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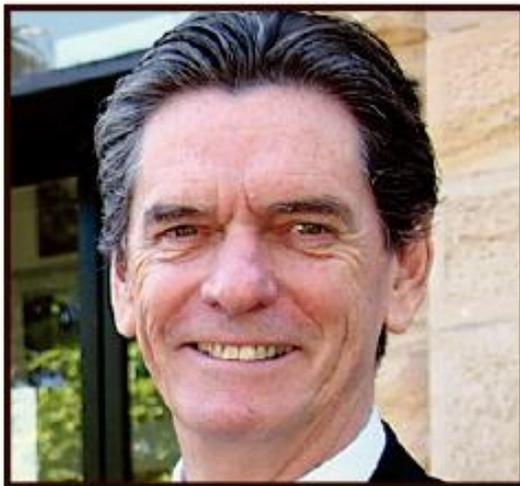
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www.weeklytimes.com.au

Email: contactus@weeklytimes.com.au

P.O. BOX 123, RYDE 1680 PHONE: 9807-6666

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILS and MAYORS



MARK BENNETT, former Deputy Mayor of Hunters Hill was elected the new mayor succeeding the popular Richard Quinn in a three way contest with Liberal endorsed candidate Cnr Zac Miles and a former mayor Ross Williams. Pictured right **ANGELO TSIREKAS** was elected Labor Mayor of Canada Bay a position he previously held before retiring to contest the last federal election in Reid.

BY OUR CHIEF CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

Many new faces have been elected to local Councils as a major rebuff to the NSW Liberal Coalition State Government of Gladys Berejiklian.

No Councils in TWT territory will be dominated by the out of favour Liberal Party and none will have a Liberal mayor unlike before the September 9 Local Government elections when the mayors of Ryde and Lane Cove were both Liberal Party endorsed members.

Those two Liberal mayors the irrational Colonel Pickering in Ryde and the demure Deborah Hutchens in Lane Cove contributed to the Liberals poor showings in the polls. See details inside.

Independent Mark Bennett has been elected mayor of Hunters Hill by popular vote over Liberal contender Zac Miles and Angelo Tsirekas has been elected mayor of Canada Bay.

Independent Pam Palmer is favoured to

win Mayoral honours in Lane Cove where she blitzed the field and topped the poll in East Ward and Andrew Zbik has become the first Labor Councillor at Lane Cove in 70 years.

Three candidates may contest Ryde's mayoral election namely Labor's Jerome Laxale with four seats and possible support of two Greens, Liberal Sarkis Yedelian with four seats and Independent and a past mayor Roy Maggio.

Former federal MP Philip Ruddock has been elected mayor of Hornsby in a surprise move by the Liberal Party who rejected sitting Liberal mayor Steve Russell.

FULL COUNCIL ELECTION ROUND-UP INSIDE SEE PAGES 6, 7 & 8.

Mayor Mark Bennett heads new Hunters Hill Council



Former Mayor Richard Quinn congratulating the new Mayor Clr Mark Bennett

Hunters Hill residents will be given a direct say on how they want their council run and what they want it to do, new Mayor Clr Mark Bennett said.

Mayor Bennett started work as Hunters Hill's fulltime Mayor on Friday and told The Weekly Times he will honour every promise he made as an independent candidate.

"I've cleared my desk at Bennett & Associates and moved into the Mayoral Office at the Town Hall, as I promised and I'll be working hard for Hunters Hill here every day.

“One of the election promises I made is to hold an annual survey of residents, prepare an action plan based on these surveys and fix things that people aren’t happy about.

“That’s my first priority.

“My second priority is to focus on our finances, which are in a good state although our footpaths certainly need attention, which is a safety issue.



Justine McLaughlin (South Ward) Independent is a solicitor who has also served as Deputy Mayor.

Councillor McLaughlin is an accomplished public speaker who was also a leading voice on Hunters Hill’s campaign against forced forgers as well as being a passionate supporter of Hunters Hill’s Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan.



Ross Williams (North Ward) Independent is a former Mayor of Hunters Hill and has been a leading figure on The Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition and its successful fight against the State Government’s proposed forced amalgamations. He brings strong environment and heritage protection credentials to Hunters Hill Council and is an advocate for transparency and accountability in council debates, services and operations.



Elizabeth Krassoi (North Ward) Independent is known to many residents as the founder and facilitator of the annual Hunters Hill Street Feast, one of Sydney’s best attended after dark events.

Perhaps less well known is her strong advocacy for environmental and heritage protection issues and her commitment to local democracy.



Jim Sanderson (South Ward) Independent has also been a stalwart campaigner against the proposed forced amalgamation of Hunters Hill with Ryde and Lane Cove.

An independent thinker with a strong sense of social justice, Jim Sanderson is also passionate about local democracy, the environment and Hunters Hill’s unique structural and cultural heritage.



Zac Miles (South Ward) Liberal went within a hair’s breath of being elected Mayor and leads the Liberal Party on Hunters Hill Council.

During the last council, he strongly advocated for the rights of many families who lodged development applications and led the community campaign against parking meters.



Ben Collins (North Ward) Liberal is the second Liberal Party councillor on Hunters Hill Council and upholds the Liberal Party commitment to sound economic management, responsible spending and financial accountability.

Expect Ben Collins to be closely involved in key service delivery issues that include roads, rates and rubbish removal.

New look Ryde City Council

Labor's Jerome Laxale, the Liberal's Sarkis Yedelian and Independent Roy Maggio have emerged as the front runners for City of Ryde Mayor.



Clr Jerome Laxale

The Mayoral election will be held at the new Ryde Council Chambers, above the City of Ryde Library next Tuesday September 26 from 7pm with a vote among councillors.

The Labor Party and the Liberal Party have four councillors each and will require the vote of the Independents and the two new candidates from The Greens to win the Mayoralty.

A compromise could see former Mayor Clr Roy Maggio elected.

The new councillors on the City of Ryde Council are Penny Pedersen (ALP), Jordan Lane (Lib) and Christopher Gordon (The Greens) from East Ward alongside West Ward's Peter Kim (ALP), Trenton Brown (Lib) and Simon Zhou (Ind).

Central Ward's new councillors are Bernard Purcell (ALP), Chris Moujalli (Lib) and Edwina Clifton from The Greens.

Lane Cove voters punish chicken hearted Liberals

Lane Cove voters turned on Mayor Deborah Hutchens and her bed wetting Liberals who recently voted against joining Hunters Hill Council's legal action to save local democracy from Premier Gladys Berejiklian's threat of abolishing the council in a forced merger.

In a massive 10.6 per cent swing against the Liberals and an unprecedented 12.6 per cent swing to the Independents (and a 9.6 swing to Labor) Mayor Hutchens

could only muster 182 primary votes as voters vented their anger on her recent decision to meekly pander to the party line and vote against the legal challenge.

Her sidekick Marc Gold wasn't even re-elected with a lowly 38 primary votes while anti-merger campaigner Pam Palmer scored a massive win in conservative East Ward where she outpolled Liberal heavyweight David Brooks-Horn and is tipped to be the new Mayor.

In contrast, Liberal Scott Bennison who defied party politics to vote in favour of the legal action – alongside the one other courageous Liberal, David Karpin – was comfortably re-elected.

Independent and anti-merger campaigner Daniel Strassberg was another big winner but the biggest upset was the election of Labor's Andrew Zbik, the first ALP councillor elected on Lane Cove Council for more than 70 years.

New Mayors and results from Epping, Hornsby, Canada Bay

FORMER Howard Government Minister Philip Ruddock has been elected Mayor of Hornsby and Angelo Tsirekas has been elected Mayor of the City of Canada Bay.

IN HORNSBY Mr Ruddock is joined by A Ward candidates Nathan Tilbury (Lib), Warren Waddell (Lib) and Mick Marr (ALP) alongside Robert Browne (Lib), Janelle McIntosh (ALP) and Joseph Nicita (The Greens) from B Ward and Michael Hutchence (Lib), Emma Hyde (The Greens) and Vince Del Gallego (Ind) from C Ward.

IN EPPING WARD on Parramatta Council Liberal Bill Tyrrell, Labor's Donna Davis and Independent Lorraine Wearne were elected.

IN CANADA BAY for Mayor Angelo Tsirekas (ALP) is joined by Labor colleagues Julia Little, Andrew Ferguson and Marian Parnaby.

The Liberals elected in Canada Bay are Michael Megna, Stephanie Di Pasqua and Nicholas Yap.

The Greens' Charles Jago and the Independent Daniela Ramondino were also elected.