

Yarra Langridge and Nicholls Ward Candidate Survey 2020

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

I am passionate about Nicholls area, live, play and work here. I am passionate about animal welfare and a member of the Animal Justice Party and made the decision to join Yarra Council to assist with animal treatment in the area and also to assist Yarra Council with some of the good work they had done in the area around preservation of the heritage and skylines particularly across Fitzroy North and Clifton Hill. With the onslaught of COVID, I looked more closely into the impact of Council on our local community, traders and how important it is and I wanted to contribute.

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

I am a member of Protect Fitzroy North, Clifton Hill Good Karma Network, Yarra Residents Collective, Fitzroy Good Karma Network.

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

I have been actively involved and participated with Protect Fitzroy North on a number of campaigns about planning developments.

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

I have been through the registration process with my dog, Rosie when we adopted her.

I have purchased our first home and pay rates every year. I have been in touch with Council on issues of graffiti/tagging, dumping of rubbish, building permits and in relation to heritage protections and issues.

I have watched Council meetings online also.

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

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The community plays the most important role in decision making for Council. The community and community groups should actively guide the policies that are debated and potentially implemented.

I believe strongly in engaging with community groups and organisations, but we do need to be careful of ensuring all members of the community can participate in open, transparent discussions in languages other than English and in a manner which is accessible for those who are hearing or sight impaired. It would seem that Council has listened to one or two parts of the community and perhaps not engaged or not listened to others. This needs to be improved.

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

Given the state of COVID, I would engage on Zoom in regular community catch-ups/updates, attend meetings of most community groups regularly throughout the year, be available to the community via phone or email or letter when required.

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

- Retain the heritage look/feel of Nicholls Ward
- Protect buildings and trees of significance to the area
- Carefully review planning applications with regard to the unique heritage character and location of the area
- Improvement of pavements and walkways and removal of obstacles for the elderly community and mobility impaired
- Support a return to business plan for traders in Yarra eg. Improve pace of permit process and reduce red tape to get our retail/hospitality businesses back on their feet post COVID
- Mandate kill reporting of companion animals in Yarra
- Advocate for the immediate reunification of lost companion animals
- Affordable & accessible desexing programs
- End to convenience killing by working closely with rehoming organisations.
- Protection of the grey headed flying fox and surrounding habitat incl. review and replacement of fruit tree netting in backyards with wildlife friendly netting
- Offer vegetarian/vegan meals to Meals on Wheels and also include delivery of companion animal meals on an ongoing basis.

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

- Heritage Protection and Conservation 1.
- Planning Permit Information and Advocacy 2.
- Yarra Council Strategy, Policy and Guidelines
- Homelessness and Social Issues 3.
- Climate Action

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

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

Yarra Council has an important role to play in using its voice to open discussions with the State and Commonwealth Governments and also to engage in a positive manner to ensure Yarra receives applicable grants where possible for improvement of the community. Also to act proactively with the State and Federal Governments to ensure alignment in policy or advocating for Yarra's position.

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

A very positive, proactive and collaborative one.