

Yarra Langridge and Nicholls Ward Candidate Councillor Questions 2020

Q1. Why have you decided to stand for the Yarra City Council? (200 words)

my answer:

I believe there is a real job, which must be done for locals at this very challenging time of Covid19 pandemic. He sees that the best way to do this job is to have a council that is as diverse and inclusive as the community he lives in. As diversity don't talked about But is shown in representation of everyone within the community. Matoc believes that contributing to council success require a whole of community effort and a whole of community that is representative and supportive of Yarra's diverse community. Matoc believes that he will be able to bring this diversity and holistic leadership approach by running for council in Yarra. Matoc's decision to participate in this year's council election comes from his passion for service to his community, a belief that the 'all' or the whole of the community needs to be heard and listened to and that if you couple this with hard work and commitment, valued their voices the whole community will be successful

Q2. Are you a member or supporter of a local group or organisation? (100 words)

my answer:

I am not part of any party But led by community concens and needs such as affordadable husing, mental health and local jobs. The community members wanted their voices to be listened to and importaly valued and respond to accordingly.

Q3. Have you been a participant in a local project or campaign? (200 words)

my answer:

Matoc's local work includes running the African Women's Group, Kids Space in Yarra (homework club, over 10 years) (where other communities such as Vietnamese & Afghans also attend and use) & running a community Radio Program at 3ZZZ for 10 years. Along with writing support letters for disadvantages families and young people

Matoc is passionate, and his passion is also clearly demonstrated by his voluntary work such as being a volunteer in the local community and being

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Recognized as the AFL's ambassador for the African Community. In this role, Matoc promoted the AFL code to his community influencing young people, giving them interest and love of the game as well as connection to the local multicultural community of Yarra and the wider community. Matoc is also a leader, who mobilised his community for common society causes such as fund raising for MS (Multiple sclerosis), where together with his community members they raised funds for MS research.

Q4. What experiences have you had with the Yarra City Council? (200 words)

my answer:

as mentioned above, I had experiences in below

- **running African women's group.**
- **founder and coordinator of Kids Space in Yarra (Homework Club), where prep, primary and early high students are supported with their homework and schools task. What is more, the program is still operating online with a view of making sure the vulnerable students are not left behind with their school works regardless.**
- **rescuing South Sudanese radio program at 3ZZZ community radio.**
- **participating in safety working group with Yarra city for numbers of years.**
- **part of formation of African men's group formation with Fitzroy Learning Network and Fitzroy police.**
- **part of Atherton garden network.**
- **community contacts-Yarra (initiated by Yarra council) is where infomtion is shared and passed to Yarra locals community members in regard to Covid19 updates).**
- **played a significant role in formation of African association of Collingwood.**
- **other**

Q5. What role does the community play in council decision making?
How can this be made more effective? (200 words)

My ans:

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Community needs to be involved in consultation on policy development and planning, while listening to their voices via their ideas and opinions. For its effectiveness, community members need to be consulted and involved before decisions are made and at the same time their ideas must be considered. What is more, there is no point of designing something for someone without their knowledge and inputs.

Q6. How do you propose to communicate with the community if elected as a councillor? (100 words)

My Ans:

If elected my proposed communication way with the community, would be face to face (when Covid19 is over), on Zoom and phone calls along with emails. Communication is a key to advancing local community and government as its effective way of passing information at the right channel, while developing better ways to stay in ongoing communication to exchange ideas and eventually creating innovative one that is applicable at all times.

Q.7. What are your priorities if elected to the Council? (300 words)

My ans:

Mental health (because of lock-down and isolation), safety, family violence, accessible education during home online learning (due to Covid19 restrictions), affordable housing, employment & access to environmentally friendly recreational space and parks. To meet these needs of the local communities & respond to them, I believes that it takes all of us, from councillors, to police, to schools, to community & small business, all of us to have a bond and connection so that together, great things can be achieved. Success can be achieved now and in the near future if we are committed to tackling our local concerns as one people working toward sustainable and vibrant Yarra. In addition, during this difficult and challenging time of pandemic; we need to keep things locally for possible statewide contribution after Covid19, is almost over. I believes, if elected as a councillor, I will be better placed to contribute to a team of hard and committed Yarra councillors in addressing current local needs and future concerns. As long as the council team listens proactively to Yarra local members concerns and importantly valued their voiced. I know we can address these needs with the community.

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Q8. The FRA has identified the following key priority areas - (500 words)

- Heritage Protection and Conservation
- Planning Permit Information and Advocacy
- Yarra Council Strategy, Policy and Guidelines
- Homelessness and Social Issues
- Climate Action

My Ans:

Below are my responses to above mentioned 5 points.

Yarra city council is well known for its heritage buildings and landmarks, with this in mind their protection and conservation would be a key to their sustainability. When we as a community and local council take care of what we found from others, who did their best to built these landmarks; our job and task is to protected and conserved them so the next generations could have access to them as they used to be (when built in last 80-100 plus years) or even better.

Yarra city council needs to involved its residents into their decision making when it comes to planning permit information and advocacy as this is the right and just thing to do.

Yarra council strategy, policy and guidelines, required consultation with locals since its about their council current and future advancement and involvement. When having all involved in the direction of their local council, all valued and respected the documents developed.

Homelessness and social issues, must be taking seriously by council in that its social responsibility and duty of care. affordable housing is a key to reducing homelessness along with proper support in place in case of other risk matters.

I understand that families are concerned about other social issues as below

- **Their children mental health (because of lock-down and isolation),**
- **Safety,**

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- **Family violence,**
- **Accessible education during home online learning (due to Covid19 restrictions)**
- **Employment**
- **Access to environmentally friendly recreational spaces and parks**

Climate action, one doesn't need more facts and discussions to understand the impact of climate change in our Australian environment. The recent fires and floods are more than evidence to demonstrate the significant role of having climate action in place to reduced our society carbon-print.

What priority would you give to each and how would you respond to your top 3 if elected as a councillor?

My ans:

I would give priority to below 3. I would respond if elected as above mentioned.

- **Yarra Council Strategy, Policy and Guidelines**
- **Homelessness and Social Issues**
- **Climate Action**

Q9. What should be the role of Yarra City Council in relation to State and Commonwealth governments? (300 words)

My ans:

Since Yarra city council is part of both State & federal Govts, it makes real sense to be in connection with them. Where Yarra city will share locals concerns about homelessness, mental health, local jobs, affordable housing, climate action and etc. with this in mind, Yarra council relationship with both Govts should be positive and effective. When Yarra city council does its role in building effective and positive relations with both Govts; locals get the benefits of affordable housing, local jobs, mental health support and other necessary projects.

Q 10. What relationship should the Yarra City Council have with neighbouring councils? (200 words)

My ans:

As mentioned above, Yarra city council needs to maintain similar relationships with neighbouring councils for locals to get jobs,

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**ongoing support from these councils as long as these relations are
taking care of at all levels and times.**