



Hunters Hill Trust Journal

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HUNTERS HILL IN THE BALANCE

Council Elections will be held on Saturday, September 21st.

A strong and enthusiastic Council is essential if Hunter's Hill is to survive with its individual character preserved for the enjoyment of all residents and for posterity.

There are fewer candidates standing on this occasion than at previous elections. Many explanations have been offered for this, including apathy. This is not the impression gained by the Trust Committee. On the contrary, it appears that there is a growing interest being manifested in local government affairs by women and by the younger generation. The presence of women on Council has been important and valuable for Hunter's Hill, particularly in bringing new viewpoints to local government. Three women are offering themselves for election on this occasion. Also among the candidates are a number of serious, principled young men who offer a degree of idealism and an understanding of the needs and aspirations of the younger generation that could only strengthen the Council. The Trust Committee was impressed by the qualifications, in both experience and academic qualifications, of many of these candidates and feels that it is possible in this election to elect a Council of great ability and purpose.

The Trust, while fielding no candidates of its own, is actively supporting candidates whose views are congruent with those of the Trust, and where relevant, whose performance on Council has been consistent with the Trust's aims and preservation interests.

Members of the Committee interviewed most of the candidates. Where this was not possible the candidates' answers to a prepared set of questions were sought. Not surprisingly, none of the candidates interviewed expressed disagreement with the objectives of the Trust. Naturally, however, in assessing the candidates we have noted particularly their familiarity with the actual work performed by the Trust as well as their sympathy with its aims and objectives. In the case of sitting alderman special attention has been paid to their acquaintance with the Trust's many submissions on town planning and preservation. The Trust was also interested in the innovative ideas and special interests of the candidates as a measure of their drive and enthusiasm.

While the Trust would, for the reasons outlined, like to see those nine candidates listed on page 4, elected to Council, it will offer its co-operation to the new Council, regardless of its composition, on all matters affecting the preservation of Hunter's Hill.

One of the arguments used by Hunter's Hill against amalgamation was its good voting turn-out in municipal elections. It is vital that all Trust members and sympathisers demonstrate their interest in preserving Hunter's Hill by casting their votes on September 21st.

VOTE: IT'S YOUR COUNCIL
Saturday, September 21st

The Auxiliary held a House Inspection on August 14th, and would like to thank the owners of the houses: Mr & Mrs J. Amory, Dr. & Mrs. F.C. Hinde, and Dr. & Mrs. Giovanelli, for making a pleasant and successful day possible. Our thanks also to the many helpers.

The next House inspection is being planned for early November.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MC

EAST WARD

BAIRD, Moira Judith

Ald. Baird was elected to fill a vacancy last year, and in her year in the Council has consistently supported the aims of the Trust, is fully conversant with the complexities of the Town Plan and its problems.

She feels that Council should work for better planning, at least three years ahead, deciding the percentage allocation for money for priorities. "New aldermen should be encouraged to take a short course on local government and its administration (role, sources of finance)".

"What people expect of their Council is changing tremendously. I would like to see local Councils being a focal point in providing community services and encouraging community involvement in them."

You cannot expect ratepayers to bear the whole burden of community services; I would like to see the local councils have some direct access to tax money, possibly on a population basis. I believe the administration and control must be local to be effective and answerable to the people involved."

MERRINGTON, John Cossar

Ald. Merrington has been active in local government for many years, sitting on the Local Government Association and the Appeals Board.

Ald. Merrington supports both the Trust and the Home Owners Association "to a degree only" and said he has had more sympathy with the Trust in the last 3 years.

He believes that the Town Plan (as returned from the SPA) covers the details of the Municipality satisfactorily, in his view, with one exception: "The main thing is a village precinct around the Town Hall area."

He disagrees with the SPA's power of final decision. He still considers that the possibility of amalgamation is the "major concern" of the future.

He is running for Council because of a deep personal interest in local government and "I suppose it is my own ego".

On the question of when Council should refer matters to closed committee he cited numerous examples where committee discussion is necessary.

JONES, John Lyndon

Ald. Jones said that he believes the Trust was once very important in preventing the spread of home units, and that its continuation is important because it might be necessary in time of crisis (amalgamation), but he is no longer a member and was displeased when Trust candidates opposed him at the last election.

He believes the Town Plan is basically satisfactory and with the amendments Council proposes it will be a good one. He is not familiar with the Trust's submission on Town Planning nor its Objections to the Plan. He said that he had not received a copy (the Trust sent copies to all aldermen and it was discussed in Commissioner Dale's report to Council).

Mr Jones said that he is not a member of the Home Owners Association and does not support their views on the Town Plan except in the case of the foreshore building line, and that he spoke for them in Council to ensure that they got a fair hearing.

He is satisfied that the ordinances in the Plan are adequate to ensure all the preservation needs of Hunter's Hill.

BENNETT, Kerry Vincent

Mr Bennett supports the aims of the Trust and has studied the Town Plan and the Trust's objections to it. He is a solicitor, young and enthusiastic. He feels that "a lot more people ought to be prepared to give local government a go", and become involved, as this is the only way to have not just average but good councils.

"There should be more publicity about Council's actions. Is there any reason why members of the public shouldn't be co-opted for use by the Council? They could be given powers to recommend and research, conduct surveys, administer parks -- engender a bit of enthusiasm".

"Council should stimulate group activities at the community level to foster local involvement and a sense of community identity".

"There is not enough accommodation in pre-schools, and they are above the pockets of some people. Whether Council pays or not, it should be doing a bit of stirring to get better and cheaper schools".

CENTRAL WARD

McNALLY, Doris Nancy

Mrs McNally has been attending Council meetings since last October, first because of issues concerning her street, next because she became interested in the effect St. Joseph's College building programme would have on the area, and she has continued attending and widened her interest to the Trust principles and aims which underlie Central Ward problems. She is a firm believer in preservation because we are only one generation, "this is the heritage of the future".

"You only have to look at Baronia Park to see the mass of wildlife, ducks, blue wrens, mangroves, to see what it would be like as a flora and fauna reserve, with the car parts and lantana removed. Paths could be made, ecology lessons set up, voluntary rangers rostered. If the area is left, people might want it turned into another oval; if it is used, this might be another nail in the coffin of the Expressway because the need for environmental preservation would be clear once the area was established".

"I would like to see open forum council meetings every so often. If Council does more than the bare minimum of business in committee it only leaves room for rumour and suggestion of graft".

INGLES, David James

Mr Ingles has been studying participatory democracy at the local level and feels that if it can be made to work anywhere, then it can be in Hunter's Hill. "There are Commonwealth schemes (a kind of cargo cult) aimed at fostering community involvement".

"The foreshores are our greatest asset. I don't believe they should be alienated, and I don't believe Mobil should be there. I would like to see Council take an active interest in the river foreshores redevelopment scheme".

"I am opposed to the extension of motor car transport, especially radial expressways to the city centre. I feel Council could have a role in aiding public transport even to the point of subsidising buses and ferry wharves. There should be a distinction made between services and profit-making. Although there is a limit to finances, that is no excuse for no action at all, I would be interested in looking at a buses-only lane in Ryde Road, and a bikeway".

I • INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES

CAMPBELL, John Andrew

Dr. Campbell supports the aims of the Trust, stating that the area should maintain its identity in the face of potentially exploitive interests trying to make personal gain out of historical and geographical good fortune. Now a doctor at Gladesville Hospital, he has had experience in working with councils in setting up self-help groups, welfare, community centres. He feels that women should mobilise opinion so that social issues are important; only then will money be forthcoming from the HealthDept. He feels that rates are an inequitable way of funding; funding should not be based on property solely.

"Transport has become an issue, as the curtailment of buses will isolate the 20% of people who don't drive. It would seem that bus services are lapsing for the want of a few thousand dollars a year. They need 13 passengers per bus to break even. Possibly the Transport Authority should be asked to run the service. The cost of developing an efficient ferry service would be much less than the development of further expressways and bridges which will only locate the jam at Bedlan Point. Council grants the bus company its license."

"Councils should relate to people as well as simply to money and property interests. Many issues are important at council level."

Dr. Campbell is an endorsed ALP candidate. On this subject, he says the ALP has little local government policy, and that he is running on local issues to maintain concern with the citizen and community development. He stated that he would vote according to his conscience

LANDA, David Evatt

Mr. Landa is standing for Council because he feels he has the knowledge of Local Government needed for sound administration as financing Council expenditure will be critical. He feels that an increase in the density of population and housing in Hunter's Hill is inevitable.

He stated that public transport should be encouraged and preferred to expressways, but held no specific view on the Lane Cove Expressway.

He thought that the Development Proposal of Kelly's Bush passed by Council was a good compromise, and he is opposed to the Green Ban placed on it.

He believes that some aspects of the Town Plan were open to different interpretations, and that decisions affecting residents should be made by the Council and not the SPA.

Mr Landa was clear that he is a firm believer in the rights of the individual.

CRAWLEY, Leon Joseph

The Trust's appointment with Ald. Crawley was cancelled at his request and a written questionnaire was supplied. His answers are printed in full.

He decided to stand for Council "because of my experience in Local Government and Accountancy. I can materially assist in the management of the Municipality of Hunter's Hill for the good of all residents and ratepayers". He is not a member of the Trust or the Home Owners Association, and "I will support the aims of any such organization only if they are for the good of the Municipality of Hunter's Hill as a whole and for the benefit of all its ratepayers and residents" "The use of Council Meetings in Committee is essential for the good management of the Council".

McCarthy, John Cameron

Mr McCarthy stood for Council in the 1968 election for West Ward. He prefers the Hunter's Hill Trust to the Home Owners Association because he thinks the latter represents "more selfish interests". He feels that "ordinary people" should be on the Council.

He favours low-density housing and is against home units. He is concerned about traffic noise, especially on Ryde Road (where he lives), and thinks the solution should be technical, by different road surface and better maintenance of vehicles.

He stated that he will oppose closed committee meetings of Council, and that he favours public meetings with Council.

"I want to keep rates down at all costs".

He recommends the method "Ask other people's advice, and then go ahead and get things done".

WEST WARD

SWAIN, Sheila Burns

Ald. Swain is standing again for Council because the Town Plan is not yet finalised and she has become so involved with the issues in it that she would like to see them through. Her qualifications are impressive; economics degree, 14 years experience as an economics research officer for State and Commonwealth Governments including two years in London and Geneva.

Mrs. Swain has tirelessly supported the aims of the Trust in her term on Council.

"The demand for local government services has been tremendous because of the breakdown of the extended family and the fact that the nuclear family requires many sorts of supportive facilities (child care, the aged, problems with the breakdown of marriages). Decisions as to what is required are best made at the local level, but the financing can't be based on a rating system that was devised when these problems were much less significant. The critical problem is financing our requirements. We must seek out every possible source of funds but at the same time make sure that we don't surrender our control over how these funds are used. This involves co-operation with other councils; for example, money required for ferry wharves and services should be calculated on the basis of an integrated plan for Hunter's Hill and the other stops on the run, otherwise the priorities will be determined by an authority at a higher level."

"The Commonwealth Government makes decisions which will affect economic growth (migrant intake), but the States must provide services (schools, housing). Yet the Commonwealth Gov. has growth (income) revenues, while the States are left with growth services. In the same way, local government is financed by static tax rates, but is dependent on decisions made by the State Government; for example, the State set up the SPA, and Hunter's Hill's contribution (based on capital unimproved value) doubled this year to \$44,000. We need money from the Commonwealth but we must make sure we are given the option to make decisions as to what it is for."

"I don't believe Hunter's Hill can afford a transfer station. We have to find an alternative solution because we are so small that a transfer station would be an annoyance to quite a large number of the residents."

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WEST WARD (Continued)

TEMPLETON, John William

Mr Templeton is standing for Council because he feels young people and employees, rather than the usual self-employed business men, should be on Council. He is familiar with the provisions of the Town Plan and supports the Trust's aim of preservation. He thinks that the individual's "sacred" right to make a profit must not destegy Hunter's Hill.

He believes that there should be more parks and trees in West Ward, and that Baronia Park is neglected; the lantana should be removed, foreshores made more accessible. He said that he would like to see the present site of the tip made into an adventure playground, or a nature reserve, and the Loop cut out of Pittwater Road.

"We should try to get more people along to Council meetings, perhaps by distributing copies of the agenda a day ahead, and duplicate a resumé of what has been done, after the meeting".

"We should ask Hunter's Hill High School Council what kids want. I would be cautious about Council dreaming up ideas and wondering why they're not used".

Mr Templeton spoke with feeling about bus conditions for High School students, and suggested that Council should be looking for alternatives if the bus company is not prepared to give good service. He said that the cycle starts when buses stop; ferries then claim they are not getting enough patronage and cut services.

QUINN, Bruce Daniel

The Trust regrets that it is unable to supply members with any information about Mr Quinn. He was not at home at the time he had appointed for the meeting with Trust interviewers.

CAVALIER, Rodney Mark

Mr Cavalier has always been interested in politics, and said that after many years of activism in community affairs, in public administration and in government, "I wish to contribute to the decision-making in an elective body responsible directly to the people. Hunter's Hill is a particularly fascinating polity; it is sufficiently small for one person or small groups of people with imagination and drive to have a real impact."

He has been a strong supporter of the aims of the Trust and said that he "out-Trust's the Trust". "Without the formation of the Trust, Hunter's Hill would be a considerably poorer place. The Home Owners, on the other hand, I regard as a fairly despicable group, typical of groups springing up all over Sydney in their final death agonies, dedicated to a wretched nineteenth century version of laissez-faire capitalism, i.e. an open go for developers".

"In West Ward for the average family man, rates are becoming a disproportionate part of his tax obligation. The Australian Government has developed since 1972, an assistance program for local councils".

I believe in an open Council, with questions from the public, participations in debate (with all due regard to standing orders) by people other than aldermen. Further, there are some responsibilities which Council can delegate to community organisations, for example, special trusts to look after parks and foreshores, and an advisory committee to prepare environmental impact studies on any development application the Council refers to it, or which the committee claims has particular relevance, a sort of Townscape Advisory Committee with teeth".

Mr. Cavalier is an endorsed ALP candidate.

THE HUNTER'S HILL TRUST RECOMMENDS

The Hunter's Hill Trust has assessed the candidates offering themselves for election to Council, and makes the following recommendations. The Trust will distribute How to Vote cards at the polling booths, suggesting further distribution of preferences.

EAST WARD	CENTRAL WARD	WEST WARD
BAIRD	McNALLY	SWAIN
BENNETT	INGLES	TEMPLETON
MERRINGTON	CAMPBELL	CAVALIER