

A Political Report on
Fitzroy
A suburb in the Northern Metropolitan Region
Within the Melbourne Electorate

August 27, 2017

Cultivated by

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This report provides the contact details and ongoing political issues associated with the suburb of Fitzroy, situated within the Northern Metropolitan Region and Melbourne Electorate of Victoria.

It can be used by any political journalist reporting on stories relevant to or directly concerning the Local area or its Northern Metropolitan and Federal allegiances.

BACKGROUND TO THE AREA

Locality

Local: Inner Metropolitan
State: Northern Metropolitan (Richmond District- State Electoral Division)
Federal: Seat of Melbourne
Commonwealth: Victoria, Australia

Political History

Greens 2010- Present
ALP 1904-2010
Overall left-leaning demographic

Population Profile

-Total Enrolment for Seat of Melbourne- 477, 652 people
(per 2014 State Election)
-72, 548 people reside within the Richmond District (per 2016 Census)
-9, 430 people reside within the suburb of Fitzroy (per 2011 Census)
-48.7% Male, 51.3% Female
-Median age of 33 (over 23,000 aged between 25 and 34)

- 55.5% of people were born in Australia, with Vietnam in second at 4.2% followed by England at 3.7%
- 40% of Fitzroy residents do not affiliate with any religion while Catholicism leads with 17%
- 64.3% of Fitzroy residents are employed full time, 24.7% part time, 6.2% are unemployed
- The median individual income is \$788 per week, while the median household income is \$1484 per week
- The main industries consist of- Heavy and light engineering, extensive manufacturing, commercial and retail activities, dockyards, clothing and footwear industries, warehousing and distribution of white goods, building and other general goods.
- Primary Occupations include, 45.2% Professional, 15.0% Managers, 11.0% Clerical and Administrative workers, 8.1% Community and Personal Services, 6.8% Sales workers, 6.4% Technicians and Trades, and 3.8% Labourers.

The Main *Federal* Issues in the Melbourne Electorate include

- Non-compliant Building Products
- University Funding Cuts, rise in student fees
- Electricity price rises
- Postal vote for same sex marriage plebiscite

The Main *State* Issues in Northern Metropolitan include:

- Safe Injecting Facility/Medically Supervised Injecting Facility
- Housing Affordability
- Homelessness
- Public Housing
- Infrastructure
- Education/Schooling
- Dying with Dignity
- Health

The Main *Local* Issues in Fitzroy include:

- Drugs and alcohol/community safety
- Social & economic extremes
- Illegal Graffiti
- Lack of parking
- Selling of visitor parking permits
- Homelessness
- Traffic congestion
- Protection of historical buildings
- Changing the date of Australia Day celebrations

CONTACT DETAILS

Federal Member for Melbourne

Adam Bandt, Australian Greens

Electorate of Melbourne

- Phone: 132 236
- Fax: (03) 9285 7124
- Address: Level 1
Urban Workshop
50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
- Postal: PO BOX 1694, Melbourne GPO Private Boxes 3001

Greens Electorate Office

- Phone: (03) 9417 0759
- Fax: (03) 9417 2737
- Email: adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au
- Address: 296 Brunswick St, Fitzroy 3065
- Office Hours: 9AM-5PM Monday-Friday

Media Advisor for Adam Bandt

- Gideon Reisner
- Email: Gideon.D.Reisner@aph.gov.au
- Mobile: 0429 109 054

In 2010, Adam Bandt made history when he was the first Greens MP to be elected into the House of Representatives. Mr Bandt has since been reelected in 2013 and 2016, with an increased vote at each election.

Mr Bandt currently lives with his wife, Claudia Perkins, daughters, Wren and Elke, and two dogs Max and Albi in Flemington, Melbourne.

As of September 27, 2016, Mr Bandt owns:

- Shares in AMP
- One house in Flemington, jointly owned with Spouse
- Savings account with Bank of Melbourne
- Savings account with Bank Australia

As of August 10, 2017, gifts received are as follows:

- Qantas Chairman's Lounge Membership.
- Virgin Club Membership.
- Occasional upgrades from Economy to Business Class on Virgin and Qantas.
- Eight complimentary tickets to exhibitions and various art books, from the National Gallery of Victoria.
- Attendance and lunch at the Australian Open on January 23, 2017. Provided by Tennis Australia and Australian Open.
- Complimentary tickets for entry to Melbourne Museum.

- Complimentary tickets for entry to various cultural and dance events.
- Two x '2 degrees' lapel pins.
- Subscription to Foxtel in Electorate Office.

Conflict of Interest:

Mr Bandt met his wife, while she was employed as a policy advisor to Julia Gillard in the Labor Party. The day he was elected as the lone Green MP in the Lower House, Ms Perkins resigned and is no longer working for the Government.

"To avoid any perceived conflict of interest, Claudia chose to resign," Mr Bandt said.

Policies secured whilst in Parliament

(according to his website <http://www.adambandt.com>):

- Helping families with free dental care – 3.4 million children from low and middle income families will be able to access Medicare-funded dental care, and \$500m has been invested in reducing waiting lists and training health workers (as a result of the Greens' Labor Agreement).
- Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in an Act of Parliament, a precursor to constitutional recognition (as a result of the Greens' Labor Agreement).
- Securing legislative safeguards against the privatisation of the NBN.
- Ending taxpayer funding of big tobacco in the Future Fund.
- Protecting children in remote communities from petrol sniffing.
- Securing a Children's Commissioner to stand up for children's rights.
- Securing additional funding for SBS and the ABC and restoring the Australian Music Radio AirPlay Project.
- Action on sports betting and making sure kids don't think live odds are another part of the game.
- Strengthening the authority of Territorial Governments to make their own choices.
- Increasing protection for firefighters who contract cancer in the line of duty.
- Establishing the Melbourne Employment Forum to enhance migrant employment opportunities.
- Minimising the impacts of the Australian Building and Construction Commission so that building workers aren't treated worse than criminals.
- Securing rights for seafarers so they're treated the same as other workers when they get sick.
- Securing federal funding for JobWatch to provide legal support services for Melbourne workers.
- Securing \$20m to restore and develop our local heritage in the Royal Exhibition Building.
- Progressing plans to construct High Speed Rail from Melbourne to Brisbane (also in the agreement)
- Stopping the East West toll road from dividing our neighbourhoods and destroying what love about our city.

Parliament of Victoria- Northern Metropolitan- Richmond District **Representative**

Hon Richard Wynne (ALP)- Minister for Planning

Richard Wynne was the 96th Lord Mayor of Melbourne. He became a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, representing Richmond district, on September 18, 1999. A seat he has held uninterrupted.

- District: Richmond
- Electorate Office
 - o Phone: (03) 9415 8901
 - o Fax: (03) 9415 8918
 - o Email: richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au
 - o Street Address: 112 Smith Street, Collingwood, VIC 3066
 - o Postal Address: PO Box 1474, Collingwood, VIC 3066
- Ministerial Office
 - o Phone: (03) 8683 0964
 - o Address: Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002
- Social Media
 - o <http://twitter.com/rwynnemp>
 - o <http://www.richardwynne.com.au>
 - o www.richardwynne.com.au

Income and interests

- Income source: Rental income
- Company beneficial interest: Clifroy – Clifton Hill Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) – inaugural shareholder
- Party, body or association: Australian Labor Party Community and Public Sector Union Victorian Branch
- Land beneficial interest: 24 Melrose Street, North Melbourne Residential property owned by wife as a result of Estate settlement at 24A Melrose Street, North Melbourne [PRIVATE ADDRESS], North Melbourne

Gifts received

- Gift exceeding \$500: Complimentary Qantas Chairman's Lounge membership
- Other substantial interest: Shares in AMP, Telstra and Commonwealth Bank held by my wife in the names of my two sons Williamstown Sailing Club – family membership

Conflicts of Interest

- No listed conflicts of interest

Policies/Parliament contributions

- Richmond Housing Redevelopment
- Safe Injecting Facility
- Legal Practice Bill
- Local Government (Best value principles) Bill
- Federal Courts (State Jurisdiction) Bill

- Freedom of Information (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill
- Public Prosecutions (Amendment) Bill
- Courts and Tribunals (Legislation) Bill
- Melbourne City Link (Amendment) Bill
- Juries Bill
- First Home Owner Grant Bill
- Equal Opportunity (Breastfeeding) Bill
- Victorian Law Reform Commission Bill
- Appropriation (2000/2001) Bill
- Equal Opportunity (Gender and Sexual Orientation) Bill
- Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Injecting Facilities Trial) Bill
- Statute Law Revision Bill
- Fair Employment Bill
- Crime Statistics Bill
- Transfer of Land Amendment Bill
- Summary Offences and Sentencing Amendment Bill
- Assisted Reproductive Treatment Further Amendment Bill
- Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring Bill
- Among many others

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLORS

City of Yarra is divided into three wards. **Nicholls Ward** includes Fitzroy North, Carlton North and part of Fitzroy. **Langridge Ward** includes Alphington, Fairfield, Clifton Hill, Abbotsford, Collingwood and part of Fitzroy. **Melba Ward** includes Richmond, Burnley and Cremorne.

Nicholls Ward (3 councillors)

McEVOY, Mike – Australian Greens
 COLEMAN, Misha – Australian Greens
 FRISTACKY, Jackie – Independent

You can contact all 3 Councillors by email: Nichollswardcouncillors@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Langridge Ward (3 councillors)

JOLLY, Stephen – Socialist Party
 STONE, Amanda – Australian Greens
 BOSLER, Danae - ALP

You can contact all 3 Councillors via email: Langridgewardcouncillors@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Melba Ward (3 councillors)

SEARLE, James – Australian Greens
 CHEN YI MEI, Mi-Lin - ALP
 NGUYEN, Daniel – Independent

You can contact all 3 Councillors by email: Melbawardcouncillors@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Mayor Amanda Stone

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0429 358 170

Email: Mayor@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Amanda Stone was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Langridge ward. She was elected Mayor for 2016/2017.
- Lives in the council area (Abbotsford).
- Holds a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diplomas in Education and Child Psychology as well as GAICD.
- Campaigns for protecting the Yarra River and Yarra's liveability, environment and heritage.

Cr Stephen Jolly

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0437 856 713

Email: Stephen.Jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Jolly was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Langridge ward.
- Lives in the council area (Clifton Hill) with his partner and two teenage children.
- Works in the construction industry.
- Campaign for keeping council rates low and healthy and safe public housing. Led the fight to save Richmond Secondary School in the 1990s.

Cr Daniel Nguyen

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0427 493 509

Email: Daniel.Nguyen@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Daniel Nguyen was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Melba ward.

Cr Danae Bosler

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0419 782 247

Email: Danae.Bosler@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Danae Bosler was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Langridge ward.
- Bachelor of Arts (Major in Political Science), Postgraduate Diploma in International Community Development and Masters in Writing, Editing and Publishing.
- Although Danae is a member of the Labor Party, she wrote an article in 2012 in the SMH called 'Labor abandoned me, so I quit': <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-opinion/labor-abandoned-me-so-i-quit-20121214-2bdz0.html>
- Campaigns for sport and active living.

Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0427 150 407

Email: Milin.Chenyimei@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Melba ward.
- Lives in Richmond, which is her Ward.
- She has Bachelor degrees in Laws and Arts and currently employed at the County Court of Victoria.
- Campaigns for social justice.

Cr James Searle

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0427 121 310

Email: James.Searle@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr James Searle was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Melba ward.
- Lives in Richmond, which is his Ward.

- Currently working in university student services management.
- He campaigns for council to be more accessible to residents and ratepayers. He supports energy efficiency, sustainable design principles and increased investment in renewable energy.

Cr Misha Coleman

Phone: 0428 509 943 or 9205 5055

Email: Misha.Coleman@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Misha Coleman was re-elected to Council for a second term in October 2016 and is a representative of the Nicholls ward.
- Awarded Australian Service Medal
- Live in Yarra area with two young children and is a Founder and Director of a not-for-profit based in Fitzroy.
- Master's degree in Environmental Law
- Campaigns for disadvantaged families, schools and low income housing.

Cr Jackie Fristacky

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0412 597 794

Email: Jackie.Fristacky@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Jackie Fristacky was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Nicholls ward. She is an independent Councillor.
- She has represented the City of Yarra since 2002, including serving as Mayor in 2005/06, 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- Campaigns for enhancing Yarra streets through landscaping, traffic management and place management. A strong supporter of the safe injecting facilities.

Cr Mike McEvoy

Phone: 9205 5055 or 0428 449 193

Email: Mike.McEvoy@yarracity.vic.gov.au

- Cr Mike McEvoy was elected in October 2016 and is a representative of the Nicholls ward.
- Lived and worked in Fitzroy and North Fitzroy for 15 years.
- Honours graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts.
- Key areas of focus are improving public transport infrastructure, waste management, climate change and creating a more inclusive community.

Fitzroy Community Groups

Fitzroy Learning Network

- Phone: (03) 9417 2897
- Fax: (03) 9417 2663
- Email: admin@fln.org.au
- Skype: fitzroylearningnetwork
- Address: 198 Napier Street, Fitzroy, VIC 3065
- Website: www.fln.org.au
- Social Media
 - o www.facebook.com/Fitzroy-Learning-Network
 - o www.instagram.com/fitzroylearningnetwork

St Mark's Church Fitzroy- St Mark's Community Centre

- Contact: Philip Murphy
- Phone: (03) 9419 5051
- Email: office@stmarksfitzroy.com
- Website: www.stmarksfitzroy.com
- Address: 250 George Street, Fitzroy, VIC 3065

Briar Terrace- Drop-in centre for homeless and socially isolated people without family support

- Contact: Ms Bernadette Mundy
- Phone: (03) 9288 2412
- Email: Bernadette.mundy@svhm.org.au
- Address: 76 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy, VIC 3065

Holden Street Neighbourhood House

- Phone 9489 9929
- Email: admin@holdenstreet.org.au
- Address: 128 Holden Street North Fitzroy 3068

Fitzroy Residents' Association (FRA)

- Contact: Chair, Martin Brennan
- Ph: 0419 355 820
- Email: info@fitzroyresidents.org.au
- Website: <http://fitzroyresidents.org.au/>
- Address: PO Box 2123 Fitzroy VIC 3065

Fitzroy Housing Office

- Phone: (03) 9093 5000
- Fax: (03) 9093 5050
- Address: 90 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Fitzroy Legal Service

- Phone: (03) 9419 3744
- Email: enquiries@fitzroy-legal.org.au
- Address: Fitzroy Town Hall, level 4

Neighbourhood Watch Victoria

- Phone: (03) 9247 5492
- Website - www.nhw.com.au
- Address: 637 Flinders Street, Docklands VIC 3008
- Social Media
 - o www.facebook.com/nhw.vic
 - o www.twitter.com/NHWvic

Fitzroy History Society

- Email: fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au
- Address: P.O. Box 180, Fitzroy, Melbourne 3065

Connie Benn Centre

- Phone: (03) 9426 1500
- Email: ConnieBennCentreReception@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Address: 160 Brunswick Street Fitzroy, Melbourne 3065

Council of Homeless Persons

- Contact: Lanie Harris, Media and Communications Officer
- Phone: (03) 9415 6214
- Email: lanie@chp.org.au.
- Website: <http://chp.org.au/>

Launch Housing, Collingwood

- Contact: Kerry Grenfell, Marketing Manager
- Phone: (03) 9288 9832 or 0419 347 114
- Email: kerry.grenfell@launchhousing.org.au
- Address: 68 Oxford Street, Collingwood, Victoria 3066

Victoria Street Drug Safety

- Contact: Greg Hordacre or Judy Ryan
- Phone: 0402423599 or 0438 566 868
- Email: greg.rvsds@gmail.com and judy.rvsds@gmail.com

Potential stories for follow-up

Greg Barber not running for reelection in 2018

Public housing safety

High rate of homelessness

Safe Injecting Facility

Housing Affordability

Melbourne developer challenges knock back on building permits in Supreme Court.

Criminal Activity

Graffiti on shop fronts

Building permit compliance

Youth Development Officer Kate Rizzo

Yarra Council not celebrating Australia Day

Non-compliant building products Inquiry

Adam Bandt campaigning for 'yes' vote in marriage equality

Hard news stories

Federal news story

Freia Lily

With fire season looming, pressure grows on federal Greens MP Adam Bandt, following a Senate inquiry into non-conforming building products found throughout Melbourne.

On June 21, a frustrated Mr Bandt readdressed the issue in Parliament, calling on the government to take action.

“What is the point of government if we cannot ensure every building we live in is safe, whether public or private housing,” Mr Bandt said.

The inquiry was made in January after an audit found 51 per cent of buildings in Mr Bandt’s electorate were non-compliant to Victorian Building Authority standards.

Two years after the Docklands Lacrosse Tower fire, which was declared, in part, due to combustible cladding, no significant action has been taken to replace the dangerous material.

Although the matter of flammable cladding falls into state jurisdiction, Mr Bandt said there are “systematic failings” in current federal regulations on an industry, “that should be keeping us safe”.

Namely the importation of such materials passing the Australian Border Control security checks.

Mr Bandt wrote to several authorities in June and is scheduled to receive briefings in person about what actions they have taken to ensure a safer Melbourne.

But the unexpected resignation of Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) CEO, Jim Higgins, two weeks after receiving Mr Bandt’s letter causes some alarm.

While a major restructure of Victorian fire agencies is in development, a MFB spokesperson has said “considerable action” has been taken in developing “Proposals for Reform of the Building Regulatory Regime”.

“One successful outcome was to act on the recommendation for mandatory sprinkler protection for balconies,” they said.

State news story

Brinley Duggan

Pressure is mounting on state MP, Richard Wynne, to establish a safe injecting facility in Richmond before a Parliamentary inquiry into the longstanding issue.

The inquiry, undertaken by the Legal and Social Issues Committee, is due to be released by September 5, 2017 and comes after two Victorian Coroner recommendations to establish a Safe Injecting Facility in North Richmond.

Greens representative at the 2014 state election in the Richmond district and 2018 preselection nominee, Kathleen Maltzahn, said both she and the Greens were “strongly in favour” of establishing the facility. She was hopeful the inquiry would bring about a change in the government’s position. “The system we have doesn’t work... My family is one of thousands that have seen the damage of punitive approaches,” Ms Maltzahn said.

Robert Richter, Queen’s counsel and a foundation member of the 1999 Victorian Drug Policy Expert Committee, said the facility would save “hundreds of lives”. Mr Richter said he was looking forward to the Parliamentary inquiry, “It’s a no brainer... It’s an open and shut case... there is no real counter argument.”

Greg Hordacre, a spokesperson for Victoria Street Drug Solutions, who marched down Victoria Street on Sunday, August 27 in an effort to lobby the state government, and Mr Richter, expressed their concerns regarding the release of the inquiry.

“It’s not about politics, it’s about people who are suffering... We have reached out countless times to Richard Wynne, but it was six to 12 months before we heard anything at all,” Mr Hordacre said. “We’ve got people dying on our streets and he [Mr Wynne] is silent.”

“They [the state government] are scared they might be seen as going soft on crime,” Mr Richter said.

In a statement, MP Wynne said, “drug addiction is complex, and there’s no single solution to protect our community from its devastating impacts”. “The Parliament of Victoria’s inquiry into drug law reform has begun and will consider the merits of a safe injecting room trial. Like my Parliamentary colleagues, I eagerly await its findings,” MP Wynne said.

Local news story 1

Skye Mitchell

Fitzroy residents' frustration continues with Yarra Council's lack of support to help clean up illegal graffiti after policy changes in 2015.

Illegal graffiti on shop windows and residences in the Yarra City Council area is an ongoing problem to manage for the council and the local community.

Yarra City Council rolled out the Graffiti Management Framework in 2015 which states that council will remove graffiti in order of priority, but doesn't include private residences unless they are deemed as having a "significant impact on public amenity".

Marion Marshall lives and owns a business in North Fitzroy and said "graffiti on the shop front comes in waves, especially if we don't remove it within a day of it being put on". Ms Marshall brought up the issue at a council meeting in February but the council never responded further. "My complaint went into thin air," Ms Marshall said.

The Fitzroy Residents' Association Chair, Martin Brennan said "it's a real issue for residents and for people who do business". The Association recently put together a sub-committee to investigate what laws and compliance other cities use to deal with illegal graffiti.

Yarra City Council spends almost \$1 million dealing with illegal graffiti. Councillor Jackie Fristacky says it is not 'feasible' for council to cover the costs of dealing with all illegal graffiti on private property. "It needs the community to take responsibility as property owners," she said.

The Residents' Association wants to work with Yarra Council to find more ways to control it. Mr Brennan said council and residents need to work together to "fight back" against illegal taggers.

Illegal graffiti is a criminal offence and is dealt with under the provisions of the *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007*. Contact your local police station to report illegal graffiti.

Local news story 2

Caitlyn Batterham

The Yarra City Council has unanimously voted to change the way Australia Day is recognised, in a historic move last week.

The Council, led by Mayor Amanda Stone, voted to cease calling January 26 'Australia Day', in a decision that came from communication with Multicultural Advisory Groups as well as the Residents Associations.

“The overwhelming sentiment from our Aboriginal community is that January 26 is a date of sadness, trauma and distress,” Ms Stone said.

The changes to how January 26 will be recognised include the cessation of citizenship ceremonies on that day, a decision which has led to a severe reaction from the federal government, with the council’s citizenship capabilities removed by Malcolm Turnbull this week.

Martin Brennan, the Chairperson of the Fitzroy Residents Association, responded to the council’s decision in a statement handed to the council on Monday. “The Fitzroy Residents Association commends the Yarra City Council on its decision to acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents on January 26 and cease referring to this day as 'Australia Day',” Mr Brennan said.

Changes being made to the way the day is commemorated include the introduction of a Smoking Ceremony, an Indigenous ceremony believed to invoke healing and ward away unwanted spirits.

Other councils have already begun to follow suit, with Darebin Council this week also making the changes to January 26.