CHANGING FACES

Reframing Women in Local Democracy
Mayor’s Message
Cr Clarke Martin
Mayor, Bayside City Council

Bayside City Council is pleased to present the exhibition Changing Faces: Reframing Women in Local Democracy, funded by VicHealth under the Gender Equality Through the Arts Project Grant.

This ground-breaking project celebrates 171 amazing local females who have made a varied and significant contribution to Bayside. These women and girls have been nominated by the community, in recognition of their leadership in many areas including sport, the arts, politics, business, social justice, volunteerism, and the media.

Many participants have chosen to take up the challenge set by renowned artist Ponch Hawkes and wear beards or moustaches in their portraits as a way to humorously disrupt the gender narrative. Ponch’s vision is to highlight and question the stereotype of men being more capable leaders in politics and at work. In Bayside City Council’s 161 year history, only 15 female mayors have been elected. This under-representation of females on Council, both in the past and present, needs to be addressed.

This portrait exhibition is provocative, controversial and will stimulate debate. I encourage these conversations because it shines a light on the historic inequity in our local democracy. Something needs to change. We have a wealth of talent in Bayside and we need to show women and girls that they can be decision and policy makers. Local government elections are coming up in October 2020 and I hope this exhibition can be a catalyst for gender equity in Bayside.

Artist
Ponch Hawkes

Ponch Hawkes is a Melbourne based photographic artist. She has recorded and commented on Australian society and cultural life since the 1970s. Her work explores themes of the body, movement, the environment, community and relationships with a feminist perspective.

Her most recent major project involves photographing 500 naked women over the age of 50 for the forthcoming exhibition Flesh after fifty/500 strong. Hawkes has published several books and held 13 solo exhibitions of her work in Australia and has been included in multiple group exhibitions in Australia and internationally.

Ponch Hawkes is represented in the public collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; State Library of Victoria, Melbourne; Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; Jewish Museum, Melbourne; City of Melbourne; Albury City Council, New South Wales.
Bianca Karvonidis
I am a year 5 student who believes there is a way to make the world a better and healthier place to live. Last year, together with two friends I organised a fundraiser to save orangutangs in Borneo. It was the most successful fundraiser that my school has ever had. I believe girls are strong and can achieve anything in life.

Alicia Allanson
I grew up in Bayside and am raising my daughters here. I am a psychologist who works within the area of gender and sexual diversity. I encourage my daughters, my clients and young women of Bayside to celebrate their gender and to refuse to be limited by traditional gender norms.

Ava Klass
My role in the Bayside community is to be a representative of the youth today. Having won last year’s Youth Award for “Community”, I feel strongly about continuing to help those in need.
Bridget Hsu-Hage
A resident of Beaumaris, a Bayside Library volunteer, a member of Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group, a Rotarian of Beaumaris Rotary Club, raising funds to assist local community and beyond.
Clare Hanlon
I am an advocate for building community and organisational capacity to encourage more women and girls to become leaders and players in sport and physical activity.

Clare Hanlon
Elizabeth Jensen
Elizabeth Shen
Ella Pierce
Cristrina Karvonidis
Ellen ‘Ma’ McGrath
Ellie Beni
Emily and Taya Ainley
Denise Shine
Dhara Modi
Donna Moore
Emma Martin
Esther Erlich
Eva Gordienko
Isabelle Sangster
Long term FReeZA committee member and 2019 recipient of the Julian Gurrieri Memorial Award for Bayside Youth Participation.

Hayley Lawson-Smith
A playwright and theatre-maker working with various artists and creatives in the community to produce original productions at local venues.
Janet Blainey

I have lived in Bayside all my life and worked as a social worker and psychologist for not for profit family based agencies including Family Life and Oz Child and I had 17 years at Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton. I now volunteer with Family Life, Bayside library and Cancer Council Vic.

Kate Jenkins

Being a dog lover I "share the love" as a Story Dog volunteer. Frankie, my smart Toy Poodle, seems to understand how important his role is. He interacts "individually" with each child (usually low level readers needing encouragement). We also enjoy meeting our dog/friends each morning at the Wilson Street Reserve.
Margaret Torpy
I have been a volunteer at Moorabbin Kangaroos Football Club for 33 years. Roles undertaken have been working in the canteen for as long as I have been there, Treasurer and Secretary since 2010. I am the first and only female to be inducted into the Southern Football Netball League Hall of Fame.

Madison Scharenguivel
I am a volunteer in an historic organisation and an Air Force Cadet. I have volunteered at Black Rock House since I was 13 and it has brought me to love and help the community more wherever I can. From being a tour guide and helping out in event management at Friends of Black Rock House to learning to be a leader in Australian Air Force Cadets, also working with Boomerang Bags Bayside and sewing for them for over 2 years. The community is what motivates people like myself to help and participate.

Megan Martin

Merrie McCulloch

Melanie Tighe
As the Manager of Highett Neighbourhood Community House and Hampton Community Centre I coordinate and deliver low cost, socially inclusive activities and events and undertake outreach and community engagement. Increasing community connections and participation is now more important than ever.
Mikaela Copland
Mikaela is a valued youth voice in Bayside. She has provided insight to the Bayside Youth Ambassadors and has organised the Bayside Youth Festival, Bayside Youth Awards and Future Gen. Her social media work is also renowned with local community organisations such as Highett Neighbourhood Community House and Brad Rowswell member of Parliament.

Now retired from a very interesting, challenging and successful working life. I believe all women should be encouraged to follow their dreams. I was in the past, a member of the Bayside Advisory Committee for implementing bike paths in Bayside. Now actively contributing to the Bayside community as volunteer with the Rotary Club of Hampton as Treasurer. Volunteer and Treasurer at the Bayside Rotary Farmers Market.
Simona Pardo
I have volunteered as the Chief Instructor at Sandringham Lifesaving Club for the last 6 years and trained scores of young and older lifesavers to serve the Bayside community there.

Sandi Scaunich
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Sandi Scaunich
Sandi has worked extensively in the areas of gender equality, prevention of family violence, and diversity and inclusion. Her writing has appeared in various online blogs, academic reports, as well at The Age newspaper. Her debut novel, Chasing the McCubbin, (August 2020, Transit Lounge) depicts family violence, rigid masculinity, loneliness and poverty within the Bayside community.

Steffie Wallace
Belonging to a number of Bayside environmental and artistic groups gives me the opportunity to connect with a wide range of people on many different levels, and as a local artist, I make good use of the opportunity to interpret our beautiful coastal shorelines for others to appreciate visually.
As a more ‘senior’ member of the Bayside community I volunteer at Sandringham Hospital. My mother, having been a meals-on-wheels volunteer for 25 years in Bayside, provided a role model for me.

I’m a Bayside local surrounded by amazing people in our community, inspiring me to volunteer, make a difference and share my knowledge to worthy organisations like historic Black Rock House, Robyn’s Angel’s and Inner Wheel.
Teaching the elderly how to navigate modern technology enabled me to see and experience the invaluable contribution this sector of the community had to offer modern society. It taught me that we need to be mindful not to ‘forget’ the elderly, just because they are older.

I believe that females can bring a different lens to things that has previously been influenced mainly by males. Through the mentoring and volunteering I do I have learnt so much about equality and celebrating diversity. Additionally through the youth group I attend in Gardenvale, I am able to share what I have learnt, so that young girls, feel empowered and encouraged.

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This ground-breaking project is all the richer for your contribution.
Ponch Hawkes would like to thank assistants Jodie Hutchinson and Heather Guilfoyle, and David Johns Photography.
The project, sponsored by VicHealth, as part of its Gender Equality Through the Arts Project Grant, aims for equal female representation in local government.