

JANET RICE

FACILITATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Working collaboratively to achieve your goals

Janet Rice is collaborative, innovative, and a problem solver. She is passionate about working to create a more sustainable and just society.

Janet's expertise is in:

- [strategic and organisational planning](#)
- [community engagement](#)
- [planning for a sustainable future](#)
- [advocacy and behaviour change programs](#)

See the following pages for example of her work in these areas.

Janet brings almost three decades of experience to her work:

- As a facilitator working with a broad range of organisations particularly community organisations, local and state government and government agencies.
- As a Councillor and Mayor working in local government and with the community.
- As a campaigner and campaign manager working with community organisations

Janet's facilitation skills and collaborative processes engage and build ownership from all participants, resulting in lasting outcomes that benefit from the wisdom of all involved.

Janet will work collaboratively with you to carefully analyse your requirements. She draws upon a wide range of techniques and methodologies to design processes that work.

Janet is also skilled at research and policy development. Janet has extensive knowledge and understanding of transport and urban planning; climate science, forests and other natural environments; disability; community engagement; and participatory democracy including participatory budgeting.

Contact Janet to discuss how she can work with you to achieve your goals.

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Strategic and organisational planning

Janet is highly skilled at designing and facilitating collaborative processes for strategic and organisational planning. She works with Boards, management, staff, and volunteers of organisations, and with the full range of members and other stakeholders of organisations large and small. Janet's processes range from workshops that run over three hours to iterative processes conducted over weeks or months that maximise the opportunities of stakeholder involvement. Janet will design a process with you to make sure it meets your needs. And she guarantees that the processes will be interactive and fun. Janet can either facilitate the planning process and hand the findings over to you, or continue through the project to the final preparation of a strategic plan.

some examples

Victoria Naturally Alliance workshop facilitation 2010

Facilitation of a workshop of environment group representatives on capacity building of local communities and community organisations in nature conservation and biodiversity.

Contact Karen Alexander 9341 6511 karena@vnpa.org.au

Westgate Health Co-operative Ltd strategic planning workshop 2009

Facilitation of a strategic planning workshop with members of the Board

Contact Peter Cash, Chair 9687 5682 pwtcash@hotmail.net.au

Association of Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres campaign & strategic planning 2005 - 2008

Janet facilitated workshops involving the ANHLC Board, campaign working group and representatives of neighbourhood houses to plan the successful campaign for more funding for Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres. In 2007 - 08 Janet facilitated strategic planning processes for the Board.

Contact Merial Clark, former Executive Officer, 0414 351 352

Darebin Volunteering Project planning workshops 2007-2008

Janet ran four workshops with the Darebin Volunteering Project planning the successful transition of the Northcote Community Information and Support Service into a broader volunteer resource program. The workshops involved staff, board members and volunteers from Darebin Council and NCISS and received great feedback as being engaging and fun as well as highly effective.

North East Neighbourhood Houses Network strategic planning 2007 - 2008

Janet facilitated a number of planning workshops for the NENH network throughout 2007 and 2008 including strategic planning and other planning including for the Greener Houses project.

Contact Linda Parlane 0400 042 985 greenerhouses@nenetwork.org.au

Merri Creek Management Committee strategic planning 2005 - 2007

Janet worked with board, staff and volunteers over an extended period to develop a strategic plan for the organisation, including all analysis and writing of the Plan.

Contact Luisa Macmillan, Manager, 9380 8199 Luisa@mcmc.org.au

We sought Janet's services to help develop our strategic plan... She made it easy for the Board to participate... and for the staff to not feel threatened in sharing their ideas
Dianne Batterham, General Manager, Westgate Health Co-op

Janet's strategic planning workshops were enjoyable, effective, engaging and inclusive. They ran to time, and were purposeful with clear outcomes.
Janet provided timely and comprehensive reports on the workshop findings and from these developed draft and final strategic plans, with sensitivity and responsiveness to the requirements of our organisation.
Luisa MacMillan, Manager, Merri Creek Management Committee

Community engagement

Janet is able to quickly understand the big picture, the key issues to resolve and the desired outcomes. At the same time Janet is aware of the reality of the politics and can engage and work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds, approaches and skills
*Kerry Thompson,
CEO, City of Wyndham*

Janet draws upon her experience as a facilitator, a Councillor and a community campaigner to design community engagement processes that are genuine and effective. She knows what it's like to be involved in community engagement processes from all sides, and knows how to make these processes work for both the organisation conducting them and for the community members.

Janet has extensive experience includes running community reference groups, community forums, open days, on-site workshops and on-line processes, and conducting training in community engagement.

Janet facilitates projects that range from one-off discussions between Council staff and members of the community, resolving issues of concern, to large multi-stakeholder community engagement processes.

some examples

Barwon Water community engagement about biosolids 2004-2007

Janet led the community engagement for the planning of a facility for treating and recycling solid organic wastes (biosolids) generated from sewage treatment. Core to the process was the Biosolids Investigation Group which met ten times over a two year period. Group members became informed about different treatment options, and were able to provide feedback and advice to Barwon Water both about the options and about details of the facility that was finally chosen. Other aspects of the community engagement were information bulletins, field trips, a community meeting and an Open Day.

Challenges included dealing with substantial controversy, and maintaining quality community engagement during the tendering process when the project developed into a public-private partnership, and confidentiality provisions restricted what was able to be public information. The success of the community engagement through this stage relied upon the trust that had been built up between Barwon Water and the community representatives.

Contact Carl Bicknell General Manager Water Systems Barwon Water
03 5226 9202 Carl.Bicknell@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Janet's even-handed style and genuine enthusiasm for a solution that would be acceptable to the community while also meeting all Barwon Water's objectives, led to a successful project outcome that has attracted many positive comments."
*Carl Bicknell,
General Manager Water Systems,
Barwon Water*

Barwon Water Water Resources Development Plan (with Context Pty Ltd) 2000-2002

Janet led the community engagement process for the development of the Plan. This involved a two year consultation process involving 10 workshops, a 20 member reference group, other focus groups and public meetings. Janet prepared and wrote community information bulletins and questionnaires that were an integral part of the consultation process. The process was resulted in a Water Resources Development Plan which had wide acceptance amongst the Barwon community. The Plan was awarded an Occasional Special Award from the Planning Institute of Australia.

Parks Victoria Yarra Bend Trails Strategy Consultation (with Context Pty Ltd)

This strategy guided the use, development and management of trails in Yarra Bend Park. Janet led the consultative processes of the Strategy, which was developed with extensive community involvement. One of the key successes of the process was the building of shared ownership of the recommendations from a diverse range of stakeholders.

Planning for a sustainable future

Collaborative planning is exceptionally valuable for planning for sustainability outcomes for your organisation. This is because it builds commitment from across the organisation which maximises voluntary sustainability actions. The processes Janet uses are similar to strategic planning processes, but usually also include a considerable educational and motivational component.

an example

annecto the people network

Preparation of a Sustainability 'Journey Plan' 2009

Janet worked with management, board and staff to develop a 'journey plan' for the sustainability journey that annecto, a disability services organisation, have embarked upon. This work included surveying staff about their attitudes and behaviours related to sustainability, and running a highly interactive workshop with representatives from across the organisation that informed people about sustainability and explored possible sustainability actions that annecto could take.

Contact Estelle Fyffe CEO 9687 7066 Estelle.Fyffe@annecto.org.au

*Janet is a wonderful communicator who listens empathetically, speaks with clarity and purpose and welcomes people with a natural warmth and openness. I have no hesitation in recommending Janet as a most dynamic facilitator capable of creating sustainable change within diverse teams.
Estelle Fyffe, CEO
annecto – the people network*

Behaviour change programs

Janet was a pioneer in behaviour change programs for sustainability related outcomes with her work developing Bicycle Victoria's Ride to Work program.. A successful behaviour change program will involve understanding the incentives for behaviour change, and will amplify these incentives; will understand the barriers to behaviour change, and work to reduce these barriers, will make a personal connection, and understand that behaviours influence attitudes much more strongly than attitudes predict behaviours.

some examples

Climate Emergency Network 2011

Janet is currently working with the Climate Emergency Network planning a major community mobilisation program to achieve powerful action for a safe climate. The behaviour change aspects of the program will be based on detailed research and include peer support programs, establishing supportive social networks, and building from small commitments to large ones as part of a holistic integrated program.

Contact Philip Sutton 0437 391 683 philip.sutton@green-innovations.asn.au

Bicycle Victoria Ride to Work program 1992-1997

Janet was the creator of Bicycle Victoria's Ride to Work campaign. The model has been highly successful and has been maintained over the last two decades. Key elements include the involvement of workplaces to provide new riders with peer support; Ride to Work Day providing timely motivation to give riding to work a go, incentives to ride, and ongoing support.

Collaborative decision making

Collaborative decision making processes can be fraught because they often involve strong differences of opinion and can be highly emotional. Janet has the skills to deal with the emotion – not to pretend it doesn't exist, but to acknowledge it, work with it and steer the group to a harmonious outcome. The time spent making decisions which everyone in a group can live with is an investment in keeping the group together and enabling them to fulfill their goals.

an example

I have worked with Janet at state, national and international levels, on global issues, social justice, women's issues, and group processes. She has immense skills in negotiation and mediation, and is able to bring groups together who have widely differing views to make lasting decisions that the whole group supports.

Miriam Solomon

Co-Secretary, Asia Pacific Greens Network

Australian Greens 1992-current

Janet has facilitated consensus decision making processes at local, state and national levels of The Greens since 1992. The Greens are unique as a political party with their commitment to consensus decision making. Successful facilitation of often highly contentious issues has been a critical factor in the party's success.

Advocacy

Janet has vast experience with community organisations and in local government as a campaigner and advocate. Her skills include campaign planning, research, building a support base, communicating with, involving and motivating supporters, lobbying, and working with media. She has a particular interest in melding the use of online and face to face communication. Janet's involvement can range from working on campaign planning and mentoring campaign staff to frontline work on advocacy campaigns.

As Chair of Metropolitan Transport Forum, Janet's combination of enthusiasm, collaboration, intellect and pragmatism made the MTF one of the very credible and respected voices on transport issues.

Janet has great skills in working with people with diverse views, and getting to a workable consensus; and she is always practical and outcome focussed in her approach.

*Cr Jo Connellan,
Councillor, City of Moreland*

an example

Colleen Hartland MLC, 2008 and 2010

Janet worked with Colleen Hartland managing community campaigns across her electorate, in particular sustainable transport campaigns and campaigning on planning concerns in Footscray. All campaigns had a focus on engaging and empowering community members, and have been the springboard for powerful community campaigns on these issues.

Contact Colleen Hartland MLC colleen.hartland@parliament.vic.gov.au 9689 7535

Other advocacy work Janet has undertaken in recent years has been in the fields of sustainable transport, climate change, forest conservation and sustainable planning and development

Local government achievements

Janet was a City of Maribyrnong Councillor from 2003 to 2008, and Mayor in 2005-06. Some of Janet's major activities and achievements as a Councillor include:

- **Metropolitan Transport Forum** Chair 2004 -2008. Under Janet's leadership MTF, which brings together 19 municipalities, embarked on a major public transport advocacy campaign (see www.pt4me2.org.au). Janet continues to be a sought after speaker on transport issues.
- **Victorian Local Governance Association** Janet was elected to the VLGA Board in 2005 and to the Vice – Presidency in 2006. Janet was an active member of VLGA's community engagement, finances and climate change working groups.
- **Municipal Association of Victoria.** Janet was awarded the MAV McArthur Fellowship in 2006. She travelled to North America and Northern Europe researching the role of community in achieving sustainable transport and urban form. Janet was a member of the MAV – VicRoads Liaison Committee and Transport and Infrastructure Committee.
- **City of Maribyrnong** Janet led Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral , was a strong advocate for revitalisation of Footscray, a campaigner on freight issues, and succeeded through negotiation with the Port of Melbourne in retaining Footscray Wharf.

Janet has demonstrated exceptional ability at galvanising diverse political views and brokering community oriented solutions. Janet has earned the respect of politicians and community members across Victoria through her work at the VLGA, on Council and her community activism.

*Rose Iser,
former President, VLGA*

Other experience

Janet Rice Facilitation and Community Involvement was formed in 2003.

Between 1997 and 2003 Janet worked as a Senior Consultant with [Context Pty Ltd](#).

Janet has also worked as:

- Community Campaigns Manager, [Office of Colleen Hartland, MLC](#)
- Lecturer in Sustainable Transport, [RMIT University](#)
- Campaign Manager and Candidate, [Australian Greens Victoria](#)
- Ride to Work Coordinator [Bicycle Victoria](#)
- Co-ordinator and Forest Campaigner, [East Gippsland Coalition](#)
- Water Policy Officer, [Department of Water Resources](#)
- Project Officer, [Conservation Council of Victoria \(now Environment Victoria\)](#)

Janet is also:

- Advisory Board Member, [Centre for Governance and Management of Urban Transport](#) , [University of Melbourne](#),
- State Councillor, [Australian Greens Victoria](#),
- An active member of a range of community organisations including [Maribyrnong Truck Action Group](#) and [Maribyrnong Bicycle Users Group](#), and
- Past Chair, [Footscray City Primary School Council](#)

Janet has completed two years of intensive facilitation training with the [Groupwork Institute of Australia](#). She has a Science degree with Honours in Meteorology, and also holds a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the [Trillium Group](#).