

## NOMINATIONS TO MDGA EXCOM 2023/24

### Candidate: **Caitlin Melidonis**

Caitlin has had a long-standing relationship with Marina Da Gama throughout multiple stages of her life. Her parents built in the Marina in the 80s and therefore Caitlin spent 24 wonderful years growing up on the water in Park Island before moving to the UK to live and work. She returned home to warmer climes after 7 years and bought her first home with her husband in Marina Da Gama where she now lives and works from home.

Caitlin has over a decade of experience in the conservation sector which includes habitat and species conservation, human-wildlife coexistence, protected area management, and combatting wildlife crime. Her hobbies include running, sewing, hiking and just generally being outside in nature.



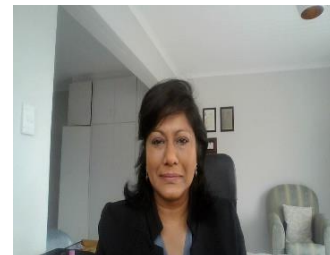
### Candidate: **Debbie Landrow**

I have worked since the age of 16. I have done part time studies to the extent that I have a diploma in Financial Management. I've have been an entrepreneur for 10 years Myself drive has gotten me to this point in my life. I'm very versatile. I can work independently, and I meet my deadlines and get the job done quickly.



### Candidate: **Denouvre de Beer**

My name is Denouvre and I have loved living in the Marina for the last 25 years. I would also like to serve on the EXCOM and bring my wealth of corporate and business knowledge and experience to the MDGA. Besides the 20 years of corporate experience, I have a master's degree in information technology and mostly consult to major corporations. I believe that I can offer the MDGA to manage the communications and IT portfolio for the benefit of the community.



### Candidate: **Demetri Qually**

We live in a special place and I want to see us come together more effectively as a community. This will require constructive engagement with our Residents, Neighbours, Council and other relevant bodies. I've been a resident for 35 years and have previously been a member of the MDGA Excom including in the position of Chair. My other relevant experience includes 20 years as a councillor, serving in a variety of roles including Ward Councillor for our area, and a number of Leadership positions in Council. My still having contact with most of the City's Political Leadership as well as being familiar with CoCT policies and procedures will be an advantage. With a positive and collaborative Executive Committee, I believe the Marina da Gama can meet our current challenges and make 2024, which is the 50th anniversary of our establishment, a year to remember and celebrate with pride.



**Candidate: Graham Barratt**

Graham is certainly well qualified to head up the ExCom's Standards portfolio. He has been involved with over 300 building projects of all sizes during his career and is a past member of the Rondebosch Ratepayers' Association ExCom. A quantity surveyor by profession, he runs his practice, Barratt & Boyes Quantity Surveyors, from home.



Among other responsibilities, his current role involves:

- Working with ExCom's Architecture Committee (Archcom) and our Standards inspector, Robbie Johnston, to ensure that all new buildings and building alterations conform to the MDGA's building design regulations and constitution
- Assisting the Standards inspector in noting and taking remedial action where transgressions occur, and in encouraging residents to maintain their properties to an acceptable standard
- Working with residents and endeavouring to resolve any disputes.

Graham and his wife, Cheryl, have lived in the Marina for the last 16 years and enjoy the area's relatively safe and laid-back life style. They have three children and five grand-children, all resident in the southern suburbs. He is a born Capetonian, raised in the southern suburbs and educated at Rondebosch Boys' Preparatory and High Schools and at the University of Cape Town.

He is keen to engage with residents, and actively encourages property maintenance as a way to improve our environment while maintaining and raising property prices to the benefit of all homeowners in the Marina.

**Candidate: Lise Carswell**

My history with Marina da Gama is long-standing. My grandfather was one of the Anglo engineers back in the early days, and I have fond memories of playing in the park and boating as a child. I moved to the Marina 15 years ago and absolutely love the nature and amazing sense of community.



I work in tourism, curating itineraries for international guests, including the sales process, writing, accounts and plenty of admin. Hobbies include reading, cooking, gardening and walking my pups. I have previously been on the MDGA executive committee and served as vice chair.

**Candidate: Neil Douglas Muller**

Resident of Marina Da Gama (Oudevelei Peninsula) since 2015.

I have been a successful civil servant in both the United States and the Western Cape. The positions I have held have included highly technical fields such as Transportation Demand Modelling where I managed a model of the Northern New Jersey part of the New York Metropolitan Region and challenging Senior and Executive Management Positions such as the Head of Branch of Public Transport in the Western Cape which included management of the R1 billion subsid to Golden Arrow and the Mini-Bus Taxi industry.

I am known as an innovative, and creative public servant with a focus on getting results. In the US I founded a small strategic planning firm (Muller Bohlin Associates – you can look it up on the web) that has succeeded in raising over \$500 million in FREE government grants for its clients.

I know the general issues of the South Peninsula quite well as between 2007 and 2015 I was the Chief Town and Regional Planner for the Western Cape



Provincial Government's Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. The South Peninsula was part of my responsibilities.

I have a strong love for Zandvlei that can be traced back to when I used to be dropped in the afternoons by my mother as a boy of no more than 10 years old to fish for mullet on one of the wooden jetties that used to stick out. I also learned to canoe on its waters. I am very distressed by its current condition and I do not believe that the current management of the closing of the mouth while not addressing sources of pollution is the best approach.

In terms of the wider community, I believe that while as investors in the Marina we have an interest in preserving and enhancing our property values, this is best done by embracing the future rather than trying to hold onto the past as a matter of principle.

I am particular, I interested in issues in the Oudevlei Peninsula. As the most affordable part of the Marina it is where change is happening the fastest. Despite its density compared to the rest of the Marina those who live there will be looking to increase the intensity of use.

I believe that the MDGA should be involved in a permanent solution to the Guardhouse and it is time to have a proper conversation about the use and financing of the San Marino Clubhouse.

I ask you to vote for me if you think I will represent your interests.

### Candidate: **Paul Higgins**

Paul and his wife, Glenda, have been Marina residents since 1999, and he has two sons, Richard and Michael. After starting his career with the government agency, Surveys and Mapping, Paul moved into the private sector and has been partner in an engineering and hydrographic surveying company since 1987. He specialises in surveying on large engineering projects involving dams, power stations, tunnels, steel mills and harbours. He is now putting his skills to good use on behalf of the Marina community by assisting with the Archcom and Waterways portfolio.



### Candidate: **Peter Allen**

Peter has spent more than 36 years in the military, policing, and security sectors. After six years in the South African Navy, he joined SAPS at Muizenberg and worked in a variety of locations and roles, including 10 years as a member of the SAPS Dog Unit Tactical Support Group. After 21 years in the police, he resigned in 2010 as a commissioned Captain before spending a year as a private military contractor at the US Embassy in Kabul, working for the US State Department. In 2011, Peter became estate security manager and later estate manager at Burgundy Estate near Platteklouf, a housing estate with a Mashie golf course and 3,500 residences.



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Peter's hobbies include motorcycle and quadbike riding, and target shooting as a member of the National Hunting and Shooting Association (NHSA) and the South African Defensive Pistol Association (SADPA). He also finds time to moonlight as a close protection officer for Hollywood A-list celebrities.

Peter – who holds a degree in policing – has been a Marina resident since 2012 after moving from Lakeside with his wife, Janine, and sons, Conor and Jared.

**Candidate: Robin Carlisle**

Married to Margaret.  
Resident in Marina since 2006.  
A member of the MDGA Exec for 2 years  
Founder and co-ordinator of the Marina Guardians for 3 years.  
Previously:-  
-Marketing Director - Edgars stores Ltd  
-Secretary General – Progressive Federal Party  
-Member of Parliament for Wynberg  
-Minister of Transport and Public Works – Western Cape Province



**Candidate: Ulf Martz**

Ulf Martz moved to the Marina in 2016 when he and his wife, foster daughter and rescue dogs started to enjoy living in the Marina and the beauty it brings to their new home.

Ulf was co-opted to join the MDGA ExCom in October 2021, and took over the Executive Chair position at the 21 June 2022 MDGA AGM. He is also a member of ZPAAC and has been involved in CSI projects to build RDP houses. He is actively involved with the City of Cape Town, Provincial and National officials on a project management basis.

Ulf is a professionally registered civil engineer who has 40 years of experience, having worked in South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, and Lesotho with emphasis on Infrastructural Developments. Mr Martz has also worked for road authorities, contractors, and international consultants.

He has administered multidisciplinary construction projects as the principal agent overseeing the successful completion of large-scale contracts.



**Candidate: Valerie Benson**

Myself and my partner, William, moved to the Marina in August 2015 and live in Uitsig Peninsula. I really discovered the beauty and magic of the Marina during COVID when we had limited time to walk around our area.

After being a client since 2016, I joined Deep Blue Security in 2021 as their local Marina da Gama, Muizenberg and Deep South sales representative as I believe in the company's capacity to keep residents safe. Our Area Manager, armed response officers, and guards are the reason for our success here.

I also really believe in getting our community together and this stemmed largely from the Marina Cooks group where in 2020, over 100 Marina homes provided cooked food and fresh vegetables amongst other things to our neighbours in Vrygrond. This initiative, although much smaller, is still going 3 years later with approximately 20 households still providing food.

Other community events such as a book club, a wine club, a WhatsApp gardening group, birding group, Halloween walk, Letters to Santa and some others have enabled me to meet many more of my neighbours.

We live in an amazing community, let's celebrate it and make the most of it.

