



# LETTERS to the Editor



## CDP candidate says thank you

Dear Sir,  
Thank you to everyone who recently voted for an anti over-development candidate in the local elections.

It is important that a strong message be sent to those in power that we, the residents and ratepayers of Ryde, want the final say about development in our own community.

I trust that the new mix of community minded, democratically motivated councillors will hold sway in council decisions regarding developments, so that decisions made by councillors will be based on genuine community consultation and therefore be truly representative.

I'm presently concerned about the Green Paper and its potential effects on the North Ryde community if it is passed, as is.

North Ryde has been classified as an "Enterprise Zone", which means that existing residents effectively have no say about what development may spring up next door or in our backyard. It appears to be like Part 3A revisited, but worse.

Thank you to everyone in Central Ward who voted for the Christian Democratic Party team.

We didn't achieve enough votes to be elected this time, but be assured of our continued commitment to you the precious Ryde community.

**JULIE WORSLEY**  
Christian Democratic Party candidate.

## Propaganda 'disgusting'

Dear Sir,  
First let me state that this rebuttal is not about 'sour grapes' as our campaign was unsuccessful.

Unlike others, Ross Sheerin, Vince Messina,

our combatant Zac Miles and I, did not need to slander our opponents in order to better our chances.

The slanderous comments by Phil Jenkyn in his propaganda are unfounded and untrue and he can't even get the small details correct.

First, let's get the personal information correct. I am not a builder, nor do I work for Pivotal Constructions. I am a project manager for a commercial office fit-out company.

Ross Sheerin has been a loyal servant of Hunters Hill for over 20 years. During this time asking for nothing in return and for his last campaign to be sabotaged by Phil Jenkyn is disgusting.

Furthermore, I am a loyal, born and bred Hunters Hill resident, knowing nothing other than Hunters Hill.

Ross and I don't want to develop or change Hunters Hill, we want to preserve it for generations to come, such as my soon to be born child.

To then have our ethics and integrity questioned by Phil Jenkyn, whether it destroyed our chances of winning or not, was underhand and dishonest.

I have been brought up with the values: Treat elders with respect and treat people the way you would like to be treated.

I am finding it difficult to extend the same courtesy to Mr Jenkyn, when he clearly doesn't share these values. Our intent with this campaign was to improve the small things about Hunters Hill, such as its footpaths and creating safe places to cross for mothers with prams.

We would never develop Ryde Road into all the apartments that are currently going up under council approval. There's food for thought.

On behalf of the Sheerin team I would like to thank all our supporters and

opponents and I believe that everyone did a great job on the day and I hope that Hunters Hill is in safe hands for the next four years.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ross Sheerin for his countless hours of service to the Hunters Hill community whilst helping make it the great suburb it is today.

**MATT SHERMAN**

## Thank you for my re-election

Dear Sir,  
I would like to thank the large contingent of Hunters Hill residents whose strong and loyal support ensured my re-election to Council.

Your faith in me was appreciated all the more because of the outrageously vindictive campaign that was waged against me and my fellow councillor, Ross Sheerin and candidate Zac Miles.

Thanks to the many decent residents who understood the truth and were prepared to fight for it, I managed to survive the onslaught of lies and malicious propaganda that was circulated to undermine us.

As a direct result of it, and as the prime target of an attack by local identity Phil Jenkyn, sadly Ross Sheerin as councillor and a former mayor was unable to retain his position after 20 years of exhaustive and excellent service to the community of Hunters Hill.

Contrary to the slanderous letterbox drop led by Mr Jenkyn and delivered to the whole community, Clr Sheerin owns only one property in Hunters Hill - his home - and merely works as a property valuer in the Ryde municipality and is not involved with developers in Hunters Hill.

During my continuous 17 years on Hunters Hill Council I can personally vouch for the fact that as a co-councillor, he has never

exercised a personal agenda that conflicted with his duty to the Hunters Hill residents or their best interests.

I would like to add that there was absolutely no support for us from the local press, neither a phone call or word in support of our side, only many one-sided statements and articles by opponents which were untrue and had no substance. In these editorials, our opponents took credit for an enormous contribution they had supposedly made to council and Hunters Hill as a whole.

As the longest serving councillor among them I know that most of what they claimed to have achieved was untrue and in fact they seldom bothered to attend Council and committee meetings.

It appears, however, that the majority voted them in and now all Hunters Hill residents will have to live with that choice.

**Clr PETER ASTRIDGE**  
Hunters Hill Council

## A council with 'life experience'

Dear Sir,  
Thank you for your publication of recent letters concerning Council elections.

We are fortunate in Hunters Hill that despite a campaign, which at times appeared to be little more than a battle of posters or a contest about which candidate would be toughest on graffiti, we have managed to elect a Council where nearly all councillors will bring qualifications and life experience to the job, valuable in implementing the kind of reform of Council that is undoubtedly necessary.

I congratulate Richard Quinn and the other councillors on their election.

As a candidate, I realise that it is difficult to attract

the attention of a community, many of whom have been turned off by glossy flyers that usually all tick the same predictable boxes. Perhaps in Hunters Hill there is greater interest, although the low voter turnout and high informal vote suggest otherwise.

Overcoming the voter apathy, discussed or alluded to in some of your letters, will be a slow process - it will come about by involving communities in decisions that affect the amenity of their homes and surroundings.

It is unacceptable for Council officers to make important decisions in the absence of community consultation, like installing parking meters or planting trees that will block the views of residents and those who walk through the municipality.

I am grateful for the positive commentary there has been about my campaign. If my message 'resonated', it was because it was about returning decision making power to communities that are affected by those decisions - this is what Local Government should be about.

I sincerely thank Clr Meredith Sheil for her commitment to 'carry my message forward' and I look forward to assisting where I can.

Thank you to everyone I have spoken to over the last few weeks. I have enjoyed all those conversations and it is very heartening when people you don't know show sincere and animated appreciation because you have expressed views that they identify with.

Finally, I will continue to work with my neighbours to ensure Council knows what our community expects. I urge you all to do the same.

**JIM SANDERSON**  
Hunters Hill

## Unfair influence of a newsletter

Dear Sir,  
Congratulations Phil Jenkyn your alliance with Richard Quinn did the job.

Mr Jenkyn's pre-election newsletter dated 3/9/2012 was false, misleading and deceptive and contained insinuating comments.

I am a licensed builder (not a property developer), but I thought we lived in a democratic society and that everyone had the right to stand for election, irrespective of their academic qualifications.

I was running for local council to ensure residents in South Ward would receive equitable treatment, particularly those in Henley, Huntleys Point and Huntleys Cove and to bring some common sense to council.

Former Mayor Susan Hoopman and Richard Quinn asked me to run for council in the North Ward but I declined their offer - my home is in Henley and it would only make sense to run for South Ward. Did that move cost me a councillor position?

Who motivated Mr Jenkyn to discredit worthy candidates whom he obviously considered a threat?

Mr Jenkyn has never met nor spoken with me, but managed to put together a newsletter that had attacked my credibility and integrity and may have even unfairly influenced the electoral outcome.

During the election campaign I did not feel the need to resort to such attacks on other candidates and my only failing was to think that all candidates would conduct their campaign on the basis of promoting their own merit for the position.

My reason for running for council was to voice the concerns and best interests of my fellow residents

in all council decision making processes and the scurrilous commentary that I lack the qualifications for the role as councillor was discriminatory.

I was tagged with innuendo such as "Pro-Development Push is Really Happening" - this is absolute rubbish and I have never been associated with any hidden agenda.

My intention to run for council was for the long-term and not for a political career.

Residents south of Tarban Creek Bridge will be forgotten for another four years - yet again.

"Hunters Hill does not need candidates that are hopelessly conflicted between self-interest and public interest."

That's the only part of your newsletter which I couldn't agree with more Mr Jenkyn.

**VINCE MESSINA**  
Hunters Hill

## Thanks, but I missed out

Dear Sir,  
Having lost the last four Council elections I wish to thank the people who put their faith in me.

I did very well in the area where I am known and I am sorry for the some 400 voters who voted only one below the line for me, which become invalid votes; their wishes were not realised.

It is an indication that the voting system does not recognise the difficulty for migrants understanding it.

One cannot say that I did not try but having been there once was my privilege and while success is sweet, failure teaches you more lessons.

I am grateful and thank you.

**GAETANO NINO STUFANO**  
North Ryde



# Who just opened a new kitchen showroom in Castle Hill?

**John Hall**  
Managing Director

**NOBODY BUT**

# Nobby

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**50% OFF**  
KITCHEN CABINETS

**We're celebrating our new showroom with 50% off cabinets**

For a limited time, to introduce Nobby Kitchens to Castle Hill customers we're offering 50% off kitchen cabinets. Just one of the many benefits of buying your new kitchen from Nobbys. 1,000's of satisfied customers trust Nobby Kitchens.

When you buy a Nobby kitchen there's one thing you can be sure of - peace of mind!

Others come and go but Nobby Kitchens is here to stay. Nobby Kitchens project manage the entire kitchen renovation - there's no need to pay all the trades direct - a simple lump sum contract means you only pay Nobby kitchens and Home Warranty Insurance is included.

That's what makes Nobby Kitchens so special.

**Call into our new Castle Hill or Gordon showroom and ask about our 50% off cabinets offer.**

**3 Generations & still going strong**

My Grandfather, the late Stanley Hall, who was affectionately known as "Nobby" established the Nobby brand in 1939. My father, Peter Hall established the company, Nobby Kitchens, and for over 50 years transformed Nobby into one of Australia's most trusted and recognisable brands, synonymous with reliable, quality kitchens at highly competitive prices.

I now run Nobby Kitchens and after 3 generations, I am keeping my father's philosophy going that **"no one should pay more than they have to for a quality kitchen."**

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Open 7 days  
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[www.nobbykitchens.com.au](http://www.nobbykitchens.com.au)

\*Conditions apply. Offer ends 30.9.2012. 50% off kitchen cabinets only. Offer does not apply to appliances, solid surface benchtops, handles, doors, drawers or subtrades. Voucher must be collected from the Castle Hill or Gordon Showroom and stamped for the 50% off cabinets to be valid. Photos for illustration purposes only. Builders licence 227580C. YPA5387