

MARK BENNETT TO LEAD HUNTERS HILL COUNCIL

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John Besley



Mark Bennett has been elected mayor of Hunters Hill. Pictures: Chris Pavlich

- [Bennett named as mayor](#)

It will be a familiar role for Hunters Hill Council's new mayor Mark Bennett when the first council meeting of the term commences on Monday night.

Mr Bennett has served as deputy mayor to Richard Quinn during his previous term on council and says he's "excited" to get straight to work.

"I think we've got a very good group of councillors with some very diverse skills," Mr Bennett said.

"I'm pretty happy with the group of people that have been elected and it's nice to see some new faces."

Four new faces to be exact, with former councillors Meredith Sheil, Peter Astridge and Gary Bird making way for Ross Williams, Elizabeth Krasso, Jim Sanderson and Ben Collins.



The new council has its first meeting on Monday night

With the distraction of the council's forced amalgamation issue out of the way, it's somewhat of a clean slate for this new council to begin its term with and Mr Bennett is determined to get things off on the right track.

"I think the important thing is to make sure we've got a good understanding of what the residents need," he said.

"We need to get out with a survey and make sure that we're dealing with the issues which are most important to the residents.

"It's going to be a very interesting three years."

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/northern-district-times/mark-bennett-to-lead-hunters-hill-council/news-story/3eca4c22e0dc830a191634b58a8305c2>

New council gets off to a spirited start

Pollies excited to represent their community

John Besley

HUNTERS Hill's new councillors are all on the same page: the community comes first.

Ahead of the first meeting of the new council on Monday, the *Northern District Times* caught up with each of the new councillors to get their thoughts ahead of their first meeting.

North Ward

Elizabeth Krassoi, independent:

"I think a priority is to listen to what the people in the community have to say. In such a small council like Hunters Hill, there needs to be a lot more two-way communication between the council and residents. We need to be more available to people."

Ben Collins, Liberal:

"I think we can work with the rest of the council to get a good result for the community. We're all colleagues now; we're not opponents anymore. I'm



Councillor Zac Miles.

going to work as hard as I can to serve the people."

Ross Williams, independent:

"I'm grateful to be able to have another term on council. I'd like to give my thanks to the community for giving me another opportunity to serve. The first thing we need to do is make sure the community is engaged. We need to enable them to have an opportunity to see how the council makes its decisions."

South Ward

Justine McLaughlin, independent:

"I'm thrilled we're going

to be led by Mark Bennett. I think he's going to be an excellent mayor. We want to bring council into the 21st century. We need to increase our online digital presence and create better channels of communication. We also need to respond to the issues that people raised when we were campaigning."

Zac Miles, Liberal:

"We did very well in my estimations. We've effectively doubled our councillors and we're in a fairly strong position with myself and Ben Collins on council. Priorities for us include removing the parking meters at Boronia Park and delivering upgrades to Gladesville Reserve."

Jim Sanderson, independent:

"I think we've got a good council with five very good independent candidates. I think we'll work well together. There's a whole range of issues to deal with but the principal thing for me is good government."