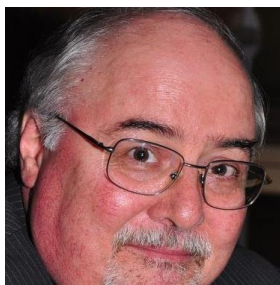


“We do everything a little bit better!” - former Mayors tribute to Barry Smith

TWO former mayors of Hunters Hill have paid tribute to retiring General Manager Barry Smith.



Emeritus Mayor Sue Hoopmann OAM and Richard Quinn were at the Hunters Hill Town Hall last week to congratulate Mr Smith on his 22 years of service to the heritage municipality.

“As Mayor I worked with Barry for ten years and always valued his wise advice, particularly his expression that there are no problems, only solutions,” Ms Hoopmann said.

“In my opinion, this is the reason Hunters Hill Council is still here today.

“He has played an enormous role in local government and always had Hunters Hill at heart.”

Barry Smith started his career as a clerk in Penrith more than 40 years ago and regularly made the long journey from this outer Sydney suburb to Hunters Hill.

Richard Quinn served as Mayor during the time Hunters Hill fought and won the recent battle against the state government’s plan to forcibly merge Hunters Hill with Lane Cove and the City Of Ryde.

“You personally risked your own personal standing to support the resolutions of this council,” Mr Quinn told him.

“But most of all the quality I value is your personal integrity and your honesty.

“Please know how much we appreciate what you have done and that you will always be welcome here.”

Phil Jenkyn OAM from the Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition was also at the forefront of the fight to save Hunters Hill.

“The last four years have been horrendous and money we needed

for services in Hunters Hill was sucked out of the community but we fought and won the hardest battle ever fought in Hunters Hill,” he said.

“All this while a number of other councils went down because they didn’t have the support of their general managers.”

Mr Smith replied; “It was not an easy decision to retire but it was the right decision.

“Yes, the last four years were particularly tough but you are only as good as the team you’ve got and we have a very good team.

“We do everything other councils do and we even do it a little bit better.”

The Weekly Times 18 April 2018