

# Dawn of a New Era – Independents Sweep to Power

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## New Look Councils

BY OUR CHIEF CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

**Local Government in TWT Territory has a new air of confidence and progress following the recent council elections post the divisive Baird-Berejiklian forced amalgamation drama years.**

**HUNTERS HILL** citizens celebrated their successful victory against the seemingly overwhelming odds on Monday night when their new Mayor Independent Clr Mark Bennett was installed by outgoing mayor Richard Quinn in the Council Chambers.



***CLR MARK BENNETT was installed as Mayor of Hunters Hill by outgoing mayor Richard Quinn on Monday night at Hunters Hill Council Chambers. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO.***

**RYDE CITY** Council elected Labor Cnr Jerome Laxale as their new mayor on Tuesday night to herald a new era following a period of dysfunctional council under the outgoing regime, headed by the discredited Liberals Colonel Pickering.

**LANE COVE** elected Independent Pam Palmer mayor on Monday night following the halving of the ruling Liberal representation from six to three and election of the first Labor councillor in 70 years.

**CANADA BAY** has elected former Labor mayor Angelo Tsirekas back by popular vote after a brief absence when he unsuccessfully stood as Labor candidate for Reid in the last federal election and **HORNSBY** elected by popular vote the former federal MP Philip Ruddock as mayor.

**PARRAMATTA** Council on Monday night elected Independent Cnr Andrew Wilson as Lord Mayor.

**Independent candidates swept to power on Monday night with the election of Mayors and Deputy Mayors in Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and the City of Parramatta.**

In **LANE COVE** staunch anti forced merger Independent Pam Palmer from East Ward was elected Mayor alongside anti forced merger Independent Karola Brent from Central Ward.

In **HUNTERS HILL** anti forced merger Independent Cnr Mark Bennett (North Ward) had been elected Mayor and on Monday night anti forced merger Independent and former mayor Ross Williams (North Ward) was elected Deputy Mayor for a one year term.



***New Deputy Mayor Cnr Ross Williams with Hunters Hill Mayor Cnr Mark Bennett on Monday night. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO.***

Hunters Hill Deputy Mayor Ross Williams is a spokesperson for the anti-merger Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition and told Monday night's council meeting the recent local government election was the most important in Hunters Hill's 150 years.

In the City of PARRAMATTA Our Local Community Party candidate Clr Andrew Wilson was elected Lord Mayor with Our Local Community Party candidate Clr Michelle Garrard (Dundas Ward) elected Deputy Lord Mayor.

In the City of RYDE Labor Clr Jerome Laxale was elected Mayor with Christopher Gordon from The Greens as Deputy Mayor, at Tuesday night's meeting.

Ryde Labor and the Liberal Party both have four councillors while The Greens have two councillors and there are two Independent councillors.

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