

MBV Housing Sector Committee

Nominees 2021

Rebecca Bishop



I'm Bek Bishop, Co-Founder of Elite Building Services and Vice-Chair of the MBV Gippsland Section.

I have been in the legal industry for 11 years and the building industry for 15 years. I completed my law degree in 2017 with Honours and have won many State and National Awards in the building industry.

I love being an involved and active member of my communities – whether that be local sports, my neighbourhood, my colleagues or my industry.

I love the AFL (Go Pies!) and local footy and watching just about any sport! I love spending time with family and friends, watching movies, baking, learning new things and helping others whenever possible.

I am extremely passionate in everything I do with a strong commitment to excellence and that includes matters of mental health and wellbeing, particularly in our industry.

Relationships are also really important to me and I really value those I have within our extended team and industry.

I am excited to be on the Housing Sector Committee as I feel that it would create the opportunity for me to effect greater change in our industry than what I've been able to do as a member. As a small business owner myself, I understand what is involved in running your own business, whilst trying to balance family commitments and other life demands. I want to hear the changes members want to see in our industry and help bring them to realisation so that we can continue improving our beloved industry together.

Nominees 2021

Neil Coulter



Hello, my name is Neil Coulter. I am the owner and director of Mortar Life Quality Builders P/L.

Mortar Life has been operating since 2006.

As the son of a plumber I started working for my father on weekends and holidays from the age of 12 years old, during these years I was taught a very strong work ethic which I maintain on a daily basis. This also gave me a very good base of building knowledge for starting my Carpentry apprenticeship and career.

After completing my apprenticeship, I immediately set out to gain as much knowledge and experience as I could by starting my own carpentry business and working for a number of reputable architectural builders around Melbourne. During these years I refined my skills as a boutique

builder by managing all carpentry, site management and building requirements. Some of these projects were cutting edge in not only design but construction methods as well.

Today Neil has over 27 years industry experience and his company Mortar Life Quality Builders P/L specialise in the Knockdown & Rebuilding of new homes and architectural renovations and extensions.

Neil is a member of the MBAV Housing Committee and has been a member of the MBAV (Master Builders Association of Victoria) for 17 years. Mortar Life are also a Green Living accredited Builder through the MBAV.

Neil is also studying his advance diploma in Building Surveying at Polytechnic hoping to become an inspector and surveyor once finished with building.

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John Goris



John Goris is passionate about the building industry and wants to help drive initiatives to create the best outcomes for the industry as a whole.

Mr Goris is the Director and CEO of Kingsbridge Homes and Hermitage Homes. He is also the Director of TRC Australia.

Mr Goris started with Kingsbridge Homes / Hermitage Homes in 2007. Kingsbridge Homes is a display home brand that focuses on second and third homeowners and has many display homes all over Victoria. The Hermitage Homes brand focuses on turnkey homes for investors and developers. In addition, the group of companies are currently developing a 1000 lot subdivision in the North of Melbourne, a 215 lot subdivision in the West of Melbourne and have developed a 168 room hotel in Richmond.

Mr Goris has been instrumental in building and developing Kingsbridge Homes and Hermitage Homes to great success. Specifically, Mr Goris has implemented a significant cultural transformation throughout the business. During his time as CEO, the group has built thousands of homes all over Melbourne and Victoria and have won multiple awards and accreditations. These include Best Display Home, Product Review Best Builder, Australian Achiever best Victorian Builder and ISO 9001 Certification.

Mr Goris holds the following: Building Licence (DBU), Master of Business Administration (MBA), CPA and Bachelor of Commerce (BCom). He also mentors in mentoring programs at Deakin University, Monash University and The University of Melbourne.

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Aidan Scott Hooper



Aidan joined the ABN Group in 1991 as a New Homes Consultant, following this he went on to hold a number of senior roles within the Group including Sales Manager and General Manager for Sales & Marketing.

Aidan has played a significant role in setting the culture of the ABN Group's building businesses and it was this passion for people that lead Aidan to take a partnership in the ABN Group in 2009 with the acquisition of Boutique Homes.

As a specialist in creating and motivating high performance teams Aidan now leads some 700 people in his Melbourne office where he has brought together some of property's brightest and best people.

Aidan is excited to be joining the Housing Sector Committee with the MBAV to share his knowledge and insight. His strong dedication to the property industry has seen Aidan involved with a number of industry bodies, setting industry high standards by forever pushing the boundaries with housing innovation to ensure accessibility to affordable housing.

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Vikas Kandhol



I migrated to Australia in 2006 with a bachelor's in computer science at my hand and started working in IT. I progressed to become a Cisco certified network professional and worked with Cisco in Sydney where I played a critical role in the design and implementation of big data centres in Asia pacific. I also got the opportunity to manage a small team there and found another passion, which I didn't realise I had until then, which is "People". I really thrive on seeing people develop and grow over time.

My love for buildings from childhood then brought me here to Melbourne as I started working in the construction industry. It's been a constantly evolving journey and a continuous learning experience since then. I am now a registered Domestic Builder and have enjoyed and embraced all the challenges that have come my way.

I see the Housing Sector Committee as a platform to contribute towards a stronger and well-regulated industry which can promote higher standards of work and assist in delivering products and services with value, honesty, and integrity. My goal is to contribute to the society by building a sustainable environment which is a pleasant place to live in.

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Oksana Katorjevskaya



I am a registered building practitioner and the owner of Your Favourite Homes. I am 46, I have two sons, aged 12 and 16. We currently live in Bentleigh East/I have built the house that we live in/. I am running Your Favourite Homes building custom homes or small multiunit developments for my clients. I have done a couple of structural renovations as well.

Being a small business operator, I am familiar with all the aspects of running a small construction business – starting with marketing/advertising, tendering/contract and constructing. As a female builder and a mum, I know it's the little things that count. Things like ensuring we clean behind the walls before plastering, lagging the pipes

to reduce water noise through the property, and adding finishes such as paving paint to garage floors to give them a smoother finish and make them easier to clean and maintain.

I would love to be a part of the Housing Committee as there are a lot of areas the small builders like myself need support with, to make sure they are able to run their business successfully/profitably, be legally protected and produce good quality homes that are practical and low maintenance, and enjoyed by all the subsequent owners, not only the original ones that engage you as a builder.

I am a big supporter of Liveable Housing Design principles, ensuring living in the homes I build is an enjoyable and cost-effective experience.

I have completed all my industry education with MBAV –

- Master Builders of Victoria accredited Green Builder
- Cert IV in Building & Construction
- Cert III in Occupational Health & Safety
- Diploma in Building & Construction

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Ian John McGarry



I am a 54 year old Registered Building Practitioner living in Richmond, Victoria.

I am the Managing Director of BlueLine Construction which is a predominantly residential building company based in Hawthorn which I started in 2004.

Having spent most of my working life in the building industry, it seems like it is harder than ever before to survive and prosper in the industry and it should not be that way.

Having a voice and supporting our members has never been more important than now and I feel that it is my turn to put my hand up and get involved.

As a business owner it sometimes feels like you are continually jumping through hoops on a daily basis. Whether it be legal responsibilities, council bylaws, or compliance with OHS or building regulations, these things are not as streamlined and straight forward as they could be and are accentuated in the current restricted state that we are working in.

I think that we all agree that our industry needs good regulation, but it should be designed to protect and improve the industry.

Thank you for your support.

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Daryoush Raki



With thirty years of experience in the construction industry, I am a qualified civil engineer and have a Domestic Building Licence (unlimited).

My experience extends to both the residential and commercial sector, with a variety of responsibilities from site management to estimating and cost planning. I have been involved with a wide range of projects in Australia, Africa, Southeast Asia, Middle East, and the USA.

These projects include hotels and resort developments, hospitals, airports, shopping centres, museums, office and residential towers, mixed used developments, universities, sport facilities and stadium complexes with a value of up to \$1.5 billion USD.

My experience has taught me the importance of teamwork, and as a new Housing Sector Committee member, I will use my experience to bring the following issues for discussion and collectively find solutions:

- Provide practical dispute resolution for COVID-19 and material shortage issues on behalf of residential builders
- Identify realistic solutions for how to combat material shortages in Victoria (i.e. timber, metal studs, aluminium, etc.)
- Encourage the participation of domestic builders within the MBAV
- Promote the incentives, support, and training that is provided by the MBAV in areas that are of concern in the domestic construction industry. Examples include foundation, waterproofing, etc.
- Provide a platform for members to share their existing concerns within the industry

Your support will help me become a Housing Sector Committee member. I will be your voice for all present and future issues that concern your business and the industry.

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John David Rosenhain



I have been a registered unlimited domestic builder for 30 years and a member of the MBV for 23 years. The MBV has always been my primary reference resource and point of contact for clarification on some of the many difficult decisions that have to be made in a construction business.

Over this journey, I have undertaken many and varied construction projects of different sizes. The clients that I have worked for are equally varied, with a large percentage of my business being repeat business.

I have a team-based approach to my business with most of my supporting trades being with me for many years. My suppliers are just as important and I have traded with the key ones also for many years. I see relationships in business as being of great significance.

Over the years there have been many major issues in the domestic construction industry that have impinged on the environment e.g. warranty insurance availability, significant registration changes and more recently a shortage in the supply of raw materials.

I believe that with my experience as a domestic builder and with all the exposure to the environmental and business issues, I would be able to offer a significant contribution to the Housing Sector of the MBV.

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Michael Xafis



Michael Xafis holds a Graduate Diploma in Building Project Management and has been involved in the domestic building industry for over 32 years, having commenced in carpentry under his father, a master carpenter, at age 17. Michael has in-depth experience in a variety of projects, including new homes, multi-unit developments, renovations, and extensions, and he has held supervisory positions in volume and non-volume domestic construction.

Over the past 12 years, he has operated his own construction business, Berman Homes, and has received two Excellence in Housing Awards, a Special Commendation for Best Multi Unit Development-up to 3 units, and has been Finalist for Best Multi Unit Development-up to 3 units.

For over 25 years, Michael has proudly supported the MBAV through his active membership because he recognises its role in developing building industry excellence and connecting builders and consumers, both of whom look to MBAV for reliable, trustworthy, and professional industry leaders.

Michael's keen interest in and commitment to high industry standards, continued education and professional development, and the development and maintenance of respectful and trusting relationships with the industry and consumers are central to membership on this committee. As a committee member, Michael would continuously and vigorously promote the Master Builders Association of Victoria.

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James Yang



James began his career as a graduated architect in the design & construction industry in 1989. Throughout the three decades, he has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience, having not only worked on the drawing board, but also in the heart of the construction, laying bricks during the early days.

James co-founded LWY Group in 1997, specialising in design, construction, building material and project management, and he is currently the General Manager for the design and construction team.

LWY undertakes small to medium sized projects, with a diverse portfolio comprised of low-rise apartments, new homes, townhouses, medical centres, child-care centres, colleges, warehouses and factories among others.

As a member of Master Builders Association of Victoria (MBAV) since 2003, James is committed to sharing his experience & expertise with the housing and construction community.

His goals include:

- To promote ethical practice and quality assurance in the housing industry through education, regulatory and quality control.
- To encourage and facilitate continuing professional development (CPD) to achieve quality assurance.
- To encourage the younger generation to broaden their knowledge in different trades in the construction field to gain problem-solving abilities.

MEMBERSHIP

Master Builders Association of Victoria, since 2003, No. 055481

LICENSES & CERTIFICATES

- Registered Domestic Builder, Unlimited, since 2006
- Registered Commercial Builder, Medium Rise, since 2004
- License SI (intermediate Scaffolding)
- Certificate III OHS
- Certificate Tested & Tagged

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