

# ‘Our Greatest Victory’

## Tears and cheers as Hunters Hill celebrates

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

**A night mixed with pride and emotion characterised Monday night’s final meeting of Hunters Hill Council before the September 9 local government elections.**

The night was especially poignant for Mayor Richard Quinn and Cllr Dr Meredith Sheil who will not be standing for re-election as well as for retired Cllr Peter Astridge who could not attend but has devoted more than two decades of service to the municipality.

Mayor Quinn and General Manager Barry Smith received ovations from a packed gallery at the meeting alongside anti-merger campaigner Phil Jenkyn OAM who was awarded the Freedom of the Municipality from Mayor Richard Quinn.



*Phil Jenkyn Honoured*

# No thanks to gutless MPs

But it was a night where the Hunters Hill community took pride of place after a long and successful fight against the State Government's proposed forced merger with the City of Ryde and Lane Cove.

Described by councillors as "the most important battle in Hunters Hill's 150 year history" this incredible community based victory against all odds not only forced Premier Gladys Berejiklian to backflip on the proposed merger but saw the Court of Appeal award Hunters Hill all costs associated with the legal case against the government.

Emeritus Mayor Ross Williams gave the keynote address. "This recent, ill-conceived and flawed NSW Liberal Government forced amalgamation process was by far the greatest challenge for our community to overcome," Mr Williams said.

"To the great disgrace of the Liberal Government and our local State Government member, Minister Roberts, this has been a blight on the Hunters Hill community for almost five years."

"But the Hunters Hill community will fight for our independence and right to local governance, to preserve our heritage, environment and sense of place.

"When it rallies together it is a formidable body of passionate, determined and immensely talented individuals.

"And we have not been fighting this alone .. it is also important to acknowledge the significant role played by the media broadcaster Alan Jones and our own The Weekly Times newspaper."

Councillor Dr Meredith Sheil called for a standing ovation for Mayor Quinn.

"This is my last council meeting but it has been an enormous privilege for me to fight for Hunters Hill and its independence," Cllr Sheil said.

"We do have a community council and this has been evident to me in the outcome we have achieved, a community worth more than money can buy."

Councillor Sheil urged the community to keep fighting to keep Hunters Hill independent.

"The abject and revolting way the Liberal Party has treated its most ardent supporters in Hunters Hill has convinced me there is no place for party politics in local government."

Alongside Mayor Quinn, Cllr Sheil and Cllr Astridge were praised for standing up for Hunters Hill at every opportunity with Cllr Sheil even fronting former Premier Mike Baird on the issue at a recent local government conference in Wollongong.

Deputy Mayor Mark Bennett spoke of the resolve of Mr Jenkyn and General Manager Barry Smith.

"There were times I felt like crying, to be honest, but it was Phil who kept saying keep fighting, we will win this," he said.

Councillors heard the State Government is still determined to find ways to abolish Hunters Hill, but for now the most pressing task is for Mayor Quinn to write to Hunters Hill's Friendship Pact township of Le Vesinet in Paris, with the historic news of *La Victoire Est A Nous* ..The Victory is Ours !!

**Your Multi Award Winning Local Newspaper!**

**Tigers Slaughter Silvertails at HQ!**



Page 32



Wednesday August 16, 2017

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**MEET THE CANDIDATES**

SEE PAGES 8-12

Email: [contactus@weeklytimes.com.au](mailto:contactus@weeklytimes.com.au)

VOL. 96 NO. 30 PUBLISHED 96 YEARS

ESTABLISHED 1921

[www.weeklytimes.com.au](http://www.weeklytimes.com.au)

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

# 'Our Greatest Victory'

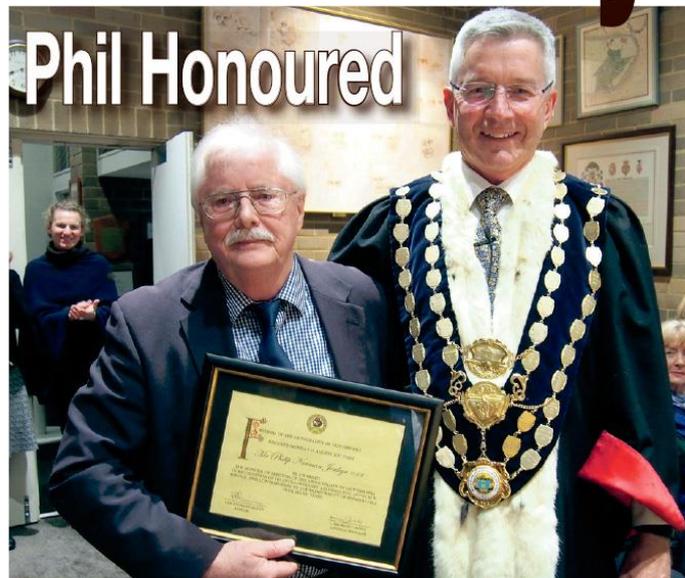
## Tears and cheers as Hunters Hill celebrates

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

A night mixed with pride and emotion characterised Monday night's final meeting of Hunters Hill Council before the September 9 local government elections.

The night was especially poignant for Mayor Richard Quinn and Councillor Dr Meredith Shell who will not be standing for re-election as well as for retired Councillor Peter Astridge who could not attend but has devoted more than two decades of service to the municipality.

Mayor Quinn and General Manager Barry Smith received ovations from a packed gallery at the meeting alongside anti-merger campaigner Phil Jenkyn OAM who was awarded the Freedom of the Municipality from Mayor Richard Quinn, pictured right.



## No thanks to gutless MPs

But it was a night where the Hunters Hill community took pride of place after a long and successful fight against the State Government's proposed forced merger with the City of Ryde and Lane Cove.

Described by councillors as "the most important battle in Hunters Hill's 150 year history" this incredible community based victory against all odds not only forced Premier Gladys Berejiklian to backflip on the proposed merger but saw the Court of Appeal award Hunters Hill all costs associated with the legal case against the government.

Emeritus Mayor Ross Williams gave the keynote address. "This recent, ill conceived and flawed NSW Liberal Government forced amalgamation process was by far the greatest challenge for our community to overcome," Mr Williams said

"To the great disgrace of the Liberal Government and our local State Government member, Minister Roberts, this has been a blight on the Hunters Hill community for almost five years." *Continued Page 8*

### WIN! with TWT!

**The Great Grand Final Heist Books**  
Four TWT readers can win copies of the new sporting book "The Great Grand Final Heist" - a mysterious tale of Tigers, Rabbitohs and an unlikely coaching hero - written by Ian Heads. SEE PAGE 20.

**Paddy O'Melon Irish Kangaroo Books**  
Two TWT readers can win copies of a new book Paddy O'Melon - the Irish Kangaroo written by author Julia Cooper courtesy of Exile Publishing. SEE PAGE 2.

**Camerata Academica Concert**  
Four TWT readers can win Double Passes to a concert on Sunday August 27 for Camerata Academica of the Antipodes chamber orchestra and vocal ensemble in St Alban's Hall Epping at 3.30pm. SEE PAGE 2.

Mayor Quinn presents Mr Jenkyn with the Freedom of the Municipality on Monday Night. TWT On-the-spot Photo.



JB's World

ELECTION FEVER is taking over TWT Territory with candidates campaigning for the Saturday September 9 Local Government elections. We have a full election round-up inside this week starting on Page 8. Happy campaigning all.

*Continued page 3*

The Weekly Times 16 August 2017

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/our-greatest-victory/>

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/twt-16-08-17-p1.jpg>