Candidates take a stand

David Sibenaler

WANTING to contribute more to the community is a binding catalyst for all candidates who have stepped up to vie for two councillor positions in the upcoming Alice Springs Town Council by-election.

Polling started on Friday, ahead of the main vote to be held on Saturday, October 10.

Beanie Festival director and candidate Jason Quin said he would like to see greater representation of the arts and the community sector.

"As well as the cycling community," he said. "Our administrator worker, Caroline Jayne Phelps, said she wanted to sink her teeth into local issues like domestic violence and youth problems. I support what the Alice Springs town councillors do at the moment, and what they are doing for the future," he said.

"I am here for the long run and that’s why I want to run," Operations manager Ryan Callander moved to Alice Springs for work in October last year. He echoed Ms Phelps' sentiment, saying he planned to stay in the community.

"It’s a small town, and you can make change," he said. "I’d like to advance the town. I can see the alcoholism and homelessness has affected a lot of other things, so I’d like to correct that where I can."

Vice-president of Motor-sport NT Jamie de Brenni said he was running for local office because it was time for him to stand up. "I’m not going to make promises that I can’t keep," he said.

Indigenous activist Barbara Shaw is a fourth-generation town camp resident, and has twice attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

"I firmly believe we need a diversity of people on our town council in order to work together to deal with the serious issues we are facing in this town such as homelessness, youth on the streets and anti-social behaviour," she said.

Like Ms Shaw, Alice Springs-raised musician Jacinta Price would like to represent town camp residents where she has family members.

"I want to be involved in decisions that are made for our community," she said. "I want to see the kind of support for arts and music that sports have.

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five community-minded Alice Springs residents have put their hands up to run for two positions in the upcoming town council by-election on October 10.

Those who have stepped forward come from a diverse range of fields, with knowledge of the arts, sport, indigenous affairs, small business issues and politics.

Votes are now open, with residents invited to go into the Civic Centre on Todd St and cast their ballot.

Here is the Advocate’s introduction to the candidates for 2015.

JASON Quin moved to Alice Springs in 2010 to work at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. The 41-year-old’s role there was to advance innovation and entrepreneurship.

He has since left that appointment and in recent years has lent his hand to organising the Alice Springs Desert Festival and the Beanie Festival.

As a councillor he would support Alice Springs becoming a hub for innovation and see more investment in the growing cycling community.

BARBARA Shaw is a long-term resident of the Mount Nancy town camp. The 39-year-old represents the NT Greens at the upcoming by-election.

Ms Shaw works with women in town camps to train, inform and support them to deal with family and domestic violence. She sits on the boards of Central Land Council, CAAAM and Tjuntjuntjara Council.

Of concern to Ms Shaw are the nuclear industry, fracking, housing and infrastructure.

JAMIE de Brenni is a born-and-bred Alice Springs resident.

Three generations of his family live in the Red Centre, and he says has been motivated to run for council because of the opportunities afforded to him by the community.

The 49-year-old owns a building business in town, and said he would be “honest” to the community.

Besides being a candidate, Mr de Brenni has been active in motor sport and is Motor-sport NT’s vice president.

VINCÉ Jeisman currently works as the electorate officer for long-term Labor MP for Lingiari Warren Snowdon.

Before being associated with politics, Mr Jeisman was an educator across the Territory.

He said entering council would be a “learning curve” that he’d be willing to take to help play a role in planning the town’s future.

Mr Jeisman made a bid for council in 2012 but was unsuccessful after he was pipped by Geoffrey Booth.

JACINTA Price helped form the first-ever Centralian Australian women’s football side, The Pinktails.

She has also interests in the arts as a performer, and is co-founder of the not-for-profit production company Yangapi Productions.

She has been a mentor to indigenous women through the MusicNT Desert Divas program since its inception in 2011. She also wishes to represent the views of people living in town camps.

CAROLINE Jayne Phelps works in administration and finance for a childcare company.

She has lived in Alice Springs for about 24 years.

Next year she will affirm her position as a long-term Central Australian at the annual Territorian Dinner, which celebrates people who have lived in the NT for 25 years.

The 49-year-old has an interest in issues such as domestic violence and youth services. She is also interested in growing the prosperity of the desert town.

RYAN Callander moved to Alice Springs last October to help improve the fortunes of the company he works for.

The 33-year-old is employed by Independent Grocers, and as operations manager he moved from Darwin to lift the company’s service levels.

He said his business acumen made him an ideal candidate for town council.

He would like to improve the town’s social issues, with homelessness and alcoholism major concerns he would like to help solve.

The Pillars of Justice law and order reform strategy

is in place to ensure we have a coordinated approach to driving down crime for Territorians through strengthening our police, justice and correctional systems.

For further information visit www.justice.nt.gov.au/pillarsofjustice

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