

By-election: are we on a road to nowhere?

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Roy Reekie's open letter to voters

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The beat goes round and round for Spinners



It's all about the vinyl: Toni Jenkins is among a group of Spinners in Warrnambool who meet four times a year to share their love of music...played on record players.

[dropcap style="color:#DC943C;"] I [/dropcap]t began as a good idea for a housewarming party that has taken on a life of its own as a regular rug-twisting, hip-swinging, good-time-guaranteed-get-together for a group of friends who love LPs.

If you know what the acronym LP stands for, then you are off to a good start to be a "Spinner": a person who loves listening to actual vinyl records rather than CDs, MP3s or digital downloads.

"It is the sound – the richness and quality of the sound – and when you hear it again after not having heard it for a long time, it is wonderful," explains the founder of the Spinners in Warrnambool, **Claire Jennings**.

Claire inadvertently started the Spinners when planning her housewarming party in 2011 – a year after she had moved in –

and decided that because she was a year late with the festivities, the party had better be something out of the ordinary. Why not set up a stereo and play some records?

“But I didn’t have a record player and I didn’t have any records – I had nothing,” Claire throws out her hands and laughs.



[dropcap style="color:#DC943C;"] T [/dropcap>he solution was to borrow a couple of turntables and ask the guests to bring along their favourite records to “spin a set” in a seamless transition between one turntable and the other, just as DJs used to do when Claire and her friends were in their teens.

“I organised for a bit of a practice-run a month before the actual party, just to see how it would work, and the few people I invited ended up dancing all night...I basically ended

up having two housewarming parties,” Claire says.

Like all memorable nights, the talk the next day was all around “we must do that again!”

So they did.

And then they did it again.

And now a core group of around 12 people meet four times a year, with other “Spinners” included by invitation-only, to play their 25-minute “sets”, enjoy some food and, if they feel like it (which they usually do), to dance.

“To hear *Smoke on the Water* again on vinyl after so many years, well, it’s just magical,” Claire says, adding that she loves rock and roll and is a mad Beatles fan.



The record-breaking cake stand that is used by the host of each Spinners’ night to serve the

snacks.

[dropcap style="color:#DC943C;"] S [/dropcap]pinner **Toni Jenkins** said the group reignited her passion for music – she has eclectic taste from The Cure, to Janis Joplin, Bette Midler and just about anything from the 80s – and that there is a particular joy that comes from hearing great songs.

“There are still songs out there that you have never heard before and, every now and then, someone will come up with an absolute gem,” she says.

Toni admits she has her favourite Spinners – **Roy Reekie, Paul Sheehan** – who can keep her on the dance floor for most of the night.

“To dance through a whole set of about 10 songs is not for the faint hearted,” she laughs.

A few rules have been added in recent times, such as playlists being written down rather than chosen at random, and each Spinner bringing their own glass and taking their shoes off at the door, just to save on dishes and floor damage.

In the end, however, it is still all about the music.

“The songs represent a particular time and a particular era – it is our history – and there is great joy in being completely immersed in that again,” Toni says.



Songs and artists from another era are brought back to vivid life through the Spinners nights in Warrnambool.

[box] **The Spinners are hosting a farewell and tribute night to Warrnambool's legendary Capricorn Records and owner Mick Fitzgerald (who is a Spinner) on Sept 20 at the Ozone Room, Warrnambool Hotel. Tickets are \$10 from Long Gone, 115 Fairy St, Warrnambool.** [/box]

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Why I am running: Dr Denis Naphthine



Premier Dr Denis Naphthine, who is also the current member for Great South Coast, hopes voters will judge him on his track record. Image: Supplied.

Dr Denis Naphthine has been an MP since 1988, representing first the seat of Portland and then, under new electoral

boundaries, the seat of South West Coast. He became Premier of Victoria in 2013. Having made it to the top – and after more than 25 years in office – why does he wish to run again? He writes for us to explain all:

[dropcap style="color: #a5cecd;"] F [/dropcap]irstly, I would like to congratulate *Bluestone* on its first birthday.

I believe that a vote for me and my government on 29 November is a vote for a better Victoria, one that is more prosperous, smarter and more secure.

I am proud to call south-west Victoria home.

I have a proven track record of delivering for South West Coast and its communities and, if re-elected by my constituents on 29 November, will continue to do so.

Over the past three-and-a-half years I have been delivering on my 2010 election promises. These include a new school for Woolsthorpe, a pedestrian overpass over the Portland Ring Road, seven new passing lanes on the Princes Highway, a passing loop on the Melbourne to Warrnambool rail line, a new police residence at Heywood, Avgas facilities at the Portland airport, and returning local rangers to Tower Hill and Mount Eccles, among many others.

And soon a cancer centre will be a reality for the south-west. I am pleased to have helped secure funding of \$15 million for this life-saving centre – a project I have been particularly passionate about.



Traffic chaos on the West Gate Bridge makes the proposed East-West link roadway essential, according to Dr Naphthine. Image: [ABC Online.](#)

[dropcap style="color: #a5cecd;"] I [/dropcap]n May's State Budget I was able to deliver funding for a new school at Narrawong, a vital upgrade of the Woolsthorpe-Heywood road and other local roads, additional mental health beds for South West Healthcare at Warrnambool and a new community health facility at Port Fairy.

I have also announced a \$4.9 million upgrade of Warrnambool airport; a \$7.7 million boost for South West TAFE to allow the institute to offer affordable, accessible and high quality training programs anytime, anywhere on any device; a Master Plan for the Lady Bay area and new emergency vehicles for our hard working volunteers.

As part of the Coalition's *Fairer Water Bills Initiative*, residential customers of Wannon Water will receive a \$70 rebate on their water bills each financial year for the next four years.

I am also extremely proud of the work my government is doing

for all Victorians.

East West Link is a vital project for all Victorians. I know that the many south-west Victorians who drive to Melbourne will benefit from this infrastructure project. How many people have been stuck in traffic waiting to get over the West Gate Bridge? Melbourne desperately needs a second river crossing and anybody who lives west of Melbourne and regularly drives to Melbourne knows that.

In terms of public transport, there are now 10,000 more public transport services per week than when we came to office; from January 1, there will be free tram travel in the CBD and Zone 1 and 2 travel for the price of a Zone 1 fare; we will build the Melbourne Rail Link and a Melbourne airport rail link as well as the \$2 billion Cranbourne-Pakenham line upgrade.

Our Government is also completing the \$4.1 billion regional rail link which will benefit v/line passengers from Western Victoria as well as metropolitan commuters from the western and north western Suburbs.



Dr Napthine says education has been a priority

for the Coalition Government, with a record spend of \$9.2 billion this year . Image: Peaceinmyhome.com

[dropcap style="color: #a5cecd;"] A[/dropcap]s a result of the Coalition Government's sound economic management, Victoria is the only Australian state or territory with the coveted AAA credit rating and with budget surpluses forecast across the next four years.

This careful stewardship of the state's finances ensures there is more money available to fund the services families need now, and the important infrastructure our children and grandchildren will need in the future.

My Coalition Government is proud to be spending a record \$15 billion this year on our vital health services and a record \$9.2 billion on school education.

We have also increased police numbers by 1700 and put 940 PSOs on our railway stations. Our tough approach to law and order is delivering a safer community.

I am particularly proud of our proven commitment to vulnerable Victorians. Since coming to government, the Coalition has increased spending on vulnerable children and families by \$900 million. This includes \$100 million per annum on family violence, a 40 per cent increase since coming to government.

I am also passionate about delivering better services for people with a disability. That is why the Coalition is committed to the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which is now located in Geelong.

Be it here in the south-west, or more broadly across Victoria, my government is delivering the projects and programs that we need now and our children will need in the future.

That is why I urge you to support me and my government as we

seek a second term on 29 November.

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