



LETTERS to the Editor

Quinn Challenges Ctr comments

Dear Sir,
For the record, I write to challenge some of the false and deliberately misleading comments made by Ctr Ross Sheerin (TWT 22/8).

He referred to the school at which I work as "possibly the largest developer" and "land owner in the municipality, and they don't pay rates".

As Ctr Sheerin well knows, currently the largest development project in Hunters Hill is the Hunters Hill Hotel site, a project that has received his full support.

The largest landowner in the municipality is the NSW Government, with the former Gladesville Hospital site. As Ctr Sheerin also well knows, all schools, churches and similar community institutions in NSW are exempt from paying rates, as set out in the NSW Local Government Act (1993) (Chapter 15, Part 6), with similar provisions in other states.

All of our local schools and community institutions pay for services, such as waste removal, and contribute much to our community in many ways.

Ctr Sheerin continues to be loose with the truth and the facts, and peddles divisive misinformation in his electoral material to gain political advantage.

He has been a councillor for many years, has commercial property interests in Gladesville, has endorsed all recent rate increases and financial reports, and is preferring a political lobbyist in this election.

Now, in the days before the election, he appears to be greatly concerned about so many issues that he has paid little or no attention to for the

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last four years.

Together, we need to vigilantly maintain the integrity, independence and transparency of our Council, free from self-interest, and strive to respond more effectively to community needs and expectations.

Ctr RICHARD QUINN
Acting Mayor
Hunters Hill Council

Now councillor does backflip

Dear Sir,
Once again, Ctr Terry Perram (TWT Letters 29/8) attempts to paint himself as an opponent of the pro-development Liberal councillors.

He states: "I pleaded with the Liberal councillors to show some consideration for the residents in the gallery, but to no avail."

This is the same Ctr Perram who sided with the ALP women councillors and voted for Ctr Emmekjian for mayor, giving him the crucial casting vote on the Ryde precinct.

Ctr Perram has voted for Ctr Emmekjian three years in a row.

Now, close to the council elections, he changes his stance.

Don't be fooled into supporting him.

BARRY O'GRADY
Melrose Park

Wheelchair unit means so much

Dear Sir,
On behalf of the Macquarie Park Rotary Club I'd like to thank you for publishing the story of seven-year-old disabled boy Charlie Wainmley.

Because of this, we were able to touch a community who have generous hearts.

It is wonderful to be able to help one of our Ryde families who has been suffering financially and emotionally due to the challenges of raising a disabled child.

The club would also like to thank the neighbours and friends of the Wainmleys, as well as those who didn't know them but gave generously.

We are proud that with all the funds raised from the community (\$36,000), this has eased the pressure for the family who can now purchase the wheelchair accessory unit for their vehicle and Charlie can now enjoy outings with everyone else.

This has been another happy ending for our club - to see a community bond to help others.

May God bless this community of Ryde and thank you once again for your contribution and help.

ROSEANNA GALLO
Director/Macquarie Park Rotary Club

Blacktown's doing it better

Dear Sir,
I was in the City of Blacktown on Father's Day.

Whatever people might think, my impression of Blacktown was pretty good.

There is a pedestrian mall, open space with benches, a large clean train station, nice low-rise Westpoint shopping centre with an impressive bus terminal underneath.

The council there must have had done some pretty good planning.

Contrast that with this Ryde City Council: rushes to sell off public land, proposes high-rise residential towers next to very busy junctions, gives no consideration to bus and train transport.

Besides, how awful are those pedestrian bridges that link to Top Ryde Shopping Centre when the lifts often break down?

Why didn't they consider underground walkways? Try walking on foot around Top Ryde Shopping Centre and you realise how hostile is Top Ryde precinct to pedestrians.

It's not visionary to hand over carte blanche to a developer, like they planned. Rather, that's the most simplistic and irresponsible.

The Ryde City Council under Liberal dominance is pushing a third world development with a third world non-democracy.

Barry Smith
GENERAL MANAGER

Sack this Ryde City Council by voting out all four Liberal councillors this coming Saturday.

P.C. TAN
Ryde

Troops should come home

Dear Sir,
Just to appease the USA, more than 10 years ago the then Prime Minister John Howard and the Federal Government sent our troops to a war that was, and still is, unwinnable.

Australia has lost 38 of our young outstanding soldiers. They have left behind family members and children who will grow up asking, where is my dad where is my brother son husband etc.

The answer is they were killed and will not be coming home ever; they were all killed fighting an unwinnable war in Afghanistan which is not and has never been a threat to Australia.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Opposition leader Tony Abbott should immediately bring all of our troops home from Afghanistan.

Gough Whitlam became prime minister and immediately pulled the plug on the Vietnam War and our troops were on their way home.

That will not happen in this war.

My Gillard has said we are there and staying until we finish the mission and Mr Abbott has pledged bipartisan support for the war to continue.

War should be fought only when your country is in danger and Afghanistan is no danger to Australia.

JACK ROWSELL
Ryde

When shoppers stick to low gear

Dear Sir,
The other day we decided to go to Macquarie Centre to visit Lowes.

In through the doors, down the escalator passing Darrell Lea and to Lowes we went.

The store was relatively empty and half the customers were disabled men.

Besides myself, there was a disabled man in his wheelchair.

He unfortunately had an accident while riding a motorcycle in 2006.

The other man was hobbling around on a cane, a wooden walking stick curved at the top just like Charlie Chaplin's, or so he thought.

I often great other stick walkers and so I did again this time.

"Hello. Only special people walk with one of these," I said, holding up my aluminium stick.

"Oh," he said, in his restricted voice and shuffled towards me.

When just a few metres away, he held his stick in the air and said, "I haven't been caught speeding since I have gotten this."

PETER ALWAY
Hunters Hill

Hunters Hill Guest Column

Artists exhibit to raise money for Lifehouse

THE ROMANTICS Art Show will be staged again - for the third year - at the Hunters Hill Town Hall, opening on Friday evening September 21, Saturday September 22 and all day Sunday September 23.

Entry is free and the artists will be in attendance all weekend to answer any questions.

Again, the five artists are raising money for the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Foundation at RPA.

James Hough, a member of the Romantics group, has donated one of his wildlife paintings (valued at \$3700) as a raffle prize; all raffle money plus 10 per cent of exhibition sales will go to Lifehouse.

Mrs Gail O'Brien has graciously agreed to open this year's exhibition.

The late Chris O'Brien dream was for a modern comprehensive facility that has integrated research and treatment to improve patient outcomes and transform the experience of cancer sufferers.

Gail O'Brien continues to work tirelessly to bring Chris's vision closer to reality.

The Romantics are five artists - all professionals - with a common admiration of the works of the old masters and a love of art in general, which eventually brought us together to form the group.

They ARE Werner Filiph FRAS FAHA, who came

To The POINT With IAN HANSEN



from Austria in 1950 aged five, and the love of painting was quite strong from an early age.

He developed an affinity with the Australian bush - thousands of Aussie homes now have a Werner Filiph gracing their walls.

Werner is a Fellow of the Royal Art Society and Fellow of the Australian Institute of History and Arts.

Ramon Ward Thompson FRAS FAHA, came to Australia from New Zealand to try his hand as a professional fisherman and crocodile hunter.

His artistic talent came to the notice of the art loving public and for the last 40 years Ray has been a full-time artist with many sell-out exhibitions.

He enjoys travelling overseas to paint the magic of the great European cities.

John Perkins FRAS, has been awarded over 40 first prizes and many more highly commended since he began painting his ever popular still-life, landscape and marine paintings.

He has been president of the Combined Art Societies of Sydney and president of Drummoyne Art Society.

James Hough was originally an engineering surveyor, and his constant tramping through the Australian bush brought him in close contact with native wildlife.

Capturing these creatures on paper started as a hobby and blossomed into a full-time occupation where demand for his paintings is very high.

THEN, THERE'S myself. Ian Hansen FRAS FAHA FASMA.

My fascination with the sea started at the age of three, growing up on the foreshore of Hervey Bay.

Joining the navy at 15, I served 12 years, painting in off-duty hours, and became a full-time artist on leaving the service.

My deep understanding of the sea and ships has won me world acclaim.

Over the years I've won five awards at the Annual International Art Awards held at The Maritime Gallery at Mystic Seaport USA.

For further inquiries phone Wendy 0419 993 237.

* IAN HANSEN is an award-winning marine artist.

Ryde and Hunters Hill could merge, says ALP

Hunters Hill Council could be forced to merge with neighbouring Ryde or Lane Cove, the NSW Opposition warned on Monday.

NSW Shadow Minister for Local Government Sophie Cotsis said elected Liberal candidates, including those in Ryde, will be pressured by the NSW Government to support forced amalgamations next year.

Her warnings follow comments in favour of forced council amalgamations at the weekend from former Premier Nick Greiner who is a factional Liberal Party ally of NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell.

Mr O'Farrell is known to be reviewing huge cost saving and revenue raising

options in local government after inheriting a huge debt from the Kennelly government.

Hunters Hill's small size makes it an obvious target and it already shares some services and a library with Ryde.

All independent candidates in Hunters Hill interviewed by The Weekly Times have opposed a forced amalgamation with Ryde although Liberal candidates in Ryde have declined to comment.

"People in Hunters Hill and Ryde should have a right to know what's going on," Ms Cotsis said.

"Liberal councillors elected on Saturday will pursue forced council mergers at

the expense of these old proud suburban communities," Ms Cotsis said.

"The O'Farrell Government has spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on local government reviews and clearly it is up to something."

In other developments, a local group of Gladesville residents have formed a lobby group to support their right to secede from Ryde.

Based on the border between Ryde and Hunters Hill the group calls itself "twenty-one ten" after Hunters Hill's 2110 post-code and wants the electoral boundary changed to include the whole of Gladesville in Hunters Hill.

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LETTERS to the Editor

Out with the old in with the new

Dear Sir,
What a disappointment for those who attended the Meadowbank-West Ryde Progress Association (MWPA) last Wednesday night.

After sitting patiently through candidates' introductions, many of whom announced their intent to listen to the people, they then hijacked the evening session for their own political purposes.

I am becoming immune to an individual's claims about what they've done for Ryde in the past. As a resident, I am starting not to care about a particular candidate's policies as a basis for election, but rather whether they can work with others as a team, even if they don't always get their own way. I seem to remember that this is how government is supposed to work.

My 10 cents' worth? Out with the old, and in with the new. These are not the decision makers we need to run Ryde; these are people with agendas.

A glance at the local newspapers will make that obvious to anyone. Yes, some of the new cadre will be inexperienced, but they will carry less baggage and should have some fresh ideas. We need a working Council moving ahead; this lot can't even agree on the sacking of their own general manager.

I have concerns about Ryde's status as the "soft touch" for high-density development in the Sydney area, together with the massive increase in traffic flow through our suburbs that will surely accompany this.

We need a strong, varied and united political team in our council that is able to deal effectively with these challenges, and surely others, as they occur. That council must listen to us, ask the right questions, and form the right policies. We do not have that now.

PETER CROMPTON
Ryde

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Perram the key to mayor's rule

Dear Sir,
It was a timely letter from Sheeran Kohr (TWT 15/8) 'Beware a push for development'.

She rightly points out that ratepayers have a right to be cynical about the motivation behind the support for the project by the mayor and the notably ALP/Liberal backed councillors. She goes on to say that Mr Perram deserves our support. In fact, it is Mr Perram who has caused this situation.

It was his key support of the Liberal mayor that has given the mayor, in effect, two votes. When votes are tied six all, the mayor uses his casting vote to push the proposals forward, in spite of community opposition.

Cir Perram is like the character who helps build the bushfire, ignites it, then rushes over to hold the fire hose.

Cir Perram has supported the pro-developers' Liberal candidate for mayor three years in a row, and close to an election is now crying foul.

BARRY O'GRADY
Melrose Park

MP not backing our community

Dear Sir,
I write regarding the proposed sale of former high-school playing fields at Smalls Rd.

These playing fields have been declared surplus to requirement by the NSW Department of Education and Training, yet schools in the area regularly use Ryde City Council sports grounds for

school sport without charge. The heart of our community is being sold off to the highest bidder, and it feels as though the one representative who has the ability to exert influence at the state level is not supporting us.

While Council supports the retention of the playing fields unanimously, Ryde MP Victor Dominello has done very little to help our cause.

What we need is a commitment from him to secure the playing fields at Smalls Rd for community use, demonstrating that he puts his constituents' interests ahead of the interests of developers.

KATHARINE PAIN

Never supported pro-development

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank Phil Jenkyn for his unexpected place. ("Pro-development push to control Hunters Hill" TWT 15/8) of pre-election publicity.

I am just a little surprised that an "analyst" such as he has not researched his subject thoroughly enough to know that throughout my 17 years/4 terms of continuous service to the people of Hunters Hill as their councillor and deputy mayor, I have never, ever had a pro-development agenda - quite the opposite.

I have always respected and thought well of every one of my fellow councillors, past and present including Cir Sheeran, and would like to add, that having extended the same courtesy to Mr Jenkyn, I am rather shocked to have been made the target of his unwarranted attack.

Cir PETER ASTRIDGE
Hunters Hill Council

Dear Sir,
I was dismayed by the attack on Councillor Peter Astridge, by local identity Phil Jenkyn.

Councillor Astridge has valiantly fought for preservation of Heydon Park, and other parks in our Municipality, against other Councillors including Richard Quinn and Sue Hoopmann who withdrew their support for the sale of Heydon Park, only when they thought it would affect their electoral chances.

Once again, hidden in committee documents, Council is planning the sale and development of our assets, none of this has been made public by the General Manager, Barry Smith or his Committee.

Peter Astridge has proven by his actions to be not pro development. Mr Jenkyn should have researched his facts more thoroughly, before endorsing candidates that he wishes to be elected before attacking those he does not.

PETER LYNCH
Terban North Action Group

Retiring mayor: tireless worker

Dear Sir,
I read with interest and a degree of sadness the decision of Sue Hoopmann not to seek re-election as mayor and a councillor of Hunters Hill Council.

I join with Richard Quinn in paying tribute to a remarkable lady. Sue was a tireless worker for her community and whilst as mayor she guided the council and Hunters Hill to achieve a great deal.

Sue joins such giants of local government in Hunters Hill as Don Farrant, John Merrington and many others who made a significant contribution to Hunters Hill over many years.

Sue will be sorely missed by her many friends in local government and the Hunters Hill community. Because Sue is stepping down from public life does not mean that she will "ride off into the sunset".

Barry Smith
GENERAL MANAGER

Hunters Hill Guest Column Friendship pact formed to promote Nora Heysen

To The POINT With PETER HEYSEN



ON MONDAY August 13 Hunters Hill formed a friendship pact with the Nora Heysen Foundation.

I am a nephew of the late artist Nora and grandson of Sir Hans Heysen and I signed the pact on behalf of the foundation.

I gave a short speech about the origins of the Nora Heysen Foundation which I started to form as a tax-deductible charitable trust two years before Nora Heysen's death; it was finalised at about the time of her passing.

I was driven to form the foundation after seeing an exhibition of women artists in the Art Gallery of South Australia, and seeing that their art was of a standard of many well recognised male artists, none of them had been recognised publicly with awards, such as an OBE or an OAM.

I ALSO knew that artists' long-term recognition depended on the whim of gallery directors.

In fact, at present there is no Nora Heysen picture

hanging in the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Yet she is of such importance not only for her art but the fact that she was the first woman to win the Archibald Prize and the first Australian woman war artist to be deployed to a war zone.

She is, therefore, a shining example of some progress in women's fight for equality.

Nora left a large number of works to the foundation which has several hundred works some of which are on display in her studio at the Cedars, her childhood home near Hahndorf.

THE FOUNDATION'S aim is to have varying exhibitions in Nora's studio all the time, so that her art will

always be able to be seen by the public, and to create small collections to form travelling exhibitions which are easily accessible to community groups and schools.

The Nora Heysen Foundation hopes that the friendship pact will enable an ongoing cultural exchange between Hunters Hill, Nora's home for the larger part of her life, and the "Cedars". Sir Hans Heysen's home near Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills which is open to the public as a house museum; in one of the original outbuildings built in the 1860s is Nora's original studio.

* DR PETER HEYSEN is a nephew of the artist Nora Heysen who died in 2003.

Pure baloney

Dear Sir,
Considering the untold baloney I have endured over the past 12 years from Ryde City Council I consider the current infighting between councillors as karma - pure joy to behold.

VINCENT SCOPPA
Gladesville

To Nora's legacy

Hunters Hill Council has signed a Friendship Agreement with the Nora Heysen Foundation in Hahndorf, South Australia (see 'To The Point' this page).

The Friendship Agreement honours the legacy of Archibald Prize winner Nora Heysen who lived and painted in both Hahndorf and Hunters Hill.

Hunters Hill Council celebrated Nora Heysen's life with the unveiling of sculpture of her in Alexandra Street for last year's sesquicentenary and Mayor Hoopmann said she was delighted the signing of the friendship agreement was one of her last official duties.

"We're very good at friendship agreements in Hunters Hill," the Mayor said.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the foundation by Dr Peter Heyesen who made a promise to the people of Hunters Hill.

"We have 700 works of Nora's on paper and 100 on canvas worth many millions of dollars in Hahndorf, and any time anyone from Hunters Hill wants to come in and see these works, we promise they will be on display for you."

Nora Heysen was the first woman to win the prestigious Archibald Prize for portraiture in 1939 and the first Australian woman appointed as an official war artist.

Supermarkets up to no good

Dear Sir,
I write in reference to the letter titled, 'School misses out on vouchers' (TWT 15/8).

I concede that the author has a valid gripe. Coles Gladesville should honour its 'Sports for Schools' Campaign and provide a collection box for vouchers if that's what part of the deal is.

Give the school a box Coles.

My gripe however, concerns a different angle and is not intended to invalidate or disrespect the good intentions of the other letter.

My gripe relates to what I see as the unethical use of supermarkets making funding initiatives in our schools 'their business' by using a 'dangling a carrot on a stick approach' in their quest for the household dollar.

I am heartily fed up with the

"You certainly have to 'earn before you can learn'. It would be naive to think the 'big giants' have intentions that are entirely altruistic.

Some major fast food outlets have been rightly named and shamed in the past for using gimmicks aimed at children and parents to promote their outlets.

What makes these supermarkets any different?

That cringeworthy ditty sung in the Woolworths' advert is one of the songs on the required list for a 'Learn and Earn' singing competition.

I feel this gimmick is a good example of new lows reached by Woolworths where children are used as free advertisements each time they parrot this song; basically 'singing for their supper'.

J. GUERIN
Ryde

Helpful stranger
Dear Sir,
We would like to thank a very kind and thoughtful stranger.



Sue Heysen, Mayor Cir Sue Hoopmann, Dr Peter Heyesen and Hunters Hill General Manager Barry Smith display the Friendship Agreement documents during last week's Council meeting. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO