

COUNCIL VOTES TO CELEBRATE HUNTERS HILL DAY ON 31 JULY EACH YEAR

Hunters Hill Council resolved at its meeting on 10 December 2018 that 'Hunters Hill Day' be recognised and celebrated each year on 31 July.



Mayor Mark Bennett speaking for the motion. Hunters Hill Council video

The date is significant as it was on 31 July 2017 that Hunters Hill Council was formally notified by letter from the NSW Government that it had withdrawn its forced merger proposal after a lengthy and bitter battle, and it was also on that day that the NSW Court of Appeal delivered its judgment in the court case in favour of the Council, finding that the merger proposal was indeed invalid and illegal, ordering the Government to pay all Council's costs.

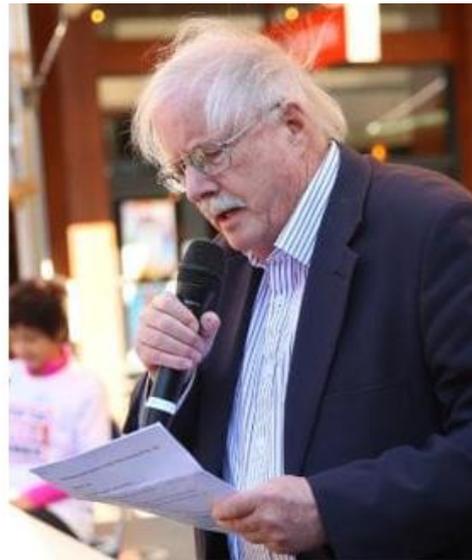
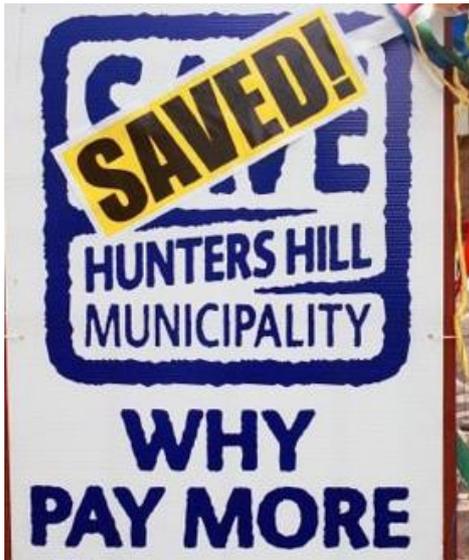
There is wide community support within the Hunters Hill Municipality to recognise the significance of that date and for the need to celebrate what the community has fought for both recently and in other battles over many years – for our independence, our identity and our shared values.

The Mayor Mark Bennett said at the Council meeting - "If we lost this fight against a forced merger, the councillors who would make decisions about Hunters Hill would not live in Hunters Hill."

Phil Jenkyn Co-convenor of Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition said, "The vast majority of the community highly value our history and heritage, our environment both built and natural, our strong community and sense of place, and our independence and local democracy. That is what we fought for."

A few members of the community in Gladesville who wanted Hunters Hill to merge thought the idea was divisive, and the two Liberal endorsed councillors were divided on the issue, with Clr Zac Miles voting for and Clr Ben Collins strongly against as can be seen by what he

said to the Northern District Times afterwards. The Liberal Party is clearly divided amongst themselves at all levels – Federal, State and local, over many issues.



Hunters Hill 'Saved' sign and 'Save Hunters Hill Municipality' Co-convenor Phil Jenkyn OAM. Courtesy Northern District Times

Councillor and former Mayor Ross Williams said, "I do not see this victory as divisive but as a defining event because no other battle in Hunters Hill was about the demise of this community."

The Weekly Times: <https://savehuntershill.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/SHHMC-Council-votes-for-Hunters-Hill-Day-TWT-12-Dec-2018.pdf>

The Northern District Times: <https://savehuntershill.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/SHHMC-Hunters-Hill-Council-approves-31-July-as-day-to-celebrate-independence-NDT-14-Dec-2018.pdf>

The YouTube video of Council meeting 4452 held on 10 Dec 2018 includes the item 'Hunters Hill Day 31 July', which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqJjcx0gPI0> from 1:04:22 to 2:26:42. See also the report to Council item 5.1: <http://www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au/Page/Download.aspx?c=4909>

Celebration first 'Hunters Hill Day' 31 July 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OndJ-cM2xJE>

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC)
19 Dec 2018