



Yarra City Council

Langridge Ward

Candidate, Langridge Ward – Jeremy Cowan

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

I don't currently own a bike. This is because I try to take my greyhound with me wherever I go and if it's too far for us to walk, then we drive. Unfortunately, they're my only options for travelling with my big dog!

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

I pledge strong support for improved and expanded cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Protected bike-lanes and the lowering of speed-limits in mixed-use car/bike lanes is paramount for Yarra to enhance interconnectivity and address climate change.

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

I believe council is on-track with their current bike strategy. However, we have a long way to go to achieve our goals of a liveable city and a '20-Minute Suburb'. For instance, extending the Wellington St protected bike-lane in Collingwood, is one small example where there is room for improvement.

Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Post COVID-19 I believe our shopping precincts and streets will need massive support for revitalisation. I strongly advocate for pop-up night markets and festivals, such as a new night-market on the corner of Nicholson St and Brunswick St in Abbotsford, or more pop-up bike lanes and outdoor dining.



Candidate, Langridge Ward – Gabrielle de Vietri

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

Yes, I have owned my own bike ever since I moved to Melbourne 17 years ago, and it dawned on me that I couldn't be dinked around forever. I ride it everywhere - to work, to my studio, to visit friends, along the Yarra River and Merri Creek, lugging around shopping, kids and text books!

This year for the first time, I have hired an electric bike to help us get around safely and emissions-free, explore the hidden gems of our 5km radius, and do our weekly shopping.

I have a special nostalgia for riding around the leafy streets of Fitzroy - that is my earliest memory of cycling in Melbourne and thinking "this is where I want to live". I also feel so lucky to have cycling and walking adventures around Yarra Bend Park. As an artist, I love taking the trails from Dights Falls to the Heide Museum of Modern Art.

I also reserve a special kind of pleasure for riding in to work at peak hour, avoiding congestion and knowing that by riding I'm doing the right thing for my body and the planet.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

A priority for me is to make Yarra a place where everyone can walk, ride or wheel to where they need to go, with safe and accessible pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and an expanded urban forest. I will push for Yarra to develop a bold and future-proof Integrated Transport Plan, and I believe we must actively preempt the increase in private transport uptake when COVID restrictions ease. I support an integrated network of best-practice protected bike lanes, 20-minute neighbourhoods, 30km zones, traffic filtering and calming mechanisms, the allocation of street space for pocket parks and increased bike parking. I will strongly advocate to the State Government to commit to building a fit-for-purpose bridge at Walmer Street, and to complete the Gipps St ramp project.

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

The City of Yarra has made some great moves to support cycling, encourage active transport and transition to a zero carbon city. I live right next to Wellington Street and I simply love the safety and accessibility of that protected bike lane, which I take to work.

However, I believe we need to make faster and more ambitious active transport decisions in the City of Yarra, in the face of climate change, as part of our COVID recovery, and as urban density rapidly increases.



Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Yes! With local traders along strips like Gertrude, Smith and Brunswick Streets struggling to stay afloat and thousands of people's jobs hanging in the balance, the Greens candidates for Yarra will roll up their sleeves to help save our high streets. We want to see our streets turned into vibrant pedestrian hubs, with creative interventions, support for localised street festivals and celebrations, activated shop fronts and more shade from trees.

We will work hard to revitalise our high streets, which includes supporting increased outdoor dining, better biking infrastructure - including pop-up lanes and more bike racks - converting street space to green open space, and measures to activate vacant shop fronts.

I support fast-tracking the Council permit process, waiving fees for new footpath trading and continuing "hardship" options for businesses that are struggling with rates at this time.

The Yarra Greens transport, COVID recovery, energy and environment policies can be found here: <https://greens.org.au/vic/lga/yarra>



Candidate, Langridge Ward – Karen Douglas

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

I own several bikes for different purposes. The main purpose is to get out and about in the fresh air and combine commuting and exercising with a low carbon impact. My favourite ride is the one I do to get home from wherever I am. It is particularly refreshing at night when the air is cool, the sounds of the city are starting to wind down and the lights look magnificent against the dark sky.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

I will support increased cycling rates particularly for those who are currently underrepresented – women, children and older people. I am a long-term BN member and participated in the inaugural women's ride through the Yarra but we have much more to do to encourage more people to be cycling more regularly.

I am proud to be part of a Labor team who are committed to increasing safe cycling around our community including:

- Supporting the Making Spaces program;
- Ensuring community engagement is meaningful and allows voices to be heard;
- Facilitating cycling maps in appropriate language and easy English formats for all people to access;
- Partnering with cycling organisations to facilitate skills training for new and existing cyclists, including bike maintenance workshops;
- Maintaining accessible bicycle repair stations across Yarra;
- Promoting cycling as a healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transport in Yarra;
- Liaising with neighbouring Councils and state government about how we can facilitate recreational and commuter access across the city;
- Auditing bicycle parking in busy community spaces, particularly around shopping and entertainment areas so we can support local businesses coming out of restrictions; and
- Utilising areas like Yarra Boulevard for occasional fun walks and bicycle networking opportunities for new riders.

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More policies are available here - <https://yarralabor.org/>

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

Yarra Council has made some good investments in cycling infrastructure and there is more to achieve. As one example if elected I will work with the community, other councils and state counterparts to complete the Farm Road link in Alphington.



We need to make sure our local voices are heard in the ways we shape our physical amenity to manage the ways residents, rate payers and traders travel through our areas. And we need to make information available to people in accessible formats.

Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

These are all suggestions I have already been speaking to locals about. We need to make sure the voices of our community are heard in the planning of our post COVID-19 recovery action including those of our traders who provide so many of our iconic meeting places.



Candidate, Langridge Ward – Peter Hude

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

I am an avid bike rider. Before the pandemic I used to commute to work daily on my bike using the Main Yarra Trail. My favourite ride is to do a lap of the Capital City Trail early on a Saturday when it is still very quiet, and taking some time to stop for breakfast in Carlton North. Riding along the river early in the morning is truly amazing.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

The recovery from the pandemic will present a once in a generation chance to reshape our council area. If there was ever a time for us to invest in our streets and parks, that time is now. Just from my own experience of using the Main Yarra Trail, it is obvious that bicycle traffic has increased dramatically. This presents both an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity is that we may be able to change habits permanently, to ensure that people choose a healthier, more sustainable transport option. The challenge will be how we manage this growth and also ensure that we bring non-cyclists along with us. We need to find creative solutions for expanding both the capacity and the reach of our bike network. I want to see us cover the basics (dedicated bike lanes, quality signage, good lighting at night) as well as the big-ticket items (upgrades to bridges and widening of bike tracks). Cycling should be an option for all parts of Yarra City Council.

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

Yarra City Council has correctly identified key priorities such as upgrading the Gipps Street Steps, and fixing the Walmer Street Bridge. I do understand that shared responsibilities with the State Government and Boroondara Council complicate the process. However, I still find it absolutely inexplicable that these infrastructure improvements haven't already taken place, despite being recognised as necessary years (maybe even decades) ago. More needs to be done to make these important upgrades happen. Also, I would like to see better consultation with residents when changes are made to local streets (not just for bicycle infrastructure but for all road changes). This is key to ensuring that non-cyclists view bikes as a positive for the area, so that future upgrades continue to attract community support.

Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Absolutely. Encouraging riding requires more than just bike-friendly transport infrastructure. Building urban streetscapes that people want to spend time in is key to creating a sense of local community. Yarra Council will need to adapt to the changed environment post-COVID, both in the short term (where social distancing is necessary) and in the long term (where fewer people will be commuting to the CBD each day).



Candidate, Langridge Ward – Stephen Jolly

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

Yes I own a bike and do not own a car. My favourite place to ride is the Wellington St bike lane because it took so long to get and represents everything about what we need in Yarra - more protected bike lanes that have local support.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Port Phillip Council?

I think it is outrageous that we only two dedicated bike lanes in Yarra - even Melbourne beats us. So we need more bike lanes but with full community consultation so each bike path doesn't become world war three like Elizabeth St. I will also pledge to reverse the almost \$300,000 in deferred bike projects from the recent budget - which included new lanes on Rushall Crescent, Brunswick St and \$230,000 in bike infrastructure. I voted against these cuts but they were passed by the votes of the Greens, ALP and some Independents in a 7-2 vote.

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

No. The mismanagement of the Elizabeth St bike lane has backfired. It could have been handled much better eg information in Vietnamese for the overwhelmingly Vietnamese community; actually listening to their modest suggestions etc.

Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Yes and by way of example am helping traders and locals get rid of parking of the northside of Gertrude St between Napier and Gore to allow outdoor dining etc.



Melba Ward

Candidate, Melba Ward – Don Wiggill Ash

Thank you for reaching out and if I may I would like ask that you take a moment to read the following statement:

Statement on My Position

First and foremost, I am standing as an Independent because of the autonomy and open-mindedness that a true Independent brings. I am wary of Party candidates simply because if a Council role is a step for them towards State and/or Federal roles then they will be utterly beholden to Party Platforms, Policies and Lines. That said I am equally wary of Independents who are campaigning on a single or couple of issues being driven hard by very specific community interest groups.

I am a big fan of civil discourse that enhances an understanding of issues. What I see increasingly is that our discourse is uncivil and that people are being increasingly polarised and that vitriol and hatred masquerades as debate. From entrenched positions people hurl abuse at one another and we are asked to choose sides rather than find common ground. I sometimes wonder whether we have forgotten our common humanity and the need to work together for any sort of peaceful coexistence and indeed for the survival of our planet; that small blue dot on which we are meant to co-exist. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wupToqz1e2g>

Not all, but many of surveys that I have been asked to respond to, in my view, contribute towards the polarization that is upsetting. Moreover 'Yes' 'No' type responses while feeding an audience who want 15 second soundbites belie the subtleties and complexities of many of the issues. On some like Gambling Reform and Pride Victoria it is easy for me to be unequivocal. Others cannot be adequately responded to in the format provided. And in some instances, my position is simple and that is:

"Yes, this is clearly an issue and I am for three things:

- a) Community consultation on an early and frequent basis with Councillors who are accessible to the people and the groups that they represent on a regular basis*
- b) Testing of all ideas that represent the best of the Community's creative juices and trialling on a meaningful basis and*
- c) Transparency and accountability in decision making"*

Now this does not mean that I don't have a view on issues like parking, or the injecting room or how best to revitalize our small businesses. I would like to think however that it is not the role of a Councillor to impose a personal preference or opinion, or a party line or the position adopted by the lobby group that got them into office when evidence based and community driven opinions run contrary to that position. The role of a Councillor is in my view:



- a) To listen and
- b) To advocate and then to
- c) To take accountability for Council Decisions and be called to account by the people in their Ward who are impacted by those decision

Now on Bikes and Bike Paths and Safe Cycling 😊

I strongly believe that all practical measures should be taken to protect the more vulnerable road or footpath user when there is a shared roadway or path. I am not a cyclist and my own passion is for walking; that said I do I believe strongly that walking and cycling should be promoted as environmentally more sustainable modes of transport. And as such I am in favour of foot and bike paths that minimize the car and pedestrian/ cyclist interaction. A great aspiration is to ensure that there is safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists through all of the Yarra City Wards and into the CBD. My understanding is that The City of Yarra has been Australia leading Council in promoting safety for pedestrians and cyclists and I would support the current initiatives to maintain this leadership. I believe that while the evidence suggests that transport modes (walking, cycling, public transport, private motor vehicles) should be separated but that this is not always practical or possible and therefore the **Golden Rule** that should be made very prominent in all road and path users minds is: ***Protect the Vulnerable***, the elderly, then young, then adult pedestrian, cyclist and motorist.

I trust this will be of help to you

Kind Regards

Don Wiggill Ash
Independent Candidate for Melba



Candidate, Melba Ward – Edward Crossland

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

Yes I do own a bike, and I'm a Bicycle Network member. My favourite place to ride is along our leafy streets in autumn as the leaves are falling. I feel safest on streets with enough room for cyclists, ideally with dedicated cycling treatment, such as along Wellington St, and the trial treatment on Elizabeth St.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

As a town planning, transport and urban design professional, I'm passionate about creating better places for people. Having worked at transport related State Government departments including DOT/ DTPLI/ DEDJTR, I was responsible for a range of walking and cycling initiatives including contributing towards the development of network plans and expansion of the Principal Bicycle Network, and development of Strategic Cycling Corridors.

Moving forward, as the Greens candidate for Melba ward, I feel a top priority for Yarra Council is to establish an Integrated Transport Strategy, including networks and preferred treatments, and facilitating their implementation as soon as possible.

This would likely include a review of the planning scheme to require the likes of better cycling facilities in new developments for a range of bicycle typologies, and provision of charge points for electric bikes.

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

Greens on council have successfully progressed and championed numerous cycling initiatives such as separated bike lanes on Wellington St, but progress hasn't been as fast as we would like. With more Greens on council we will be better placed to expedite the delivery of walking and cycling initiatives, which is particularly pertinent given more people are walking and cycling locally, the need to make more room for people in response to the pandemic, and to assist in our economic recovery.

With my partner having lived in Amsterdam for a number of years, and having spent time in Holland on several occasions, I've had the opportunity to experience the difference that good infrastructure makes, and how this can shape a city and its people.

Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Absolutely. More people are walking and cycling locally, which is one of the few silver linings of the pandemic. It's important that Council recognises and capitalises on this opportunity, to facilitate modal change. This includes implementing a range of walking, cycling, and trading initiatives so people can socially distance during the pandemic, and as part of longer-term public realm initiatives.



The Yarra Greens have a plan to increase outdoor dining, encourage creative pop-ups and create vibrant pedestrian hubs across Yarra. See our press release here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v4-OzsyZUdoY-fu1sP_n-s8pD58weFj5nr31Aj7ejU0/edit?usp=sharing

Find out more about our achievements and policies, including our full COVID recovery plan here:

<https://greens.org.au/vic/lga/yarra>

I'm very happy to discuss active transport matters and public realm initiatives that create better places for people. If you've got an initiative, I'd love to hear about it - please be in touch.

0438072396

edward.crossland@vic.greens.org.au

www.facebook.com/EdwardCrosslandGreens



Candidate, Melba Ward – David Horseman

1. Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

Yes I do. I use it on an everyday basis for local trips and errands. My favourite place to ride is the Capital City Trail.

2. If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

Via the prioritised development of an Integrated Transport Plan, more frequent Local Area Place Making plan updates and, most importantly, the follow up annual investment in the identified priority needs / projects.

3. Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

No, as per my response to question 2.

4. Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Yes.

Thanks again for the questions and please don't hesitate to contact me for any follow up queries. Cheers.

David Horseman
Independent Candidate for Melba Ward (Yarra City Council)



BICYCLE
NETWORK®

Candidate, Melba Ward – Herschel Landes

WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM,
WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?

RATES ✓
RUBBISH ✓
PLANNING ✓
BUSINESS HELP ✓
BIKES ✓
PARKS ✓

VOTE 1
LANDES
YARRA COUNCIL
MELBA WARD

Authorised by H. Landes 794 Bridge Rd Richmond 3121



Candidate, Melba Ward – Mitchell Price



Craig Richards
Chief Executive Officer
Bicycle Network

06/10/20

RE: Local Government Elections 2020

Dear Craig,

Thanks for the opportunity to answer the questions for the upcoming local government election in Victoria. I strongly believe now is the time to support candidates that support a healthy future that includes commitment to increasing investment in Active Transport, More Infrastructure such as new and improved cycleways, implementation of parklets and the use of tactical urbanism that will help transform our city.

My responses to the Bicycle Network questions;

1. *If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Melba Ward at City of Yarra?*
 - a. **If elected I commit to working with Council to increase our investment in infrastructure projects, improvements to existing infrastructure and new technologies such as e-scooters and ebikes that many other cities around Australia and globally are embracing.**
2. *When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?*
 - a. **You will find me on an e-scooter or e-bike for all my errands to and from the City or along the Yarra River when permitted.**

You can get in touch with me by visiting my social pages, by searching 'Mitch For Melba', or by visiting me online at www.MitchForMelba.com.au.



3. *Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?*

- a. **Progress has been made but we can always do more. Community consultation is a big issue for local residents and this needs to be improved in order to bring the community along the journey of these changes that impact their way of life.**

I would love to see a City where we are bold and embrace changes like that in some of the European Cities. These changes would transform our cities, plan towards becoming a 20min destination and encourage healthy active living for all.

I am proud of my public advocacy for Micromobility and commitments made in my 9 Point Plan to improve Melba which can be found on my Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MitchForMelba> .

I would love to hear from local residents that live in Burnley, Cremorne and Richmond. Please head to my website mitchformelba.com.au

Yours sincerely,

Mitchell Price

You can get in touch with me by visiting my social pages, by searching 'Mitch For Melba', or by visiting me online at www.MitchForMelba.com.au.



Candidates, Melba Ward – Sandeep Sarathy & Julie Bignell

Joint response from Sandeep Sarathy and Julie Bignell

1. Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

We are both cyclists, and Julie has been a member of Bicycle Network for some years now. We've been doing a lot of cycling along Yarra Boulevard in the last 6 months and never grow tired of the beautiful surroundings (great for laps and those who don't like hills!). The wattle has been lovely as are the gorgeous water-wise plantings of succulents alongside the road. Of course, we are uniquely placed to access the Capital City Trail, Gardiners Creek, and Merri Creek pathways and are really looking forward to being able to do so again soon. There's nothing like lunch on Bridge Rd after a great ride along the river.

2. If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra?

So many people have taken up or rediscovered cycling in the last year. We would love to see our Council champion innovative and inclusive programs that help residents get out and about.

- Support the Making Spaces program
- Ensure the current mechanism for community engagement is meaningful and allows concerns to be productively resolved
- Facilitate cycling maps for residents so everyone can enjoy Yarra
- Partner with cycling organisations to facilitate skills training for new and existing cyclists, including bike maintenance workshops
- Audit and improve the accessibility of bicycle repair stations across Yarra
- Promote cycling as a healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transport in Yarra
- Liaise with neighbouring Councils and state government about how we can facilitate recreational and commuter access across the city
- Audit and improve bicycle parking in busy community spaces, particularly around shopping and entertainment areas so we can support local businesses coming out of restrictions
- Get consultations started on a solution to the Walmer St bridge which currently is too narrow to allow cyclists and walkers to easily cross
- Safety audit of the footpath on Yarra Boulevard opposite the bike path so that pedestrians wishing to utilise that other side can safely do so
- Utilise areas like Yarra Boulevard for occasional fun walks and bicycle networking opportunities for new riders
- Engage with mobility impaired residents to make it easier for them to get around and enjoy their neighbourhood



3. Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

We would like to ensure all of the various organised cycling groups are included in engagement strategies, and how this relates to consultation generally on issues such as parking for residents. We would support a health check on how Council consults with everyone and manages implementation issues. As we live in a very multicultural area, and it would be great to ensure that we are putting resources towards being inclusive in our out-reach. New regulations that will facilitate business operations over the summer are an excellent opportunity to make sure we integrate everyone's needs so that we can embed improvements that everyone can celebrate into the future.

4. Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

We love these ideas and support any initiatives in conjunction with local businesses that would assist a COVID-19 recovery. Of course, these initiatives would need to be the result of consultation with all stakeholders. We understand planning is already underway in some areas and welcome this progress.



Candidates, Melba Ward – Sarah Witty

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

No

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

Yes

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

No

Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Yes



Nicholls Ward

Candidate, Nicholls Ward – Guy Barker

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

Yes I do - and before lockdown (I've been working from home since April!) I would commute every day from Abbotsford to Cremorne, so I'm particularly familiar with the Lennox St bike route!

Of course - the daily commute might not qualify as a 'favourite' place to ride - I also take particular pleasure in using the new protected bike lanes on Wellington St, and when I previously lived on Alexandra Parade, travelling northbound on Canning St to go watch footy at the Great Northern (go Doggies) was always a tremendous pleasure!

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

Generally speaking, I believe we should be moving away from shared pedestrian/cycle paths (such as the Inner Circle Rail Trail & Merri Creek Trail), and where practically possible relocating our cycling infrastructure onto our roads (see below). This would allow for improved spaces for people to walk freely along these paths, without the inevitable clashes and tension that happen when you mix fast-moving cyclists with (often) slow moving dog-walkers, stroller-pushers, and the like!

Clearly, protected bicycle lanes will have their role to play in some areas. However, while they are one excellent way of encouraging safe cycling in our community, I think we should be thinking bigger - namely, the concept of 'cycle streets' or 'superblocks'. What I envisage are residential streets with 30km/hour speed limits, and roads that are shared by both cars, bikes, e-bikes, scooters, etc. This has the notable advantage of not having to remove on-street parking for local residents, an issue that often becomes a flashpoint in the community when "bike lanes" are mentioned.

Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

Yes, I believe they've done quite well, when you look at recent improvements made to the likes of Wellington Street and the on-going trial on Elizabeth St in North Richmond, as well as long-standing bicycle corridors such as Canning St, North Carlton.

I believe that council should continue to move towards more of an 'iterative trial' model, which makes it easier for council to receive community feedback in real time, as well as gathering practical data and evidence on the efficacy (or otherwise) of proposed new measures. There is a huge amount of time and money spent by council towards never-ending reports and on-going consultation; and while I emphasise the absolute necessity of community consultation on such matters, I believe that iterative trials can largely help to reduce some of these inefficiencies associated with proposed council strategies around integrated transport and cycling infrastructure.



Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

100%, and while some of these measures have been proposed in a temporary capacity, I think just about all of them should be considered on a more permanent basis too!

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to reach out!

Best regards,

Guy

Reason Party Candidate for Nicholls Ward



Candidate, Nicholls Ward – Amanda Stone

Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

Yes, I do have a bike.

My favourite place to ride is home! Especially after a late-night council meeting through the quiet and peaceful streets of Yarra. I feel safe, and the fresh air and exercise helps to unwind after a long night.

I have also recently enjoyed riding along the separated bike lanes along Elizabeth St which feel so much more protected. Safety is very important to me as a cyclist.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

I will support increasing rates of cycling especially among those groups who are underrepresented or reluctant riders - women, children, older people, and people with limited mobility.

I will support:

- Slower speeds on local roads (30kph)
- Improving the surfaces of existing bike routes
- Increased bicycle parking in shopping areas, near schools, services and childcare centres, including for cargo and electric bikes.
- Expanding Yarra's bicycle network to make it safe, connected and direct.
- Improving safety along key bike routes and providing lighting along Linear Park
- Better integrating cycling with other transport options, including bicycle access to trains and secure bicycle storage at public transport stops and stations.
- Local schools to promote riding and continue to develop bike-parking facilities in schools.
- Bicycle facilities integrated into new developments.
- Advocacy to the State Government to implement separated bike lanes on arterial roads

I will also make it safer for pedestrians by prioritising widening of footpaths where possible, rationalising additional structures on footpaths, ensuring a rigorous maintenance program for repairs to footpaths, and identifying a network of safe connected pedestrian routes to encourage walking as transport.

I'll ensure walking is more convenient and comfortable with more street trees through the Urban Forest Strategy, more seating, and innovation in pedestrian crossings and shared space

Where necessary, I will find ways to minimise conflict between pedestrians and cyclists on shared pathways.

I will ensure progress on an Integrated Transport Plan for Yarra in 2021 to drive safer, better connected and more integrated travel around Yarra.



Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

Yarra has made good progress on the basics: marked bike lanes on key cycling routes, good signage, cycling head starts at traffic lights, and ensuring that those key bike routes that can be connected are connected.

As a current councillor, I am very proud of our first separated bike lanes in Wellington St but frustrated at the 10 years they took to complete. We have also encouraged more than the required bike parking rates in new developments, end of trip facilities in new commercial developments and increased bike parking in major commercial centres. Cycling to school rates have increased through our support for bike education in schools. Progress has stalled however. We have implemented the less contentious elements of the policy and now we need to navigate those which involve trade-offs in finite road space.

We need the community to come on board and help us as a council to work through those difficult decisions about re-allocation of road space to make cycling and walking safer and more accessible for everyone.

We also need a more serious commitment from the state government to help with key bike route connections. The Walmer St bridge, a key link in the Principle Bicycle Network, is not fit for purpose, carrying increasing numbers of cyclists and pedestrians and desperately in need of replacement. I worked with the joint Yarra/Boroondara Walmer St Working Group to secure a state government commitment for a new bridge. They now need to deliver on that commitment.

The state government also needs to complete the unfinished Gipps St steps project after 14 years of false starts and abandoned plans.

Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

Yes. We have to. The requirement for physical distancing has provided us with an opportunity to rethink public space and how it can be used in more people-friendly ways. That includes wider footpaths, re-purposing of car parking spaces in appropriate places, more street trees, planter boxes and parklets, pop up bike lanes, better bike parking and, essentially, slower speeds. So much of Yarra's economy relies on hospitality and outdoor dining and supporting their recovery will benefit everyone. Public spaces that are safe and attractive are also good for business. Yarra Council is currently working on guidelines for these measures and will work closely with organised groups of traders such as in Gertrude St to make them a reality.



Candidate, Nicholls Ward – Sophie Wade

1. Do you own a bike and if you do, where is your favourite place to ride?

I do, and I have many favourite places to ride! I love riding along the wide, leafy streets of Fitzroy and Carlton North, where cars drive slowly, there is adequate space for bikes, and I feel safe. I have recently enjoyed using the pop-up bike lane along Park St - while I'm not the fastest rider, I find riding (and walking!) along the Linear Park path difficult at the moment, due to the number of people using it, so it's nice to have an alternative!

I have also enjoyed cycling trips with friends to rail trails across Victoria - including from Lilydale to Warburton, and around Myrtleford, Bright and Beechworth. I'm looking forward to another trip once restrictions ease!

2. If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Yarra City Council?

I have lots of ideas for how to make cycling and walking safer and more appealing for walkers and riders of all stripes.

I'm a big walker myself - I usually enjoy a stroll down Smith and/or Gertrude Streets, before hitting the City of Melbourne on my way to work. I'm a brisk walker, but I find that walking allows me to see the life of Yarra - to see people picking up their morning coffees, opening their shops, or hopping on trams. I think there are improvements we can make for walkers in Yarra - leafier and shadier streets are more appealing to walk on, and many streets (including Smith St!) could use a few more trees. More critically, at the moment, is the need for space on the footpaths of our busy shopping strips.

Months ago, in the break between lockdowns, Gabrielle de Vietri (a fellow Greens candidate for the City of Yarra) and I petitioned Yarra Council to remove parking from one side of Smith St, to allow for more pedestrian and bike movement along the shopping strip. As we open back up, this space is going to be even more critical for us to safely walk around.

On the cycling front, I'm a keen but not particularly strong rider, so I am unlikely to ride on roads where I feel like there are cars (or other bikes!) whizzing past me with little room to spare. I know I'm not alone in feeling this way. With safer roads for riders, we can ensure that all riders, young, old, with limited mobility, or just a little nervous (like me!), are able to take to the streets with confidence, and to improve their cycling strength!

The full set of Yarra Greens ideas for active transport can be found in our Transport Policy, here: tinyurl.com/YarraGreensTransportPolicy



3. Are you satisfied with the progress currently being made with your council's bike strategy?

Yarra has done some impressive things, including developing the Wellington St bikes lanes (recently voted to be the safest in Melbourne!), but I think more needs to be done, and more quickly, especially in these unprecedented times. I'm in favour of slowing down our neighbourhood streets to allow them to be more safely navigated by cyclists (and pedestrians!), as well as allocating more road space for bike users.

4. Will you support progressive initiatives such as outdoor dining, slower speeds, pop-up bike lanes, parklets etc. as a way to help businesses recover from COVID-19?

I definitely will. My brother works in hospitality, so I've had a close-up view of the devastation faced by the restaurant industry. I was really excited to see Yarra's parklet trial (there is one near my house that has allowed people to wait for coffees and food at a safe distance from one another), and would be keen to assist in ramping up this initiative to allow more cafes to serve more customers. I would also support more ambitious plans for outdoor dining, to allow people to get back to their favourite Yarra venues. Outdoor dining is looking more and more appealing as Summer approaches!

I have also been really happy to see Yarra rolling out pop-up bike lanes, and the fierce support some residents have provided for these initiatives. With the impending return to 'semi-normal life', and the increased movement of people around our city, we desperately need more bike lanes to ensure people can get where they need to go safely, and in a socially distanced manner. Given this is difficult to facilitate on public transport, and given many of our roads already suffered serious gridlock before the pandemic, it's critical that as many people as possible feel comfortable travelling by bike and foot.

The Yarra Greens full COVID recovery plan is here: tinyurl.com/YarraGreensRecovery

I'm happy to answer any questions about the above, or anything else active transport related at sophie.wade@vic.greens.org.au or at www.facebook.com/SophieWadeforNichollsward