

NORTH	WARD	CANDIDATES
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Group A Independent: Group Leader Mark Bennett

Group B Liberal: Group Leader Ben Collins

Group C Independent: Group Leader Ross Williams

## Group A: Independents

Group Leader: Mark Bennett

### **1 Bio on Group members**

#### **Mark Bennett**

Mark has a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology Degree and a Master of Applied Psychology Degree. He has lived in Hunters Hill for 32 years.

Mark is currently the deputy Mayor of Hunters Hill. Previously he was HR, Financial and later CEO of a large International Company however Mark is now retired and ready to commit to the position of Mayor full time.

Over the past five years Mark has driven financial reform in council as well as playing a key role in the development of a community survey and he is looking forward to the opportunity to continue this work to ensure Hunters Hill Municipality remains strong and financially viable without compromising our independence, our heritage and natural environment, but also without losing connection with our residents and their needs.

#### **Elizabeth Krassoi**

Parents to three great kids, Rick and Elizabeth run their own small businesses close to home: A water quality testing laboratory (Elizabeth completed studies in Environmental Science at Newcastle University in 1993); and a bicycle import company where Elizabeth has taken a keen interest in cycling advocacy attending regular conferences around Sydney and Australia on the importance of "place-making" and traffic alternatives including cycling and walking. Since 2004, Elizabeth has enjoyed all that Hunters Hill has to offer, serving on the Riverside preschool board, Boronia Park Public school P & F and as a public member of the Hunters Hill Main Street Committee. For fun, she sings with the Mamas fundraising choir and is a long term member of the Hunters Hill Food and Wine committee and most recently the founder and organiser of the award winning Hunters Hill Street Feast and Tour De Hunters Hill (an event designed specifically to showcase The Priory and the Hunters Hill Bike Route which passes several key heritage sites). In 2014 Elizabeth was invited to join the committee of Discover Hunters Hill, working to broaden

the profile and social engagement of this community driven organisation. Beyond educational and showcase type events, Elizabeth's particular passion is community building focussing on opportunities for engaging and sharing between all generations and abilities.

### **Bassam Batshon**

Bassam has a Bachelor of Engineering and is a Chartered Structural and Civil Engineer. He has lived in Hunters Hill for 46 years and is a member of the Gladesville Main Street Committee and Council's Public Transport and Traffic Advisory Committee and the Moocooboola Committee. He has an interest in the effective financial management of the area with an eye to identifying and reducing waste. He is also interested in exploring Customer Service Resolution system for ratepayer satisfaction. Care and maintenance of our garden suburb, public parks and playing fields are also on Bassams agenda of interests.

## **2 What are your key goals and vision for Hunters Hill and how do you hope to achieve it?**

Group A Independents stand for:

The protection of our heritage and natural environment

We will achieve this through:

- regular engagement with concerned community groups
- supporting excellence in urban design and planning for our villages and centres that respects our heritage, history and streetscapes
- scheduling council budget to address ongoing preservation of our community assets
- regular review and maintenance of our built and natural treasures
- support for community organisations to pass on our rich oral history and stories documenting the evolution of our suburb and the importance of preservation and sustainability
- by promoting and supporting sensitive and appropriate development within our greater municipality context

Maintaining the independence and integrity of our council

- by improving our own financial viability as well as our relationships in NSROC
- by reviewing our strategic plans to ensure we optimise funding opportunities with input from the community and appropriate expertise
- by ensuring financial resilience through a long term strategy
- through a program of works towards safe streets (paths, roads, lights, parking) that is well managed and budgeted for
- by supporting community building activities and programs

- by working effectively with businesses and community groups that support our community and with State government and its relevant departments to optimise funding sources and support
- by ensuring our Council committees are appropriate for contemporary needs, run effectively and have the right representation and governance

**3. How will you respond to the increasing pressures of development in Hunters Hill so as to preserve its heritage and character, including its mature tree canopy?**

We believe that some development pressure will ease with several key State government targets now being close to fulfilment. However, diligent and professional review of development proposals within the municipality needs to remain rigorous to ensure our streetscapes, environment and liveability is not compromised. The removal of trees in the name of progress simply must stop and we need to work harder to find better solutions.

We will work with community groups, professionals and the State government to ensure infrastructure and planning are appropriate.

**4. Do you support an upgrade of the heritage listing in the LEP to include more buildings from the 20th century?**

History and heritage is an ever-marching master and it would be remiss of any steward/custodian to overlook the fostering and protection of key examples of noteworthy architecture over the ages and the importance of maintaining this history as a record of the evolution of our suburb and its architecture.

We will support the Trust in any review of significant heritage in the municipality for consideration by Council and the broader community for additional listing inclusions.

**5. What is your position on the Gladesville Shopping Village?**

Gladesville village area is in dire need of a resolution that is appropriate for the location, needs and aspirations of our local community as well as the economic enhancement of the area so that businesses and residents can move forward with confidence.

However, even a development that 'complies' needs to have well planned infrastructure to support the development and the additional residents and cars that will come with such a project. There has been, and will continue to be community consultation on this project, including questioning of the process to ensure we achieve the best outcome.

**6. If your Group is standing as Independent, please state if you or any of your team are also members of a political party.**

Our group are all independent and not members of any political party.

**7. Please list how your preferences will be distributed.**

Preferences will only be shared with independents.

## NORTH WARD GROUP B: LIBERAL

Group Leader: Peter Velo

### 1. Bio of Group members:

**Ben COLLINS** is a CPA and Chartered Company Secretary operating a private practice from Lane Cove. He has a Bachelor of Taxation from the University of New South Wales and a Graduate Diploma in Corporate Governance from the Governance Institute of Australia. He lives with his wife Jessica and two (soon to be three) young children in Hunters Hill.

**Justin PARRY-OKEDEN** is a local resident of Gladesville where he is an active member of many community groups fighting for sustainable and responsible development across all the suburbs in Hunters Hill. A software developer with over 20 years' experience in big data analytics, Justin understands the power and importance of utilising technology to improve services for busy time-poor residents. Justin is passionate about heritage conservation and leveraging technology to achieve operational efficiencies in business.

**Peter VELO** has lived in Hunters Hill for over 25 years, and is a professional working father raising two young children. Peter is a keen supporter of many local community organisations and groups including the Gladesville Public School P&C, the Bedlam Bay Happy Hens and proud coach of the undefeated Gladesville Sharks under 11's girls soccer team. Peter is passionate about the Hunters Hill community and determined to help restore our council's finances into a strong and positive position.

**Vince MESSINA**, a Henley resident has been a strong advocate for the local area for better roads and footpaths. Vince has been on Council's "Environmental Projects and Advisory Committee" for the past 4 ½ years. He is passionate about Hunters Hill and hopes to make more of a contribution to the area for the benefit of all of the community. Having brought up his children locally, Vince is determined to deliver for young, working families, to ensure they get the most from their Council.

**James SHEERIN** has lived in Hunters Hill his entire life. Born and raised here, James attended schooling from Hunters Hill Day-care, Public School and St Joseph's College Hunters Hill where he was a 5th Generation St Joseph's Student (James' Great-Great Grandfather was one of the original co-architects of St Joseph's College). Having been in the community since the 1990's James has been an active member of the Hunters Hill Community through Rugby and Soccer Teams whilst also working throughout the Hunters Hill and Gladesville area. James has strong family history with positive involvement in local government. James' father was

a previous Mayor and long serving councillor of Hunters Hill. James' focus is on not only serving the community today, but being a voice for tomorrow's younger demographic of Hunters Hill.

## **2. What are your key goals and vision for Hunters Hill and how do you hope to achieve it?**

Our principal vision for the Municipality of Hunters Hill is to maintain its truly unique character while supporting the needs of families and small businesses.

To achieve this vision we have formulated a series of policies which balance these needs while protecting and the precious endowment of our natural and built heritage assets. Our principal policy for heritage preservation is "***we will protect our unique heritage and the environment***".

As a group we understand that the greatest resource the Municipality of Hunters Hill has is its natural heritage assets. We will be introduce a series of measures to remove the pressure on these assets from runoff of fertilisers high in phosphates, as well as introducing infrastructure upgrades to significantly reduce pollution storm water pollution. Finally, we will commit to repairing the poor state of our footpaths which in many cases severely affects the mobility options of our mobility challenged residents and visitors across the municipality.

## **3. How will you respond to the increasing pressures of development in Hunters Hill so as to preserve its heritage and character, including its mature tree canopy?**

It is well understood that Sydney municipalities are facing constant increased pressures on population targets.

We plan to respond to these demands by actively engaging with the state government's planning departments to ensure any future population growth has the underlying infrastructure to support any increases in population.

Mature trees are one of any area's greatest assets. Mature trees provide shade and shelter and assist in providing a stabilising effect on temperature fluctuations in both summer and winter. This in turn leads to a significant reduction in energy consumption. In addition, mature trees significantly reduce the level of atmospheric pollution, particularly fine particle pollutants which can be particularly difficult for asthma sufferers. Our group will continue to work with state government to manage, reduce and remediate the effects of the 10/50 rules on the Hunters Hill Municipality.

As part of a transformation of council we will support the protection of our mature tree canopy by implementing a range of passive protection solutions to monitor and protect our existing mature tree canopy from poisoning by tree vandals.

Additionally, as a group we will support community engagement for strengthening of our DCP through the following principles: -

- a) encouraging the removal of certain environmental weed tree species from the municipality
- b) promoting fauna species native to the Moolooloolo region.
- c) fostering community support to maintain mature trees on their property.

#### **4. Do you support an upgrade of the heritage listing in the LEP to include more buildings from the 20th century?**

The Municipality of Hunters Hill has the highest percentage of heritage items of any municipality in Sydney. This list of items (many unique across Sydney) is an asset the community should be proud of and a testament to efforts and energies of The Trust over the last 50 years.

We have specifically stipulated in our policies that we "***will protect our unique heritage and the environment***".

As a group, we actively support community engagement in a review of the list of Schedule 5 Local Heritage listings in the Hunters Hill Local Environment Plan 2012.

#### **5. What is your position on the Gladesville Shopping Village?**

The current owner of the consolidated commercial site referred to as Gladesville Shopping Village (GSV) has applied for a modification to Hunters Hill's Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2012. We support council rejecting the Planning Proposal to modify the current LEP, and reject the application of the developer to increase the height and density of the site without community engagement.

As part of our policies we have committed to design excellence measures in our planning controls to ensure any new buildings don't detract from the heritage and character of any region of Hunters Hill – including Gladesville. We expect these design excellence measures to enhance new developments in both the residential areas as well as the commercial precincts across our municipality.

We are happy to have the skills and experience of a candidate in our group (Justin Parry-Okeden) who has worked tirelessly with council over the last four years, and thanks to the support of the Gladesville Community Group and The Hunters Hill Trust has managed to reinstate modifications to the DCP (such as setbacks) which were previously

removed by council in 2010. We hope to leverage Justin's support in moving forward in the Gladesville precinct.

**6. If your Group is standing as Independent, please state if you or any of your team are also members of a political party.**

Ben, Peter, Justin, Vince, James and Zac are all registered members of the Liberal Party.

**7. Please list how your preferences will be distributed.**

We have not entered into any preference deals with other groups. As a group we believe strongly in the policies we have put forward, and respect the astuteness of our constituents to exercise their preference options as they see fit.

We ask our constituents to "Just Vote 1", but support their choice to select a single candidate/group or alternatively distribute their individual preference as they personally choose.



# NORTH WARD GROUP C - INDEPENDENT

Group Leader – Ross Williams

## **1. Bio of Group members:**

**Ross WILLIAMS** is running for Mayor and heads a group running for North Ward called 'Your Independent Team' that includes himself, Alison Voulgaris and Derek Low. He is a former Mayor (1989-93) and councillor for 12 years. Professionally he has considerable experience in the environment field, and in governance and administration. Since 2003 Ross has been involved within the community in the battle to keep Hunters Hill's independence as co-convenor of Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition and with community groups and local businesses through Discover Hunters Hill as committee member and then Chair. Ross has also been a member of HHC's Biodiversity Advisory Committee.

**Alison VOULGARIS** who is running as number 2, has served on a number of community committees including those connected with schools. She has a passion for learning and education including assisting children with learning disorders. She is presently the coordinator of Discover Hunters Hill.

**Derek LOW** is running as number 3 and is a long-time resident of Hunters Hill actively involved in local community issues and sports. He is a graduate of the UNSW in civil engineering with more than 40 years of public and private sector experience in environmental protection. For further information see <http://yourindependentteam.weebly.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/hhcandidates2017>

## **2. What are your key goals and vision for Hunters Hill and how do you hope to achieve it?**

Our commitment is to DEFEND the Municipality's independence and special character, to LISTEN to the community and to ACT on the aspirations and needs of our community. We are a truly independent team never members of and not affiliated with any political party.

Our goals are to achieve:

- ~ Independent and transparent decision making, free of political interference;
- ~ Timely, efficient and responsive delivery of local council services;
- ~ Open and inclusive community consultation;
- ~ More connections between our local clubs, community and businesses;

- ~ Protection of our environment, both the built and natural heritage, streetscape and bushland;
- ~ Enhancement of our recreational areas, particularly for our children;
- ~ Improvements to the Gladesville shopping precinct;
- ~ Collaboration with adjoining municipalities where there are mutual benefits;
- ~ Improved waste management; and
- ~ Better digital communication from Council to our community.

We intend to achieve our goals by the Mayor and councillors reviewing and where needed changing council policies and procedures so as to improve the overall performance and transparency of the council. We intend to stand up for the community against State Governments who do not respect nor understand local communities and local councils. We intend to work with community groups and individuals to collectively achieve positive outcomes through listening and through cooperation. We intend to work with surrounding councils and wherever possible the government to bring benefits to our community.

**3. How will you respond to the increasing pressures of development in Hunters Hill so as to preserve its heritage and character, including its mature tree canopy?**

We intend to fight for greater protections for our heritage and environment. Many existing controls are inadequate due to ever changing government policies and practices, and legislation that clearly favours development over good planning. The Council will need to actively seek positive change rather than just be reactive. However, Council must use existing controls skilfully and consistently. It must take all reasonable steps to maintain building and the tree covered environment which is such an important part of our heritage.

**4. Do you support an upgrade of the heritage listing in the LEP to include more buildings from the 20th century?**

Most definitely and even 21st century. Our heritage stretches back approximately 60,000 years and extends up to yesterday and today. It is sometimes hard to evaluate recent heritage but there is no excuse for not trying.

**5. What is your position on the Gladesville Shopping Village?**

Our position is very clear. The Council should not have sold its part of the site and should have moved quickly to list and protect the heritage cottage with its curtilage in Cowell Street.

The State Government is on a path of encouraging massive developments near and on major roads and railways. Once Council lost ownership and control of its part of the site, the site was at the whim of the State Government's ever-expanding policies. And that is what happened – sold on a valuation with the then controls, only to see the goalposts change and the land increase in value with a more dense proposal. We intend to fight and fight hard against any inappropriate development on that site. Its potential adverse impacts are many, including total domination of the neighbouring residential character and amenity, and a traffic nightmare. Hunters Hill residents and commercial businesses in the area deserve a well-planned domain that is attractive to visit and to shop and respects the character of the surrounding areas.

**6. If your Group is standing as Independent, please state if you or any of your team are also members of a political party.**

No member of the group has ever been a member of a political party. We strongly oppose people running for and being on council who have divided loyalties – a candidate or councillor who has been endorsed by a political party is required to follow party policy as opposed to the sole obligation of representing and serving your community. The last few years have shown how destructive this can be. We also believe that every candidate should reveal their occupations past and present, for example are they or have they ever been a political lobbyist, are they in the business of being a builder and developer, are they related to a person whose occupation is as a consultant on property developments or as has been a real estate agent?

**7. Please list how your preferences will be distributed.**

As to Mayor – 1 Ross Williams Independent; 2 Mark Bennett. No preference to Zac Miles Liberal Party.

As to North Ward – 1 Ross Williams Independent Team Group C; 2 Mark Bennett's Team Group A. No preference to Zac Miles Liberal Party.

As to South Ward – 1 Jim Sanderson's Team Group B; 2. Justine McLaughlin's Team. No preference to Zac Miles Liberal Party.