

## Give Wangaratta a chance to Grow

Wangaratta is a great town in a great place. We are ideally situated for business and industry because of our road, rail and airport facilities. Many of our roads are thoroughfares for tourist destinations like the snow, the mountains, other national parks and wineries.

But these advantages have been wasted by previous Councils, who have been too slow to seize business opportunities or have mishandled them, like the Security Foods Abattoir. \$30 million dollars worth of industry and jobs for Wangaratta, gone, because of mismanagement by Council.

As a general practitioner, I talk to people from all walks of life all day, and the same problems come up over and over again. The problems all come from having Councils in the past who have wasted your money on projects like the three walk bridges over the Ovens river. There is simply not enough money in Wangaratta for us to flourish, because:

- There are not enough JOBS
- There is not enough INDUSTRY
- Council concentrates on the WRONG things
- RATES are too high
- Planning permits are FAR TOO SLOW
- There is not enough HOUSING
- There is too much FLOODING of roads
- There is too little FREEWAY ACCESS
- There is not enough UNIVERSITY access

All of these things cause high rates of drug use and crime, which we could reduce with jobs and education opportunities for our residents. We are ideally placed to provide services to Northeast Victoria, and we need to take advantage of this.



*In East Timor as a Medical Officer with 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion.*

### **I am a trained and experienced leader.**

I also have business training, and run my own businesses in Wangaratta. I am independent, and do not have any party politics or agendas dictating my vision for Wangaratta. **I want Council to -**

- Sell our industrial land, in order to bring more BUSINESS to Wangaratta
- Create more jobs by encouraging INDUSTRY to move here
- Purchase goods and services LOCALLY
- STOP making decisions against the wishes of residents, like demolishing the Soldier's Memorial Town Hall.
- STOP overseas junkets for Councillors
- Move the SES onto a suitable site
- Increase RENEWABLE ENERGY use

## About Julian Fidge

I am a general practitioner, married with two young children. We live on our family farm at Docker, and have been farming here for 40 years. I have been working as a doctor here for the last 9 years.

My wife and I manage our two medical centres in Wangaratta, one of which we have just built. We're used to hard work and managing complex projects and budgets. I won't waste your time or money.

I have worked as a volunteer in several countries, including the Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Swaziland. I was awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for my work with the Rwandan refugees in 1994/95.

### **Military Service**

I have served in the Army Reserve and the Regular Army, first as a soldier and later as a captain when I became a Medical Officer. I served in East Timor as part of the international stabilisation force in 2006/07. I was awarded the Australian Defence Medal, the Australian Service Medal and the East Timor Solidarity Medal. I was deployed to Kingslake with an army health team on Operation VIC FIRE ASSIST after the 2009 bush fires, and was awarded the Vic Fire Assist Medallion.

### **Previous Council Experience**

Wangaratta Council was hideous before my election in 2012: In 2007, Councillor Justin Scholz was bullied until he resigned, and this tactic was also tried on me. An irregular permit was issued to the Security Foods Abattoir, who ended up abandoning their project. The Soldiers Memorial Town Hall was hastily demolished, against the wishes of residents. A former director admitted that previous employees went on "sick leave" to get the attention of the Minister, which is not what sick leave is for. We fixed this up, and since then I have been working easily with the new management team. I have confidence they will work well with the new Council in the interests of all residents equally.

## Don't let Council go backwards!

Wangaratta needs good leadership to flourish. We have a great management team now, and we can use this election to get an effective Council as well.

**Councillors need to listen to residents and respond sensibly to their concerns.** I will make Council available to residents regularly and formally to hear their concerns.

**Councillors need to debate in public.** I won't have discussions in secret, and vote silently in public.

**Residents need more warning about meetings.** I will ensure that meeting agendas are published the week prior to meetings so residents can consider them.

**I will ensure Council treats everyone fairly and equally. I will stop the special treatment of a few.**



*I am an active volunteer CFA firefighter*

I have included my preferences for you to consider.

I respect your judgment, but if you could roughly follow these preferences it would ensure we have a Council that can lead Wangaratta into a bright and prosperous future for everyone. They are all good candidates, but some are stronger than others.

## FOR AN HONEST COUNCIL USE THESE PREFERENCES:

### WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL 2016 CITY WARD

DIMOPOULOS, George **5**

DAVIES, Luke **8**

AMERY, Ruth **2**

FITZPATRICK, Ashlee **6**

STONE, Russell **10**

REES, Dean **4**

FIDGE, Julian **1**

MIRABELLA, Greg **3**

FULLER, Dave **9**

CLARKE, Ken **7**

Authorised by J.Fidge, 47 - 51 Joyce Way, Wangaratta

# Julian Fidge

for an  
Honest Council



*On the family farm at Docker*

- ✓ Honest
- ✓ Independent
- ✓ Strong Leadership
- ✓ Good Economic Management