

Acknowledging the effort and support of Councillors

HUNTERS HILL HAPPENINGS with Mayor RICHARD QUINN



As this will be my last TWT column before the September 9 elections, I would like to acknowledge my fellow Hunters Hill Councillors and thank them for their service to our community over the past five or more years.

Whilst our debates at Council meetings have at times been robust, there has always been a high standard of mutual respect and due regard for meeting procedure.

The political antics and personal attacks that are regularly televised from our State and Federal Parliaments have not been evident in the Hunters Hill Council Chamber over these past five years.

Each of our councillors has participated fully and professionally debated the issues that impact on our community, but always in a spirit of mutual respect.

I gratefully acknowledge the efforts and support of Councillors Meredith Sheil, Justine McLaughlin and Mark Bennett, who have all served as Deputy Mayor at various times.

Cr Sheil, who is not seeking re-election, has generously served our community since her election in 2008, including as Deputy Mayor from 2012 to 2015.

She has been a committed and passionate advocate of our community's ongoing independence.

Similarly, Clr Peter Astridge has given 22 years of generous and committed service to Hunters Hill community since being first elected to Council in 1995 under the "No Aircraft Noise" banner.

Peter was subsequently elected as Deputy Mayor in 2002-2003 and 2005-2006.

I wish him every blessing and good health in his retirement from local government. Also retiring is Cllr Gary Bird who was elected to Council in 2012 and has been a passionate advocate particularly for the Gladesville area where he helped initiate the Gladesville Flicks 'n Eats and the Spring Festival.

I thank Gary for his commitment and dedication to our community.

It has been a great privilege to serve as Mayor of Hunters Hill since 2012 and as a Councillor and Deputy Mayor since 1999.

I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people in our community over that time, including the dedicated and professional staff at Council, led by our General Manager, Barry Smith.

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I EXTEND best wishes to Councillors Mark Bennett, Justine McLaughlin and Zac Miles as they each contest the upcoming elections.

It is my fervent hope that those who are elected will be people of integrity who have the community's interest, not self-interest, as their primary motivation for seeking election and who have a proven record of serving our local community.

I personally will question the motives of some candidates who have no prior record of local community involvement or voluntary activity, and are now seeking election to Council as our representatives.

I encourage all who will be voting to be aware of the personal background information about each of the candidates, what they have done and what they hope to do for our community if elected.

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LOCAL COUNCIL elections will be held for Hunters Hill Council on Saturday September 9, 2017.

Voting is compulsory. Polling Places are open from 8am to 6pm.

If you can't vote on election day, you can do a pre-poll vote at the Hunters Hill Returning Officer's Office – 9 Church Street Hunters Hill. People wishing to apply for a postal vote should act now. Postal vote applications must be received by 5pm Monday September 4, 2017.

The NSW Electoral Commission is managing the election. For everything you need to know about the election visit the NSW Electoral Commission website at www.votensw.info or phone 1300 135 736

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