoombarcqld.gov.au - email bounced.

Mike Williams mwcctwmba@bigpond.com No response.

Lyn Dean l.dean5@bigpond.com No response.

Peter Wilson vote4pbw@peterwilson.com.au Attended ACT meeting

Hi Mary-Kate,

Firstly thanks for your interest in the election.

Having a vibrant arts community within the region is very important, having access to same throughout the TRC Area would be one of my highest priorities when considering my role on the new Council.

I actually see an expanded role for the arts community in bringing the region together, I would like to see organisations such as ACT have a much broader role with the new Council that would ensure both the visual and performing arts continue to feature strongly in Toowoomba but also in some of the smaller centres. Put simply, Council needs to listen to those organisations who are best placed to provide that advice and input which Council can then act upon.

From a funding perspective I am convinced Council has not used its political influence to achieve greater access to State and Federal funds, equally I believe that by running Council better there will be budgetary savings which could assist with funding arts initiatives across the region.

In summary the arts will continue to grow in importance to residents and businesses, and the new TRC needs to have a strong and supportive policy.

With best regards

Peter Wilson

Candidate for Toowoomba Regional Council

Anne Glasheen 0477 198 589 jagclifton@iprimus.com.au Attended ACT meeting

Hi Mary-Kate,

Thank you for your email .

I have to say I loved the Avant Garden concept that was introduced for the carnival. It certainly gave a new perspective on gardens.

Sadly as a current councillor I have not heard of the TRC Public Arts Policy.

I will document this in my diary and will be happy to support in the coming months to get it finalised.

The Splashing Back mosaics trail is going to be an excellent project. It will make for a great tourist / history walk through the CBD.

If I can be of any assistance please contact me.

Thanks

Cr Anne Glasheen – TRC

John Gouldson johng@dp.net.au Attended ACT meeting

Mary-Kate

When a Toowoomba City Alderman 1986 – 1993 I was chair of the RADF and would be willing to meet with your group sometime to discuss how I can help.

I am passionate about any sport, recreation, visual and performing Arts that improves the quality of life for us all.

John Gouldson

Private Client Adviser

Dornbusch Partners Pty Ltd AFSL No. 277493 ABN 68 107 237 196 johng@dp.net.au

Phone (07) 4639 2588 Fax (07) 4639 3905 Mobile 0407 157 206

Noel Strohfeld info@strohfeldgroup.com.au

Hi Marykate, I am very supportive of the arts. As Mayor of Rosalie I managed to have The Rosalie Art Gallery and Cultural Centre built. This is the best regional gallery outside of Toowoomba. Art of course does not need to be in a building as your group know. The next Council will have more time to develop a Public Arts Policy and I will be very supportive of this. Best Regards Cr Noel Strohfeld

Carol Taylor Popbob1@bigpond.com.au Apology ACT meeting

Dear Mary-Kate

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to research candidates for the upcoming local government elections.

I am aware of Arts Council Toowoomba and the great work the organisation has done in our area to add to our visual amenity

in our lovely city.

Avant Garden was a brilliant concept and I was quite disappointed when the innovative design pieces disappeared. In fact, though we are no longer in drought, I would still like to see the creative installations as part of CARNIVAL

"Splashing Back" sounds exciting and a wonderful way to mark what was a very distressing and surreal experience. And I am sure the community will embrace it

The TRC Public Arts Policy is completed. The Draft Policy will be presented to the incoming Council early in the term for its consideration.

The TRC Public Arts Policy was developed collaboratively by a consultative process by Creative Regions.

Councillors haven't had the opportunity to examine it as it wouldn't be appropriate with the election imminent.

For myself I would have to go over it but I totally support the role volunteers such as ACT play in bringing public art to our community. I will support, in principle the draft policy after its consideration by the incoming Council- if I am re elected

Many thanks for the contribution made by you all at ACT

Kind regards

Carol Taylor – Councillor, Engineering Services Portfolio, Toowoomba Service Centre

T: 4688 6615, F: 46319 158, M: 0417 723 948 E: Carol.Taylor@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

W: [http://www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au/Toowoomba Regional Council](http://www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au/Toowoomba%20Regional%20Council) PO Box 3021, Toowoomba Village Fair QLD 4350

Graham Barron grahambarronfortrc@gmail.com Attended ACT meeting

Dear Mary-Kate

Thank you for your email and your interest in public arts in the Toowoomba community.

I am aware of some of the community work of the Queensland Arts Council and I commend you for the role you play in extending this to the Toowoomba region.

I am familiar with ACT's Avant Garden project which I think was a creative and clever way to ensure Toowoomba was able to uphold its image as the Garden City, even after the long drought had taken such a toll on the region.

I see the arts as fulfilling that type of role in our community. That is, enhancing aspects of our identity and finding new ways to express it, both for the benefit of the local community and as a means of attracting visitors to our city. I also believe "the arts" should be about more than galleries or paintings or high-level design, but should also be about "working" art that people can relate directly to their lives. Clearly, Arts Council Toowoomba Inc shares that view.

I must admit that I am not briefed on the full details of the Toowoomba Regional Council Public Arts Policy, but I agree that it is a policy that a city the size of Toowoomba should pursue.

If elected to the Toowoomba Regional Council I would be interested to sit down with members of ACT to discuss this further, in particular how to make the policy a reality because I appreciate that you don't want the Public Arts Policy to simply sit on a shelf gathering dust where it's of no value to either artists or the community in general.

I also look forward to learning more about the Splashing Back project you have referred to, because just like Avant Garden it sounds like another great example of using public art as an expression of our region's identity. From what you have explained in the email, it sounds to me like a positive project to complement the existing flood memorial. Again, if elected to TRC I would like to discuss this project in more detail and talk more about what role you think the TRC should play in facilitating public art.

Best wishes

Graham Barron

Sue Englart sueenglart@bigpond.com

Dear Mary-Kate, Lovely to hear from you. Candidates are getting lots of requests to state their views on issues; and this would have to be one of the easiest for me to answer.

I am entirely supportive of what Arts Council Toowoomba is doing. I believe your Avant Garden project, well supported by the council on which I served, represented a magnificent, artistic and fun contribution to the Carnival of Flowers. I was also pleased, when serving on three consecutive Councils, to be to the forefront in having visual art pieces included in the redevelopment of Ruthven and Margaret Streets in the CBD.

Your organization deserves all possible support at local government level. If elected I would be proud to champion the cause of ACT and press forcefully for recognition of its work and for ongoing funding. Please visit my website, www.englart.com.au, and note comments I have made about The Arts.

Mary Kate, it appears to me that the incoming Council will be largely composed of business interests who - let's face it - usually give very low priority to the Arts. I have different priorities, and art appreciation and the encouragement of the arts rates highly on my agenda. I have been Patron of Toowoomba Art Society for many years - and I was pleased to continue in this role for the past four years while not on Council.

I believe I have a track record of speaking out and arguing successfully for various arts-related projects, and I would, if elected, be proud to champion the cause of a worthwhile Public Arts Policy.

Cheers to everyone

Sue (Englart)

Snow Manners snow@valscom.com.au No response.

Geoff MacDonald geoff@crackerpp.com.au Apology re ACT meeting

Good afternoon Mary-Kate,

Sorry it has taken a little while for me to respond.

The support that I pledged from the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce in regard to the Splashing Back project has demonstrated that Arts Council Toowoomba will have my support if elected.

Kind Regards

Geoff McDonald 0417 007 469 General Manager Cracker Print and Paper

435 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350 Phone(07) 4632 3522 Fax: (07) 4639 1737

PO Box 2208 Toowoomba Qld 4350 Email: geoff@crackerpp.com.au www.crackerpp.com.au

President Toowoomba Chamber Of Commerce

Meeting apology: Good evening Jennifer,

I am unfortunately stuck in a meeting that was due to be finished at 5.30pm but will still be going until 7pm.

I was looking forward to attending the extraordinary meeting so I am disappointed.

As I mentioned in my previous answer, I have demonstrated my support for the visual arts in the public domain through the Toowoomba Chamber recognising the "Splashing Back" mosaic.

Is it possible for me to have a viewing of the 5 minute video about Splashing Back?
We have a USQ/Chamber lunch this Friday and I would be happy to provide an update on how the project is going.
I'd also like to give it a plug on my facebook – GeoffMcDonaldforTRC if you would be happy for me to do so.
Kind Regards **Geoff McDonald**

Mick Smith chipndi@bigpond.net.au Apology ACT meeting

Dear Mary-Kate, Thank you for your email and the opportunity to respond to your question.
I would actively advocate for your organisation and your current and future endeavours. The Arts in our region need to be supported to ensure we enrich and educate our diverse population.
Thank you for your email and please do not hesitate to contact me with any future concerns,
Regards, Mick Smith
0438 717808 Facebook: Mick Smith (Toowoomba)
Hi Jennifer,
Thank you for the invitation to attend the next Arts Council meeting. Unfortunately I have a previous meeting that I am required to attend.
Best wishes with your future endeavours,
Regards,
Mick Smith Toowoomba Regional Council Candidate 0438 717 808

Anthony King 9 BARKLEY Court, HARRISTOWN QLD 4350 anthony@stpats.org.au. No response.

Bill Cahill info@billcahill.com.au Attended ACT meeting

Hi Mary-Kate
Thank you for your email.
I am a known supporter of the arts in TRC.
Could you please ask a number of the arts groups and societies in the region as I have supported them throughout this term of council.
I have attended and opened many exhibitions over the last four years.
My appreciation of the arts stems from my personal interest and in fact a period of time attending the Art College at Seven Hills Brisbane, (former... showing my age)
I support visual art in public spaces and would encourage you and others to continue to pursue this with the new council.
Regards Councillor Bill Cahill
Toowoomba Regional Council Candidate "Finding Better Ways" 0499224455
www.billcahill.com.au www.facebook.com/BillCahillTRC

Megan O'Hara Sullivan megansullivan4@bigpond.com

Hi Mary-Kate,
Great question to candidates!
Uuuuuuugh....What is that noise, it's the sound of me screaming in the car when I heard the news that our new state government had pulled the funding for the Qld premier's literary award. It's the thin edge of the wedge, why is it that the first things to be cut from the budget are the arts?
"The arts demonstrate our power to innovate by providing visceral examples of how imagination is transformed into creation. It's the arts that teach us how to think beyond boundaries and inventively overcome obstacles. When widely applied, the inherent concepts taught by the arts lead to monumental progress in every arena of life—from medicine to technology to public policy. Through the arts, we learn how to develop newness in all things. As a foundation for practicing imagination, the arts are a critical ingredient to forward-thinking change".
That last paragraph is not my words but it demonstrates how I feel about the importance of the arts in society. So you have my unequivocal support. Thank you.
Megan O'Hara Sullivan

Noel Cass info@noelcass.com.au

Good Evening Mary –Kate and my apologies for the late reply to your query ,
To be honest I cannot give a specific reply unless I knew what art is being suggested and in which location. Generally speaking and during a long career I have always been supportive of all forms of art and culture. I think the Regional Arts Development Fund has been an incredible boost to the visual arts and the establishment of the Oakey Cultural Centre [against overwhelming odds] has developed the performing scene . I also believe that the Qld Arts Council [My wife and I are members of the Oakey Group] has done a wonderful job in the regions .
I am not familiar with Avant Garden however can see benefit in the concept .
If elected I will certainly look at the Splashing Back proposal or any other suggestion the Art Community may have to compliment or enhance our community .
I am sorry I cannot be more specific and once again I apologise for the late reply .
Regards Noel

Michele Alroe michele@alroe.com.au attended ACT meeting

Mary-Kate
Whilst I am hopeless with the brush I have been a performer for as long as I can remember. A keen singer, I also appeared on stage and play the guitar. Avant Garden was a significant Art Project which evolved during my time on the TCC Council (2000 – 2008). A wonderful, exciting opportunity for artists and gardeners which sadly has not continued. It is projects such as this which one would hope could be revived once the TRC Public Art Policy is finalized.
I was fortunate to be the Council representative on the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery Acquisition Committee an experienced I thoroughly enjoyed.
Am I a supporter of the Arts – most definitely (and an occasional purchaser). This enthusiasm for art in a variety of forms was seen when as owner of Aromas/Bon Amici. I offered my shop as a mini gallery – the big difference being that no commission was charged. A great opportunity for students and established artists to have their works displayed. Splashback sound exciting and hopefully it will come to fruition before too long.

There will be those in your Society who know me personally and I am confident will endorse my known support for the Arts a support which will continue should I be elected to the Toowoomba Regional Council.

Regards,

Michele

Michele Alroe ALROE & O'SULLIVANS 3/74 Margaret Street (PO Box 882) Toowoomba Qld 4350

Tel: 07 4613 1500 Fax: 07 4613 0611 Email: michele@alroe.com.au

Bob Goldsworthy robcar57@bigpond.net.au Apology ACT meeting

Marykate

While I am not a person who attends many Art functions, I do realise that the people of Toowoomba appreciate the fine work you do.

When I was District Governor of Lions Clubs International in 2007-2008, we borrowed some Rainbow Trees from one of your members I think and made them a centre point for our auditorium at our Convention here in Toowoomba over the three days. I believe this was about the time you were talking about in your email.

I will endeavour to help your organisation in any way that I am able if I am elected.

Thank you

Bob (Robert) Goldsworthy Candidate for Toowoomba Regional Council Vote for Bob, Good as Gold

Murray Choat Vote4Choat@hotmail.com

Dear Mary-Kate

Thank you for considering me to support ACT.

As a pencil artist ACT have my support 100%.

There's plenty of unfinished business to be investigated and I am one to keep you guys going along with other groups.

I supported Student Artists when I was running the Toowoomba Waste Management Centre a few years ago with sourcing recycled items for their competition displays that were placed in parks around Toowoomba. This was a great thing for the city and the students had a ball.

Kind Regards

Murray Choat

VOTE for CHOAT - Your Choice for a better Council!

Bernard Rushby rushbyrealestate@gmail.com Attended ACT meeting

Hello Mary-Kate,

Thanks for your email and the question posed. I am happy to go on record as being totally in support of the arts and cultural pursuits, in these days of IT communication I believe that it's extremely important that as a society we not only encourage new types and forms of artistic and cultural activity, but we do all we can to preserve our existing history, arts and culture.

Regards

Bernie Rushby P.O.Box 91 Yarraman Qld. 4614 Ph. 0407495840

Chris Tait chris@christaitfortoowoombaregionalcouncil.com

Dear Mary-Kate and fellow Arts Council Toowoomba (ACT) members.

Thank you for your email. I appreciate the work that ACT does for the Toowoomba region in promoting Toowoomba as a vital and creative centre for the arts.

I would support your "Splashing Back" proposal" if elected to council. I think it is a great idea and would complement the exteriors of buildings that were severely affected by the 2011 floods.

Thank you and kind regards

Chris Tait

Paul King paul@mediationworks.com.au Attended ACT meeting

I am strongly supportive of community theatre which I have followed for many years but also programmes that bring professional productions to the regions. I have been a long time supporter of Educational Theatre such as "Kite" and indigenous theatre projects.

I am enthusiastic about urban landscaping through visual and contextual art and believe that the encouragement of local artists in such projects is a means of developing talent as well creating a valuable expression of the character, environment and culture of the area.

In short if elected to council I would be strongly supportive of activities such as the mosaic arts trail and would take a forward and supportive role in Arts Policy in the Toowoomba Region. (Paul King)