



# LETTERS to the Editor

## Ignorant about the tiers of govt

Dear Sir,  
It seems sentiments at federal level do flow down to local government level and many voters don't/can't differentiate between federal, state and local governments.

Many voters don't/can't differentiate between federal, state and local governments. Before the election I heard someone angrily told a Labor volunteer, "Labor has destroyed this country".

Such a lack of discernment in the local population is a worry as it sends wrong signals that boost Liberals political arrogance locally.

It's most likely federal politics have not been helpful to the council elections at Ryde.

The results by no means support any over-development or inappropriate development in Ryde.

A win by Residents for Ryde is a proof that many residents do care and the concerns of well-informed citizenry must not be ignored.

P.C. Tan  
Ryde

## We thank you for your vote

Dear Sir,  
As a candidate I write to sincerely thank the one in 20 who voted for us on Saturday.

But it was not only those who expressed concern over over-development and a lack of consultation.

The Liberal Party did well, and I congratulate them - and all those who get up - but I do hope you do not take this as unconcern. This applies also at state level.

There is concern within the Liberal Party itself over over-close links to developers, seen recently in the resignation from the party by Charley Lynn MLC.

The same was the case under the Keneally Labor government, betraying the fine core values of both parties.

Can I encourage all Ryde residents to make a submission by this Friday on the Green Paper put out by the

## LETTERS Welcome

TWT welcomes letters from our readers. Full name, address and telephone number MUST be supplied, even if not for publication. Send to: TWT PO Box 123, Ryde 1680 or email: [contactus@weeklytimes.com.au](mailto:contactus@weeklytimes.com.au)

O'Farrell government.

Whatever its intentions it has been called a green light to development over the top of the community. Retrofitting established suburbs with quite massive development is not the way to go.

Finally I hope the new Council considers the concept of non-partisan local community consultation groups.

In East Ward this could be, say, Gladesville, South Gladesville, Tennyson, Boronia, East Ryde, North Ryde, to be part of the process as significant issues arise affecting that area.

The argument is made residents are not interested, but I for one make the offer to help get one up in Gladesville. It can be done if there is a will, and will transform the life of our community.

GRAEME CORDINER  
Save Our Suburbs candidate Gladesville

## Clear trends in voters' attitudes

Dear Sir,  
On Saturday, as I have many times in the past, I supported the candidate of my choice by assisting as a booth worker and handing out how-to-votes.

I observed two distinct trends in the attitudes of the voters which are cause for alarm.

1. An increase in those who had no interest in the matter and simply voted to get their name crossed off the list and avoid a fine. This attitude is always represented on election days, but was markedly higher this time. The informal vote is currently running at up to 16 per cent in Ryde.

2. An increase in those who voted for a given party as there was a subtle message of social acceptability in that locality, for that party. These

two trends must be reversed for our democratic system to be of value, and for elections to provide us with people who truly represent the community.

The lack of informed participation in our elections is a sad and worrying issue that must be resolved. In other countries people die for an opportunity to vote, yet many of us complain and vote because we have to, or follow the social agenda of our neighbours.

Also, there are always residents who don't know there's an election on. The challenge is clear: How can we engage people in the process, and encourage participation?

One obvious solution is for participation to be valued and acknowledged. Community input and feedback to all levels of government must be incorporated into decision-making.

Best-practice consultation empowers the community to make the decisions that affect their lives. This should be the charter for all representatives - ask your community what they want, and then deliver it.

ROSEMARY HADAWAY

## New thinking on parking meters?

Dear Sir,  
At the recent public 'Meet the Councillors' meeting at Gladesville RSL, organised by Gladesville Chamber of Commerce, many of the candidate speakers declared emphatically that there would be 'No Parking meters in the municipality', or 'There will be No Parking meters in Gladesville'.

However, most of the candidate pamphlets deposited in my letterbox and candidate advertising in TWT, listed in their promises, 'There will be no parking meters in any residential streets'. Spot the difference?

In May 2002 a determined committee filled Hunters Hill town hall with people of the municipality, who voted (one vote only short of a unanimous call) to remove the meters that had been installed (unannounced) in Gladesville Cowell Street Council car parks, the car parks of the Buffalo Creek sports ground and Clarkes Point.

That committee was made up of two groups, Gladesville Chamber of Commerce and RAP (Residents Against Parking meters). That is, the ratepayers rejected these parking meters even though 'There were no parking meters in any residential streets'.

Does this mean our new councillors will be happy, or at least not unhappy, to repeat the attempt by council of 2002? On behalf of Gladesville Chamber of Commerce I call for clarity from the newly elected councillors.

What is your intention regarding parking meters in Gladesville shopping centre, Buffalo Creek and Clarkes Point?

Chamber would appreciate that councillors' attention be drawn to Gladesville's desperate need for hastening the redevelopment of Gladesville Shopping Village, the amenities and increased parking spaces associated with it, as well as the refurbishment of the shops and businesses.

We would also welcome the moderation of the actions of overzealous parking officers.

I place this correspondence in the local newspaper so that should you choose to respond, residents and business people can be clear of your intentions.

We wish you well in your term of office.

YVONNE DORNAN  
Vice President Gladesville Chamber of Commerce

## Did we need a tree survey?

Dear Sir,  
A survey of 183 trees and services was carried out recently in Blenheim Park, North Ryde, but no one at Ryde Council, responsible for the park, and no one in the state government can tell the people of North Ryde why the survey was required.

Local people are very concerned that the survey is part of the NSW Government proposals for the North Ryde Railway Station Precinct. Those proposals include multiple high-rise towers of 32 storeys, as well as nine-storey buildings on the Tennis World site adjoining the park. Is the park to be developed?

The uncertainty and lack of consultation is causing local people great anxiety about the future of their homes, the park, the local school, and the suburban lifestyle that their families currently enjoy.

The Government's Green Paper on the NSW planning system proposes community consultation at the strategic planning stage.

The North Ryde Railway Station Precinct is a perfect example of circumstances where the community must be consulted up front and have direct input to planning proposals for their area.

JENNIE MINIFIE  
For Ryde Community Alliance

# Hunters Hill Guest Column

## Schooling a solid basis for an exciting future

I HAVE to admit that I get somewhat emotional looking back at my secondary schooling at Hunters Hill High School.

Apart from providing me with the highest quality education and an array of leadership and extra curricular opportunities, it has set in place a solid foundation for my future - a future that is simultaneously somewhat scary yet extremely exciting.

It is the teachers at Hunters Hill High School, the community and my peers that have allowed me to mature into an independent and confident adult.

I remember Orientation Day for Year 7 back in 2007. I recall sitting in the school's new hall, The Pavilion, taking in its impressiveness as my parents debated over whether it would be better to get a school jacket or jumper.

After the principal's formal address, the school leaders were applauded onto the stage. Their crisp school blazers and polished badges caught my eye.

However, I was most fixated by an intangible quality emitting from their manner - that of confidence and pride. Walking out of that hall, I pledged to myself that I would work as hard as I could to be just like the captains I saw before me.

AS IT turned out my hard work paid off as I became the male school captain for 2012.

In this prestigious role, I have had the honour to actively work with the school's leadership team, including the female school captain Georgia Bice, to improve the functionality of our school as well as act as a representative for our school community.

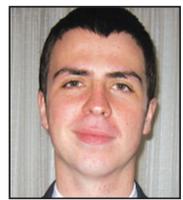
It's opportunities like those, granted to me through the school captain role, that have allowed me to mature into an independent person.

I have had the privilege of being taught by some of the state's best teachers who constantly sacrifice their spare time in order to ensure our wellbeing.

Without them I feel I would have gone through the HSC with a tremendous amount of difficulty. These individuals are responsible for directing me to think critically and independently.

THROUGH THEIR efforts I

## To The POINT With NICK BORSATO



have become capable of achieving feats that I never imagined possible, and they have encouraged me to continue to push myself further and roll up my sleeves and face any challenge presented.

I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Hunters Hill High School for the qualities it has installed in

me over my six years of education.

I would not be the person I am today had I not had the support and encouragement of my school and its public education values.

\* NICK BORSATO is male school captain at Hunters Hill High School.

## Congratulations Richard Quinn

Dear Sir,  
I congratulate Councillor Richard Quinn, who is very deserving of the position of Hunters Hill's new and popularly elected mayor, having won the majority of first preference support at the recent Local Government elections.

This had been a tremendous effort and I look forward to working with him as he leads council forward for the next term.

For my part, I have been overwhelmed by the help and support that I have received for my mayoral campaign in which I have run a close and very credible second.

Our South Ward council group (Group C) enjoyed overwhelming support and Justine McLaughlin and I have been elected.

Justine put in an amazing effort and will be a valuable new addition to council.

The contest for the third South Ward council spot has been tight between our third team C member Jason Lin and the energetic, photogenic young newcomer Zac Miles.

I would like to thank all those people from the community who took interest in the elections and who got involved.

Thank you TWT readers who spared the time to come and talk to us or answer our door knocks, and accept our handshakes.

It has been a wonderful experience to meet so many different people and share our views on Hunters Hill, our community and our council.

I would particularly like to thank the many people who stopped to talk and share fond memories of my mother, Mary-Lou.

Jim Sanderson must also be thanked and congratulated. Jim achieved incredible results for a "lone" (ungrouped) council candidate.

His message appears to have resonated strongly with the community. Jim's preferences have helped get me over the line and I will carry his independent message forward.

As the hype of the elections wears down and we begin the new term with a new council there are four other individuals that deserve singling out for special thanks and appreciation.

These are retiring mayor and councillor Sue Hoopman, previous mayor and councillor Ross Sheerin, and previous term councillors Murray Butt and Simon Frame.

While we have not always agreed on matters we have enjoyed good debate and a willingness to accept majority decisions with good grace.

Cllr MEREDITH SHEIL

## Crash course for students

Two students from Marist Sisters' College Woolwich recently witnessed a real life car crash scenario that focused on in-car distractions - in this case the use of mobile phones.

They were with thousands of other teenagers from different schools seated in Sydney Olympic Park's Alphones Arena for the bstreetsmart forum.

The re-enactment was followed by powerful talks by

six young car crash survivors who told of the impact acquired brain injury that has had on their lives.

College Year 10 student Paige Macfarlane found the car crash provoking: "Seeing the actor dead after the crash was very confronting and I'll be making sure I'm a lot more careful when I'm in a car as a driver or passenger."

Fellow Year 10 student Steph Hanlon has just begun driving and thought the forum

was very confronting, but good to see.

"I am going to be a lot more wary of driving after seeing what could happen if I'm in a crash. If ever I get in a car with someone for a lift, I'm definitely going to make sure they haven't been drinking."

College teacher Nick Muller noted that it was one of the most realistic re-enactments teenagers would ever see: "It really gets the message across about being a responsible driver, but also being a responsible passenger who doesn't distract the driver."

Students also engaged in interactive displays around the arena.

Educational displays from organisations such as the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Care Flight, NSW Ambulance Service, Transplant Australia and the NSW centre for Road Safety and Crash Lab reinforced the messages students received earlier in the day.

Now in its seventh year, bstreetsmart has educated more than 56,000 high school students about the dangers of risk taking on our roads.

Open to students in years 10-12, bstreetsmart is organised by Sydney's Westmead Hospital Trauma Unit and is co-funded by The Balnaves Foundation.



Marist Sisters' College Woolwich students Paige Macfarlane and Steph Hanlon found a car crash re-enactment provoking and confronting.

## The Romantics ART EXHIBITION & SALE

An invitation to view a collection of fine traditional original oil paintings and to meet all five artists during the course of the weekend

HUNTERS HILL TOWN HALL  
ALEXANDRA STREET HUNTERS HILL

Opening Night: Friday 21st September 2012 at 6.00pm  
Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd 10am to 5pm

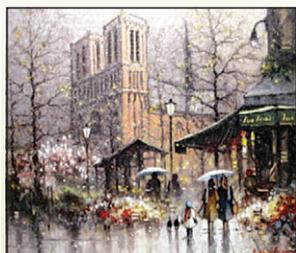
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