

# FRA Perspective

Martin Brennan  
Chair, Fitzroy Residents Association



Helen Wilding

# Key Perspectives

1. Local council's capacity
2. Engagement with Yarra
3. Impact of the Pandemic
4. Reflections on the Election
5. FRA Annual Report 2020

# 1. Local council's capacity?

## **Relevance**

- Keeping up to date on local and big picture agendas
- Having expertise on local neighbourhoods and their communities
- Being innovative and creative in response to local needs/interests

## **Resource**

- Revenue policies
- Finance and asset management
- Councillor and staff skills for policy development & strategic planning
- New ways to deliver services

## **Respect**

- Building trust
- Openness and accountability
- Local leadership and partnerships
- New role for councillors

# What are the critical roles and skills for the future of local government?

- **Re-thinking the role of councillors** as community connectors, brokers and leaders
- **Stewardship** – more than making decisions but keeping in touch with the community and knowing how the community is doing
- **Community engagement** - implement new ways of engaging with the community - citizen juries, participatory budgeting, citizen assemblies, council advisory committees, neighbourhood forums

## 2. Engaging with Yarra

The City of Yarra's **Engagement Policy and Action Plan 2020 - 2024** sets out a hierarchy of engagements to be implemented across the Council administration.

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- Collaborate
- Empower – *‘building the capacity of the community to identify solutions and / or lead change.’*

### 3. Pandemic impact - Challenges

- Reduced public transport use
- Increase car usage
- Tourism decline
- Impact on activity centers – hospitality, entertainment, events, creative industries and arts
- Social impact of unemployment, homelessness, social issues
- Increased working from home

# Pandemic impact - Opportunities

- Shift to the hyper- localism
- Preference for local shopping
- Increased social connections and volunteering
- Increase use of open space, walking, cycling, get togethers
- Creative use of public space, parklets, pop up parks, use of roundabouts, median strips
- Strengthening governance and participation though virtual meetings and webinars
- Smaller and manageable public art events

## 4. Reflections on the election

- Planning
- Community engagement
- Heritage protection
- Climate change
- Open space
- Age friendly city
- Activity centre support

## 5. FRA Annual Report 2020

“The challenge, but importantly the opportunity, will be to build new, based on our collective experience, and recognising the probability of other stresses on and shocks to our community in the future. We will need 2020 vision as we consider future pathways for a liveable sustainable and equitable City”.



# Plan FRA 2020 - 2024

## • Longevity

- engage with community and build membership base
- Plan future scenarios

## • Influence

- Yarra City Council representations
- Network across the City and inner metropolitan Melbourne
- Respond to planning and strategic issues

## • Communications

- FitzTalk, Facebook, Website, Face to face and on-line forums

# FRA Responses

- Climate Emergency Plan: 2019
- Open Space Strategy: 2020
- Graffiti Management Framework: 2019 - 2022
- Community Engagement Policy and Action Plan: 2020 - 2024
- Draft LGBTIQ+ Strategy: 2020 - 2024
- World Heritage Exhibition Buildings & Carlton Gardens: Heritage Management Plan:2020
- Homelessness Strategy: 2020
- Brunswick Street Streetscape Master Plan: 2020
- Heritage Strategy: 2019 – 2030
- Local Government Bill: 2019
- Social and Affordable Housing Strategy: 2019



# FRA Planning

“Planning of our City’s future is of major interest and at times of concern to the FRA. The FRA seeks to preserve the historic character of our buildings and streetscapes.



We seek to ensure that both residential and commercial developments respect our heritage and sense of place and provide good architectural and urban design solutions, along with a high level of Environmental and Sustainable Development performance”.

# Thank you



## Fitzroy Residents' Association 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

THE SPIRIT OF THE FRA LIVES ON!  
RICH, VARIED & IMPRESSIVE HISTORY. IT'S NOT EASY.  
MAKE KEEP FITZROY LIVEABLE POLITICS IN THE PUB. WINE!  
'TRENDYVILLE'

Reading Room, Fitzroy Town Hall, 3 OCT 2019  
Rallying via a Telephone Tree (before Internet).  
Save the Splash at Fitzroy Pool. Slum clearance.  
Residents unaware as Housing Commission quietly acquiring properties. Social PLANNING. We Need a LIBRARY. Greedy Developments. THE CHEESE GRATER. 'I BUILT A SCALE MODEL TO SHOW HOW hideously Large it would Be.' WE LOST...'  
He was a PARTISAN in WWII ..AND THEN a PANEL BEATER. He BUILT THE BARRIcADES. THE EASTERN FREEWAY. 'I CAME FROM SUDAN. I LOVE MELBOURNE.' He IS FAMOUS AS HE IS PAINTED IN A MURAL NEAR FITZROY POOL. BUT THEN WORKED REMOVING GRAFFITI. 'I BOUGHT THE FIRST MENUS FROM MARIOS. COFFEE WAS JUST 2 DOLLAR. AVOCADO WAS A 90'S THING.' IT WAS A CREATIVE COMMUNITY. THE WAITERS' RACE. (YOU PUT GELATINE IN YOUR COFFEE SO IT DIDN'T SPILL. WE WON :) Helen Wilding Art