

Yarra City Council

Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

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held on Tuesday 4 August 2015 at 7.00pm Richmond Town Hall

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9.2 Councillor Jackie Fristacky - Fitzroy Community School
Councillor Fristacky reported the following:

On 22 July 2015, I attended the Fitzroy Community School (FCS) at 597-599 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy for the launch of its history written by the School's remarkable founders, Faye Berryman and Philip O'Carroll.

The authors provided a signed copy to present to Council and I formally do so at this Council meeting.

This is an inspiring book of a highly successful community school established in 1976 as an independent, not for profit primary school, run on the motto "People before things". Commencing with 12 children in the Class of 1977, the school has run since then to the present, 38 years later.

FCS is famed for its 80 story books known collectively as "The Fitzroy Readers" and "The Fitzroy Method" of teaching. FCS started in the Brunswick Street home of its founders who later formally transferred their home to the FCS which also purchased the adjacent building on Brunswick Street. The FCS remains small with 65 students in 2015, but in 2014, expanded into a 2nd campus with the opening of a new FCS in Thornbury.

The FCS founders inspired John Marsden to establish his own Candlebark Community School in Romsey in 2004, opening in 2006. Candlebark literature declares that it is "Strongly influenced by Fitzroy Community School". The FCS retains ongoing links, sharing and exchanging programs with John Marsden's Candlebark.

The FCS also inspired maths teacher, Bob Morgan to establish a Community Secondary School, Alia College (76 students) in Tooronga Road, Hawthorn, when their oldest child reached Grade 6 at FCS.

In conclusion, I present this copy of the "Fitzroy Community School" with the recommendation that it is an excellent read on learning and education.

But I take the opportunity to read an insightful passage from page 74. "One thing you learn when dealing with bureaucracies is that they have no manners. Worse than that, their tone is often menacing ... It makes me feel like running a course in *Manners Training For People Who Serve the Public*."

Author Faye Berryman hastens to say at page 81, "we found those associated with the City of Fitzroy consistently helpful and supportive, especially the Mayor." The City of Yarra is mentioned further in good light.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Fristacky **Seconded:** Councillor Colanzi

That this report be noted and that the Mayor write, congratulating the Fitzroy Community School on its history and role in our municipality.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY