

Press Release  
22 June 2010



## Speed Candi-Date Meeting Announced

Get your questions, your opinions, your hopes and your fears, and come along to the Methodist Mission's **Float Your Vote** candidate meeting on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August at its Approach Learning Centre on Mornington Road. The Mission is hosting a day full of council candidates, community connection, and charred cheerios (sausage sizzle to you and me) on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August, just 24 hours after the close of nominations.

The day (from 11 – 4) will be based on the idea of speed dating. “Fliss Butcher came to us with the concept, and we liked it so much we asked to run with it” said Mission Chief Executive Laura Black “there are likely to be quite a few candidates for the big Dunedin ward, and it won’t be possible to give each of them 5 minutes on a stage without it taking 4 or 5 hours to get through them all. This way, folks can meet the candidates, have a good conversation, and come away knowing that the next Council understands what’s important to them”.

“If someone wanted, they could attend 15 group sessions over the day, or just one. But it’s a great chance to eyeball the candidates, and to have your say” says Ms Black. The Mission expects topics as diverse as Tourism Dunedin, reserves management, public transport, waste water, climate change, and dog control to be raised.

There will be 5 topics, held in rotating 15-20 minute conversations, each one focussed on an area of council activity: Community Development, Economic Development, Finance & Strategy, Infrastructure, and Planning & Environment. Several candidates will be in each group, available to explain their vision for the city, and their take on Council’s activities.

**Float Your Vote** posters will go up throughout August, particularly in South Dunedin, and the Mission invites candidates to contact them as soon as possible to register their availability and get the background pack. “For the candidates this is a great opportunity to meet with voters, to kick off their campaigns, and to sharpen their message. They’ll also get the chance to meet with and shape their positions with other candidates; useful preparation if they are elected. They may also get a little media attention, if they’re good.” says Ms Black with a smile.

There is good carparking at Approach, and to help people who don’t have cars get to **Float Your Vote**, the Mission will run a free shuttle bus from outside the RSA on King Edward Street every half hour. “If you miss meeting a candidate you really want to talk to, we’ll have their promotional material including contact details available, so you’ll be able to follow up afterwards.” says Ms Black. “The Mission is hosting **Float Your Vote** because of the low voter turnout in Dunedin for Council elections, despite Council decisions having a huge impact on communities and families’ lives. It’s absolutely critical that voters re-engage in the process, and regain a sense of power in the political process. We hope they can join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> to do this and to have a bit of fun, and a sausage at the same time.”

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Enough support and challenge for you to risk a better future

The logo for Methodist themission, featuring the word 'methodist' in a smaller, green, sans-serif font above the word 'themission' in a larger, bold, green, sans-serif font. To the right of the text are three stylized green fireworks or starburst graphics.

methodist  
themission

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