

**Submission  
No 87**

## **INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING**

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mrs Barbara Grant-Curtis

**Telephone:**

**Date received:** 14/02/2008

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14 FEB 2008

5th February 2008

B. Grant-Curtis

The Director  
Select Committee on Electoral & Political Party Funding  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney 2000.

SUBMISSION

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL & POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Dear Sirs,

I have lived in Port Macquarie for over 30 years and have taken much interest in politics for a large part of that time and during the last 10 or 15 years have observed what I believe to be the total corruption of the political process, in all three tiers of Government - Federal, State and Local Government, due to the influence of vested interests and their financial powers.

Of particular concern to me is this influence being exerted in Local Government - elections and ongoing administration both.

You might be aware that in this area the Department of Local Government has conducted firstly a Section 430 Inquiry, then a Section 740 Inquiry, into the activities and conduct of our local Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. This was reputed to be with regard to Council's conduct and management in relation to a venture called "The Glasshouse", now at a cost to the community well over \$40M, and originally proposed as a \$7M Arts & Cultural Centre, then perverted into an Arts - Conference & Entertainment Centre, at the behest of the movers and shakers of the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Association and the Business Enterprise Centre; the Chamber of Commerce quite clearly stating in the media their influence on Council decisions being so radically changed without due consultation with the community.

I bring this to your attention because I consider the stage is being set all the time with reference to various Council decisions, due to the inordinate amount of influence that is gained by the electoral system and financing at Local Government Elections. (I am limiting my views to what I see happening in Local Government - that is not to say I see anything much different happening State or Federally).

2/

I am concerned at the actual happenings in this area at the last Council elections in March 2004, and enclose copies of advertising material associated with those elections for your information.

My concern is with the system of Group Voting above-the-line as it was interpreted and executed, and ALLOWED by the Electoral Commissioner apparently, as well as by the Minister and the Department of Local Government.

The three Goups constituting the "YES"TEAM were able to preference with each other across the board to head off any viable challenge of import from either the one Independant Group, or the individual Independant candidates. This enabled a very influential block of political influence and developer interests to secure control of the local Council. (It was only due to a huge effort by the one Independant Group and a very well-respected individual Councillor to have ANY say in the make-up of Council).

The funding of these three "YES" TEAM Groups towards their campaign amounted to over \$100,000 by all reports. Not only this, but it has been established that an amount of over \$40,000 contracted by the "YES" TEAM for advertizing space was never honoured in payment to the PICTORIAL Magazine carrying their ads., but was eventually written-off by the owners/publishers of the PICTORIAL.

During the election process, many individuals within the community, as well as any alternate political entities, were outraged by these blatantly powerful and outrageously funded processes. Concerns were raised with both the Department and the Minister for Local Government, as well as with the Electoral Office.

The Minister and the Department both indicated that they could do nothing - as the methods employed were within the law. The Electoral Office advised that "it doesn't seem very fair or ethical - but we believe it is legal - but we've asked them not to do this type of thing again in the future". Just how this interpretation was made is a mystery to me and others, as to our minds it is either legal, therefore allowable and could not be subject to any view that it could be seen as "unfair and/or unethical, neither description having any legal standing, and therefore by the same argument of being legal, could not be subject to any exhortation or demand of being asked "not to do it again". It is either legal, or not legal and to my mind, that is the only interpretation. It seems to be devious at the very least to deal with it any other way.

I have been advised that I am wasting my time bringing up this matter of above-the-line group voting, as the system is well liked by our "political masters" to achieve the desired results in Local Government Elections, especially around the Metropolitan and Outer-Metropolitan Councils, and that "there is no intention to interfere with the status-quo".

Well, I can assure you that the people in this area consider the outcome of such voting procedures as having contributed to a disaster for any true democratic result in the area. This process has resulted in the powerful and

moneyed business and developer vested interests having total control and influence over our Council. This has resulted in Council not making decisions with the best interests of the whole local government area community at heart. The Council has succumbed to the pressures being exerted on it by the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Association, and more importantly, the developers lobby. This is resulting in an inner system of influence within Council and its various Committees, and has led to a disproportionate allocation of Council (Ratepayers') resources to the Inner Central Business District, to the detriment of services etc. to the remainder of the town of Port Macquarie (little attention to core services), and scarce attention to the other centres of the L.G.A., such as the coastal strip - Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills, the entire Camden Haven complex and its outer areas of Kew & Kendall, and to the inland town of Wauchope, as well as to the huge hinterlands of those areas.

IF this system of the obviously politically-preferred above-the-line Group voting is allowed to continue, then L.G.A's such as ours and others along this fast growing coastal strip (the designated Growth Centres such as ours) will continue to be held hostage to the Developers exerting their overwhelming influence on and within Council and, should I be bold enough to say, also on the State Government Departments and their political arms. After all, just look at the power, influence and money involved!

As a solution, I would offer two measures:

1. IF above the line group voting is to continue, th<sub>at</sub> at least put a stop to the preferencing between groups, such as occurred in this area.
2. IF there is to be no blanket outlawing of between-groups-preferencing, then at least it should be prohibited in smaller regional Local Government Areas where vested interests are able to corrupt the system and gain control of the "Honey-Money Pots" associated with huge growth and development pressures..

We, the people, are quite fed up with the results we are seeing and having to live with. Not only that, but it seems to us that the debacle of having our Council being in such a situation as having to have Section 430, and and S.740 Inquiries came about BECAUSE of the climate resulting from such ridiculous and perverted Local Government Electoral processes as occurred (and apparently legally allowable) at our last 2004 Local Council elections.

Yours sincerely,

*B Grant-Curtis.*

Barbara Grant-Curtis.

Encls.

## HOW TO VOTE FOR RESIDENTS ACTION NETWORK

	GROUP A <input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP B <input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP C <input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP D <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Place the numbers "1", "2", "3" &amp; "4" in any order of your choice in Group D. Place the number "5", "6", "7" &amp; "8" against the four candidates as shown.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GROUP A</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> JOHNSTON, Daphne Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WEHLOW, Ben Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TOULSON, David</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PEARSON, Jim</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GROUP B</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MAYNE, David</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CAMPBELL, Noel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MARTIN, Brett</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SAVILLE, Peter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ROBERTS, Debby</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> QUAGLIO, Bill</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WOODFIELD, Clive</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GROUP C</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DREW, Rob</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NARDELLA, Rob</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PRUSSING, Adam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ADAMS, Ian Independent</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GROUP D</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SHARPHAM, Bob Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PRICE, Cameron Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SHARP, Rick Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> McCLIMONT, Sandy Independent</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> INTEMANN, Lisa Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> HARRISON, Jamie Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GREEN, Terry Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WATERSON, Kevin Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SHEA, Gerard Independent</p>

**Cr Lisa INTEMANN**

**Mayoral Candidate  
Hastings Council**



**EXPERIENCE - INDEPENDENCE  
IMPARTIALITY - INTEGRITY**

*Things money can't buy*

In 1995, you voted to put some good women on Hastings Council. Eight years later, Lisa is still there and has a proven record as the people's champion.

Of the candidates, Lisa is the second longest serving councillor, and is the longest serving among the Mayoral candidates.

It's time to make a good woman our Mayor.

#### **POLICIES**

- \* Take charge of council administration;
- \* Planning for genuine progress, and development at a pace that protects the lifestyle and safe neighbourhoods we all value;
- \* Respect and enhance the unique character of our villages and the diversity of the Hastings experience;
- \* Continue to support public art, cultural development, and sport;
- \* Lobby state government for an improved health service;
- \* Engage in meaningful community consultation on council's priorities and standards of service delivery;
- \* Ethical governance, and more councillor accountability.

**Lisa for Mayor of Hastings.**

Authorised and printed by Lisa Intemann, 10 Joshua Close, Wauchope 2446  
Phone/fax 6585 2340 Email [lisac@midcoast.com.au](mailto:lisac@midcoast.com.au) Mobile 0431 607 239

HOW TO VOTE HASTINGS COUNCIL  
ELECTION OF MAYOR

- DREW, Rob
- ROGERS, Grant  
Independent
- HARRISON, Jamie  
Independent
- 1** INTEMANN, Lisa  
Independent
- SHARPHAM, Bob  
Independent



**Cr Lisa INTEMANN**

EXPERIENCE  
Councillor since 1995

IMPARTIALITY and INTEGRITY  
Representing the community as a whole

INDEPENDENCE  
No political ties

*Things money can't buy*

HOW TO VOTE

ELECTION OF EIGHT COUNCILLORS

HASTINGS COUNCIL

GROUP A

GROUP B

GROUP C

GROUP D

- 6** GROUP A  
JOHNSTON, Daphne  
Independent
- WEHLOW, Ben  
Independent
  - TOULSON, David
  - PEARSON, Jim

- 5** GROUP B  
MAYNE, David
- CAMPBELL, Noel
  - MARTIN, Brett
  - SAVILLE, Peter
  - ROBERTS, Debby

- 4** GROUP C  
DREW, Rob
- NARDELLA, Rob
  - PRUSSING, Adam
  - ADAMS, Ian  
Independent

- 3** GROUP D  
SHARPHAM, Bob  
Independent
- PRICE, Cameron  
Independent
  - SHARP, Rick  
Independent
  - 2** McCLIMONT, Sandy  
Independent

- 1** INTEMANN, Lisa  
Independent
- 7** HARRISON, Jamie  
Independent
- 8** GREEN, Terry  
Independent
- WATERSON, Kevin  
Independent
- SHEA, Gerard  
Independent

## HOW TO VOTE HASTINGS COUNCIL ELECTION OF MAYOR

- DREW, Rob
- ROGERS, Grant  
Independent
- HARRISON, Jamie  
Independent
- 1** **INTEMANN, Lisa**  
**Independent**
- SHARPHAM, Bob  
Independent

For the MAYOR, number one or more candidates in your order of preference. For the COUNCIL (over page), number at least eight names in your order of preference.

*Cheers!*



## Cr Lisa INTEMANN

### EXPERIENCE

Councillor since 1995

### IMPARTIALITY and INTEGRITY

Representing the community as a whole

### INDEPENDENCE

No political ties

*Things money can't buy*

*I stand for strong and fair government on behalf of the community as a whole.*

*As Mayor, I will take charge of Council administration, including the general management of 450 staff. I support planning for genuine progress, and development at a pace that protects the lifestyle and safe neighbourhoods we all value.*

*I will engage the residents in meaningful consultation about our common future. During 2004, I will establish goals for completion during this term, with a report back to the community on our achievements before the next Council election in 2008.*



HOW TO VOTE HASTINGS COUNCIL

**ELECTION OF EIGHT COUNCILLORS**

Number at least eight names in your order of preference

**Say NO to the YES men**

**VOTE 1 for Cr Lisa INTEMANN**

*The Leading Light in Hastings Council since 1995*

GROUP A <input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP B <input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP C <input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP D <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>GROUP A</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>6</b> JOHNSTON, Daphne Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WEHLOW, Ben Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TOULSON, David</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PEARSON, Jim</p>	<p><b>GROUP B</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>5</b> MAYNE, David</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CAMPBELL, Noel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MARTIN, Brett</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SAVILLE, Peter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ROBERTS, Debby</p>	<p><b>GROUP C</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>4</b> DREW, Rob</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NARDELLA, Rob</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PRUSSING, Adam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ADAMS, Ian Independent</p>	<p><b>GROUP D</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>3</b> SHARPMAN, Bob Independent</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>9</b> PRICE, Cameron Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SHARP, Rick Independent</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2</b> McCLIMONT, Sandy Independent</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>1</b> INTEMANN, Lisa Independent</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>7</b> HARRISON, Jamie Independent</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>8</b> GREEN, Terry Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WATERSON, Kevin Independent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SHEA, Gerard Independent</p>

# We will consult, listen and act on community views.

## The RAN Team believes in

- Community Consultation.
- Long Term Planning for Development.
- Fairness and Equity.
- Accountability and Openness.
- Environmental Protection.

## Our Principles

- Greater community voice in shaping a clear vision for managing future development.
- Strong commitment to a 'fair go' for all interests and equity for residents across the Hastings area.
- Openness and genuine community participation in Council decision making processes.
- Balanced, sustainable and planned growth to benefit the well being of the community and environment.

## We will work with the Community.

- Fair rate payments.
- Attention to roads, water supply and sewerage.
- Improve car parking facilities.
- Insist building heights reflect community vision.
- Defer commencement of the Cultural Centre until site issues and funding are resolved.
- Protect foreshore land from private development.
- Community input into Council's plans and budgets.
- Improve Council administration by appointing an ombudsman.
- Protect vegetation, wetlands and wildlife.
- Work with the Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills and Kendall communities to resolve development issues.
- Effective support for local business and tourism.
- Push for immediate commencement of the new Stingray Creek bridge linking Laurieton with North Haven.

- Act on the needs of outlying communities.
- Practical support for a Wauchope Master Plan.
- Provide better facilities for youth and sporting groups.

## Your Voice in Council



Cameron Price Bob Sharpham Sandy McClimont Rick Sharp



## About RAN

A community based organisation, we have a fast growing membership of independent, fair minded residents from diverse backgrounds throughout the Hastings, who have common concerns about the quality and integrity of our local area and government.

RAN is not associated with any political party, lobby group, business or property development interests. We will continue to be involved in local government after the election.

Our Policy Document has been developed over an 18 month period in close consultation with many community members. It covers a wide range of areas and issues.

For further information on our candidates and the Policy Document, please go to our website at:

■ [www.wolven.com.au/ran](http://www.wolven.com.au/ran)

or E-mail to:

■ [ran@midcoast.com.au](mailto:ran@midcoast.com.au)

or Fax to:

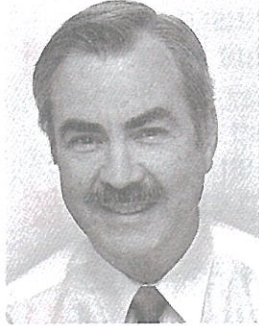
■ 6582 2233

or write to:

■ RAN, PO Box 337,  
Port Macquarie 2444

## VOTE **1** for the RAN team

RAN candidates have a wide range of skills and experience.



### 1. Bob Sharpham

B.Ed, JP

Mayoral Candidate.  
30 years management in education and training, housing, retail and community care. He is CEO of Mid Coast Care and President of a service to the frail and aged. Bob's business as a Consultant takes in all of the Hastings.



### 2. Cameron Price

B.For.Sc.

Web Designer.  
President Wauchope Community Arts Council.  
Convenor Comboyne Heritage Group.  
Member of Council committees, including Arts and Cultural Development Taskforce and Heritage Sub-committee.



### 3. Rick Sharp

Organic farmer in Pappinbarra. Past President Organic Farmers Group. Qualified accountant with sound financial management skills, international financial and auditing experience.



### 4. Sandy McClimont

B.A., LLB.

Retired Lawyer.  
President of Camden Haven Community College (formerly CHACE).  
Sandy lives at Kendall. Her property is a nominated Wildlife Refuge. She has government experience and management skills to contribute to Hastings Council.

# Putting the Community back into Council.



Local Government Elections 27 March 2004

# Vote for Rob Drew and the 'YES' team on 27 March for a better Hastings

## FOR MAYOR



## CANDIDATES

**1 DREW, Rob**




ROGERS, Grant  
Independent

HARRISON, Jamie  
Independent

INTEMANN, Lisa  
Independent

SHARPHAM, Bob  
Independent

## FOR ELECTION OF 8 COUNCILLORS

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
 Daphne Johnston	 David Mayne	 Rob Drew		
GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	
<input type="checkbox"/> JOHNSTON, Daphne Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> MAYNE, David	<input type="checkbox"/> DREW, Rob	<input type="checkbox"/> SHARPHAM, Bob Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> INTEMANN, Lisa Independent
<input type="checkbox"/> WEHLOW, Ben Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> CAMPBELL, Noel	<input type="checkbox"/> NARDELLA, Rob	<input type="checkbox"/> PRICE, Cameron Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> HARRISON, Jamie Independent
<input type="checkbox"/> TOULSON, David	<input type="checkbox"/> MARTIN, Brett	<input type="checkbox"/> PRUSSING, Adam	<input type="checkbox"/> SHARP, Rick Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> GREEN, Terry Independent
<input type="checkbox"/> PEARSON, Jim	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVILLE, Peter	<input type="checkbox"/> ADAMS, Ian Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> McCLIMONT, Sandy Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> WATERSON, Kevin Independent
	<input type="checkbox"/> ROBERTS, Debby			<input type="checkbox"/> SHEA, Gerard Independent
	<input type="checkbox"/> QUAGLIO, Bill			
	<input type="checkbox"/> WOODFIELD, Clive			

COUNCIL ELECTION ISSUE

My Copy

MARCH 2004  
VOL 17, No 3

The Holiday Coast

# PICTORIAL

See A Lot Inside

Your only local

Circulation 30,000 Established 1988 Phone: 6581 1001

Opposing Resident Action Group Candidates get mention on p54



from group

## ELECTION COUNTDOWN

PAGE 9 FEATURE STORY

> This Morton's name is Tas!

PAGES 37-40

> Mark Vaile's Herald

PAGE 70-72 MOTORING

> Southern Cross Rally Feature

PICTORIAL EXCLUSIVE

Interview with the


### Prime Minister of Australia



SEE PAGE 10 FORUM

Office **National**  
All your business needs

### PAGE 5 OFFICE EXPO



SEE PAGE 5 FOR INFORMATION

Countdown to the

# Council Elections

**W**hen former Mayor and retiring councillor Bob Woodlands declared that he would not be standing again, he made the comment that the outgoing Hastings Council was 'the most harmonious he had ever experienced'. *One common development*

To say the out-going council was quite that good might be going a bit far because there were a few hiccups along the way, but certainly when it comes to achievement, that council will go down as 'one of the best'.

And it was in the area of planning and a lot of 'behind the scenes' stuff where the council did its best work. Although it wasn't popular at the time, this council gave us 'world's best' recycling that is now the benchmark for every council in Australia, and its water management and policies are also regarded highly with some of the technology and concepts also in the 'world's best' category.

CBD beautification, 'cell' or area building regulations and future CBD planning have set the scene for the years to come in our community.

Roads are still an issue here, but they are improving and with some additional Government funding, will get better.

The out-going council was unique in another way as well. *obviously*

Whilst the politics of several of the councillors was widely known, it was obvious that party politics never played a role when it came to thoughtful decision-making and voting around the council table.

Deceased former mayor Wayne Richards was a well-known Labor Party figure, but he had the ability to get on with most around the council table and built up alliances with those who might have been diametrically opposed to his philosophies. On many occasions the council made intelligent decisions on the behalf of the community with no hint of party politics raising its head.

So that leads us to the belated Local Government elections to be held next month.

At this stage, there are very few signs of significant electoral activity, but that will surely build up in the last three weeks leading to the March 27 Election day.

There is one group of solid, core former councillors and newcomers who have declared their intentions to stand under the banner the 'Yes' team with out-going Mayor and candidate for the Mayoral position in the first ever popularly-elected Mayoral Race Rob Drew, heading the group. *There is also the Residents Action Network Group.*

Their policies deserve to be examined and a decision made by the electorate at

large. However, it should be noted that the best possible result in any election is a fair dose of experience, particularly in the separate election for the position of Mayor.

It is known that the 'Yes' group has people on board who have considerable experience and some fresh faces, yet in many cases their political loyalties are fields apart.

Their stand of unity in the election is based on putting forward a group of experienced but different people who have one interest at heart - a balanced and harmonious council.

There are those who will say that development will be a big issue with this election and yes, we have had some big development projects occur in recent times, with many of them now nearing completion.

However, Try and remember what they replaced and ask yourself the question, is Port Macquarie not a better place aesthetically than it was five years ago?

A case in point is the foreshore area. Five years ago you would hardly dare walk along our foreshore on the Town Green, given what used to be there.

Today, it is a haven by comparison. Clearly a new council rightly should consider responsible development and a case could be put for assessing where we are at and where to go from here.

Another consideration is employment. Not long ago jobs were like hen's teeth, but try and get a worker today for your business and discover just how hard it can be. We now have strength in business and jobs that have directly evolved from a policy that came from a stable and focused council.

Because of the new voting patterns that have emerged in recent years, it will be the groupings on the voting forms on Election Day that will decide our next council.

Voters will always take the 'easy option' when it comes to voting, so standing as an independent councillor with no group support, would make getting elected extremely difficult.

So look at the groupings on the ballot paper and give it some thought.

Who you vote for is your business. However, make sure you do think about it first and try and elect people who will continue the thrust that was started by the previous council.

Direction, harmony, balance, fairness, responsibility, future and good planning deserve to be the criteria on which the new council will be elected.

And treasure the democratic process that allows you to vote on Saturday March 27.

Page 5

# Office National

All your business needs



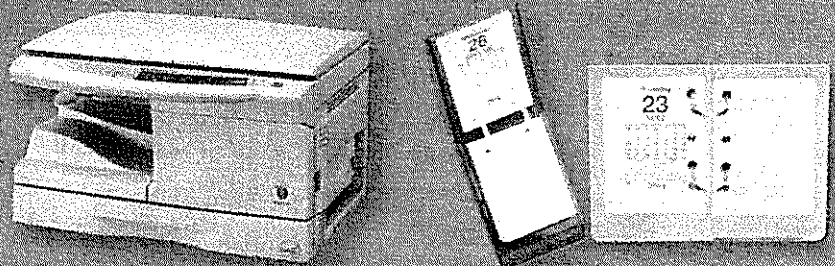
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# PAGE 5 OFFICE EXPO

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Gerard Thompson's  
 Interview with the

# Prime Minister of Australia



**Q:** Prime Minister, your Minister for Trade, Mark Vaile, is our local Member for Lyne, how is he going and are you pleased with his performance?

**A:** Mark Vaile does a very good job of balancing his ministerial responsibilities with his obligations to his electorate of Lyne. It's always a hard challenge but particularly so with Mark because of his portfolio, the trade ministry. Australia's Trade Minister is required to travel frequently in pursuit of Australia's trade interests. Mark does very well in his electorate and I think one of reasons is because he realises he has to work just that much harder to do justice to both his electorate and his ministerial responsibilities.

**Q:** Mark has been involved with the Free Trade Agreement with the United States of America. How important was his role?

**A:** He was absolutely crucial to negotiating the Agreement with the United States. Without his skill, particularly over the last few days, negotiations would have fallen over. I paid tribute to Mark and his negotiating team on the day the Agreement was announced.

**Q:** What will the Free Trade Agreement mean to Australia?

**A:** It is an historic agreement that will add enormous long-term benefits to the Australian economy. It recognises that Australia's economic partnership with the United States is as much about the future as it is about the past. Without in any way downplaying the importance of traditional patterns of trade and investment, Australia's economic future is very much bound with the expansion of our service and manufacturing industries. The Free Trade Agreement affords huge opportunities in these service and manufacturing sectors. It will link Australia's economy with the biggest economy in the world and an economy whose importance to Australia will grow rather than diminish. The FTA is another step towards a stronger and more prosperous Australian economy in the long-term. These are

some of the reasons why the FTA is potentially so important.

**Q:** How do you rate your Government's chances at the forthcoming Federal election later this year?

**A:** This is not going to be an easy election, we'll be asking the Australian people to elect us for the fourth time. I never take any support for granted. The Government will be saying to the Australian people that we have a very strong record of achievement. I've had three goals for Australia since I've had the immense privilege of being Prime Minister. The first goal is to provide for our national security. The second is to ensure Australia's economic strength. It is from economic strength that businesses can grow, people can be employed and families can be allowed to exercise their choices. And finally we have sought to preserve a sense of social stability for Australia.

**Q:** Prime Minister, do you know of the Parent to Parent program that has just received \$80,000 from the Government? Do you see a value in a positive parenting program that can reach out to help Australian families?

**A:** The Parent to Parent program is one of the Community Partnerships Initiatives under the Australian Government's Tough on Drugs campaign. It's aimed at parents or the supervisors of young Australians, for example people in roles such as teachers or youth counsellors. Parent to Parent Australia's program provides strategies to reduce stress in families and also helps educate people about the benefits of healthy lifestyles. The idea is that participants can eventually be trained to organise the program in their own communities. Hopefully this will be the outcome in Port Macquarie. Parent to Parent Australia will also engage someone to spread information about the program through the community via schools, parenting organisations and church groups.

Thank you Prime Minister the Hon John Howard for making time for this exclusive interview with the Pictorial.

## The caring team...

GRAHAM BAYES  
**mid coast funerals**

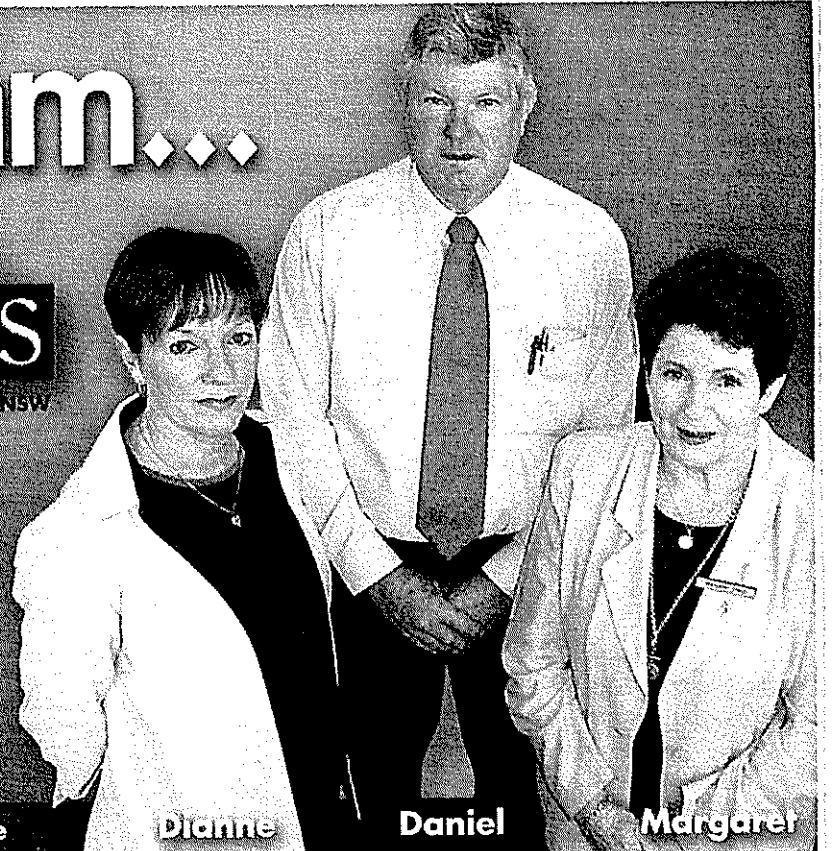
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 168 Gordon Street, Port Macquarie

Ph: 6586 1433  
 7 High Street, Wauchope

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 A little forethought.... A Great deal of benefit

• Port Macquarie • Camden Haven • Wauchope



Dianne

Daniel

Margaret

# Council Elections

2004

The future is in your hands

**Hello,**

I am Rob Drew, Mayor of the Hastings Council. I have decided to stand for the Mayoral position when the delayed Local Government election is held on Saturday, March 27, which will for the first time be elected by you, the ratepayers and residents of the Hastings.

The duration of the election for Mayor will be for four years, and I have given serious thought to my obligations over this extended period of time. I willingly undertake that commitment.

I was first elected to council in 1999 and have served as a councillor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor over the past four and a half years.

The election on March 27 will be different from any other previously held. For the first time our Mayor won't be elected by fellow councillors, but by the community. For this reason, it is fundamental to our future that the Mayor that is elected has the support of the majority of the elected council.

For this reason, a group of current councillors and a number of active community people, with an emphasis on youth, have joined with me to stand in three separate but like-minded groups that we have called the 'Yes' team.

It should be said that these people come from all political persuasions, interests and agendas, but have the overall concern for a professional and united approach.

Daphne Johnstone, Jim Pearson, Noel Campbell and David Mayne have the experience from the old council that will provide a strong base for your new council.

They are joined by new faces Ben Wehlow, Rob Nardella, Adam Prussing, Brett Martin, Ian Adams, David Toulson and Peter Saville who will join to provide a united and cohesive front in the forthcoming election.

Election time is usually the time candidates talk about what 'will be done'. Those policies are important, but first, I would like to bring your attention to what has been done.



### Roads

Our roads infrastructure has always been under pressure due to continued growth. We have supplied the increase in annual road funding across the Hastings by an additional \$1 million per year that will see the cycle change and improve, particularly to maintenance on existing roads. This was a commitment made in 1999 and was one of my proudest achievements whilst a member of the out-going council.

### Waste Management

The new waste management facility that has been constructed near Telegraph Point and opened in 2001, is recognised as a leader in environmentally friendly waste management. The Hastings Council is now visited on a regular basis by councils from all over Australia examining just what has been achieved here, and it is regarded as a 'benchmark' for other councils to follow. Waste product that is utilised and turned into productive mulch at the Rethmann plant has been a huge bi-product and wonderfully successful. This was a controversial decision at the time and was not supported by all councillors. There are few today who could argue that it has not been one of the out-going council's crowning achievements.

### Water Augmentation

The Cowarra Dam is now starting to fill after a \$70 million outlay into future water augmentation and infrastructure for the Hastings area. When our new dam is full it will give the Hastings community a water capacity five times of what is currently available. Also, the water management and Waterwise programs that have been instigated by Hastings Council have again been 'ground-breaking' policy. Our water management system is regarded highly not only at a national level, but also from a world standing. The Hastings Council leads the way in water management and education of its local community.

### Kendall Community Pool

The people of Kendall raised nearly half the funds for their new community swimming pool, opened only just a couple of weeks ago. At the last election Daphne Johnstone, myself, Jim Pearson and others said we would help. That happened and \$1.2 million was found to build the pool. This was a classic case of the council and the community working together towards a common goal, and I must say the finished product is a credit to the community and its perseverance.

### Growth Strategy

Adopted in 2001, the council's Growth Policy will responsibly restrict development to local areas not affected by sensitive environmental issues and will ensure that these unique features of the Hastings are preserved. There is much more to be done, but the council has already the infrastructure in place for proper management of the environment.

### 'Yes' for Responsible Government

Our team has chosen to use the 'Yes' logo to identify a unified group. It is 'Yes' for Responsible Government and it is 'Yes' for a United Council, and it is 'Yes' for Responsible Development and Protection of our Environment.

In conclusion, it is sometimes not fully understood what exactly gets done and not done around a council table. I have to say that history will show that the majority of the out-going council supported strategies that will benefit our community for generations to come. More strategic planning for our future was carried out that is fully recognised at this time.

I urge your support for the people who are featured in the various groupings on the following pages. Please support the 'Yes' team for a united and balanced council.



Vote for the

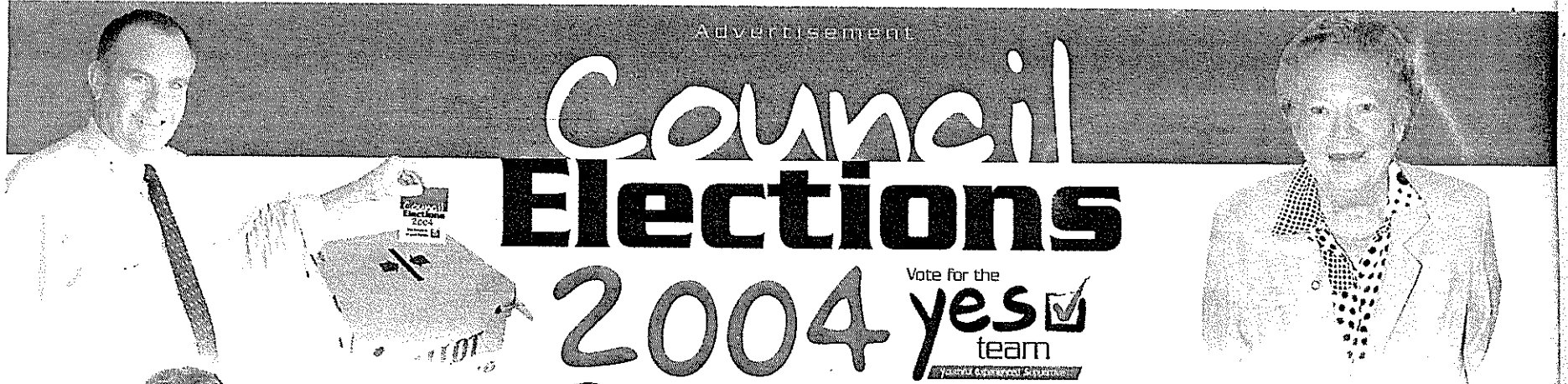


**Youthful** – Vibrant, dynamic, energetic, for a council committed to a thriving Hastings.

**Experienced** – Established track record, expertise in service and community involvement for effective administration.

**Supportive** – Varied interests and backgrounds coming together in a council working for the entire community.





## Daphne Johnston

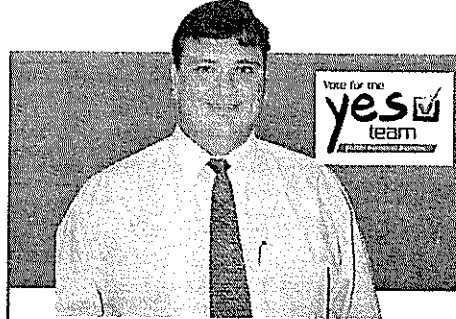
- Proud record
- Fair deal for all
- First female Deputy Mayor
- Capable and Willing

My decision to stand again for election to Council has been due, in the main to a large number of community members approaching me and pleading with me to go again.

My role has always been to serve our community to the best of my ability. Being fortunate to be fit and healthy I believe I am capable, have time and energy to serve all members of our community. Experience is a great teacher and after 20 years and having sat on just about every committee of Council over the years I believe I have learnt a lot and I am conversant with all policies and procedures and it would be a waste not to use that experience to benefit our community (Made history when first female Deputy Mayor of Hastings 1989-91 then again 1993-95).

Having a proven record of honest representation, equality and a fair deal for all ratepayers I would be proud to serve for another four years. Not only do I have a thorough local knowledge of the Camden Haven, I also have a very good knowledge of the vast majority of the Hastings. Presently I chair a number of committees on Council.

Being Chair of Council's Laurieton Sport & Recreation Committee gives me contact with people of all ages and as I chair Port Macquarie Senior Citizens Facility Management Committee I associate with many citizens over the age of 55 years. I am capable and I am willing and if elected I will continue to stand up and represent all ratepayers.



## Ben Wehlow

- Community
- Sporting facilities
- Planning
- Future

Ben Wehlow is a well-known local family man and sportsman who is standing for the Hastings Council for the first time. As the current president of the Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club, Ben is fully aware of community involvement and participation and adds a youthful new look to the 'Yes' team line-up.

Educated in Port Macquarie, Ben has had significant sporting success, being a State Gold Medallist in still water swimming and has won State and Country medals in Surf Life Saving. He also played AFL for Port Macquarie for several years.

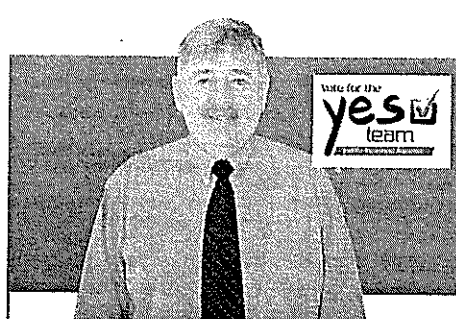
His employment history has been diversified and is currently marketing manager for Jotway Pty Ltd.

Community positions held are considerable. He is the inaugural secretary of the Port Macquarie Ratepayers' Association, President of the Port Macquarie Rotoract Club, Honorary member of Port Macquarie West Rotary Club, Club Captain of the Port Macquarie Surf Lifesaving Club and is the current president of the Port Macquarie Surf Lifesaving Club.

"Youth are my interest and I also have a good ear. I am willing to listen to the community and I am keen to serve to the ratepayers and residents.

Married with three daughters, Ben Wehlow enjoys sharing outdoor time and sports with his family and music has always been an interest whilst surf lifesaving is a passion.

"I think our club is an important part of our community," Ben said.



## David Toulson

- Sporting facilities
- Accountability
- Roads
- Families

David Toulson is a relative newcomer to our area and wants to make a contribution.

The Financial Controller at Bob Todd Holden, David has extensive experience at high corporate levels, particularly in relation to finance.

"This is a new area for me and my family and we enjoy living at Lake Cathie. I have a few years yet in me and I would like to learn more about our area and top make a contribution," he said.

Sport is a major area of David's life, particularly junior sport.

"Whilst the sporting facilities here are adequate, they definitely need to be improved upon. I also am looking at the bigger picture. Coffs Harbour has established itself as an international sport venue and there is no reason why Port Macquarie could not be similarly positioned."

As a financial controller and accountant, David believes his financial background could serve as an advantage around the council table.

"Finance is an area that is often beyond some councillors. I believe my experience in this field would be advantageous to not only around the council table, but also to the residents and ratepayers of the Hastings.

Roads and the lake at Lake Cathie are issues for David and he is keen to be a member of the next Hastings Council.

"I wish to become involved and I hope the community gives me the opportunity to serve," he said.



## Jim Pearson

- More road funding
- Strategic planning
- Better Value
- Mayoral support

Jim Pearson has surprised many with his standing for his second term as a Hastings Council representative. Jim was elected to council in 1999 on the popular ticket that saw David Morton head the poll in a landslide, more than doubling the vote of the next candidate. The success of that ticket saw Jim Pearson and current Mayor Rob Drew elected to that council.

Jim Pearson has played a strategic role in the council and enhanced his already proven community leadership offering broad experience and sound financial management that comes from owning and running one of the largest independent country trucking firms in Australia.

It was Jim Pearson who led the campaign for better roads in the council area and has helped to oversee a major infusion of additional funding to the tune of \$1 million per annum on top of existing monies provided. He also supported the introduction of our 'world standard' waste management and water augmentation systems, including the Cowarra Dam, and he has played a significant role in much of the strategic planning that has been achieved by the outgoing council.

He believes that better value is now gained from rates for the wider community and knows that much more can be achieved with a supportive and cohesive new council behind a popular Mayor.

Jim Pearson supports Rob Drew for the Mayoral position and is pleased to part of the Daphne Johnstone grouping for the forthcoming March 27 election.

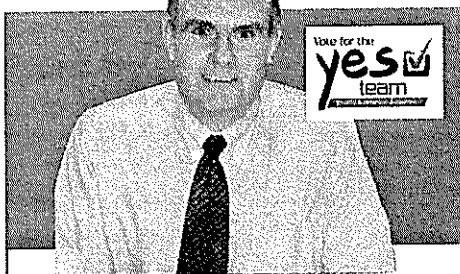
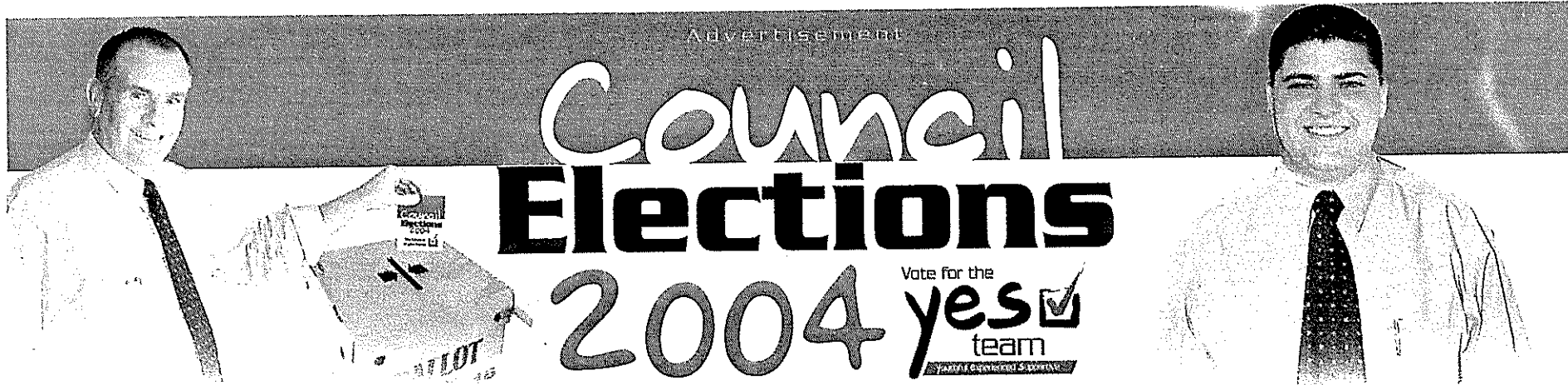
Vote for the

**yes**   
team  
Youthful Experienced Supportive

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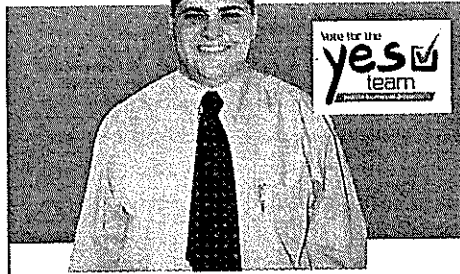
## Rob Drew

- Current Mayor
- Mayoral candidate
- Stable council
- Sound planning

This coming local Government election on Saturday, March 27 is the first time our community will be asked to elect their Mayor for the next four years. Of course it is important to have the right person in place to carry out this position. I hope over the past four and half years I have demonstrated my passion for this beautiful shire, showing integrity to stand for what I believe, delivering and honouring my commitments in representing the whole of the Hastings Community.

In my term of council a few highlights that have been important are:

- As a community we are placed in a very strong position to cater for growth with the capacity of our water supply now five times greater with the completion of Cowarra Dam and No. 3 Pump Station. Unfortunately with drought conditions we are still waiting to be able to fill this facility. This is a facility of which all residents can feel justifiably proud.
  - The adoption of our state of the art Cairncross Waste Facility (the first of its kind in Australia) and the adoption of our waste strategy has made us the envy of many local government areas around Australia.
  - The work carried out on financial reporting and modelling of our present and future financial standing and debt reduction program, place us in a very sound financial position now and into the future.
- In the coming months I look forward to seeking your support to become your first publicly elected Mayor.



## Rob Nardella

- Facilities and service
- Job creation
- Federal experience
- Tertiary Education

Rob Nardella is the senior electorate adviser and press secretary to The Hon Mark Vaile, MP, Deputy Leader of The Nationals and Federal Minister for Trade. He is also one of the youngest candidates wishing to stand for council election on Saturday March 27.

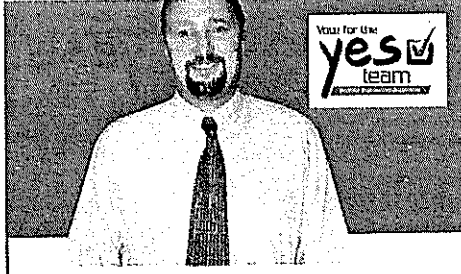
"I am standing for council because I believe I can make a difference. I have experience of working in Government at the Federal level, and I believe I have the qualities to assist our local Council play a more positive and active role in working with other levels of Government to ensure that we get the services and facilities that we deserve in Port Macquarie and the Hastings."

Rob Nardella believes we need a better roads network, improve tertiary education, better sporting and recreation facilities and 'we need to encourage more job-creating initiatives for our local area, particularly youth training'. Sporting facilities for all age groups is also an important consideration.

"Working for Federal member Mark Vaile for the past seven years has given me an incite into the many challenges facing members of our community. I have worked with Mark Vaile on road funding and health, particularly the Radio Therapy Unit issue," Rob said.

Rob Nardella grew up and went to school in Port Macquarie and has an intimate knowledge of issues at a Federal level.

He is positioned No. 2 on the ticket behind Mayor Rob Drew.



## Adam Prussing

- Balanced views
- Best practices
- Transparency
- Adequate Infrastructure

Former president of the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce, Adam Prussing, wants to be part of a co-operative council that will work towards provide the 'best value' for our community.

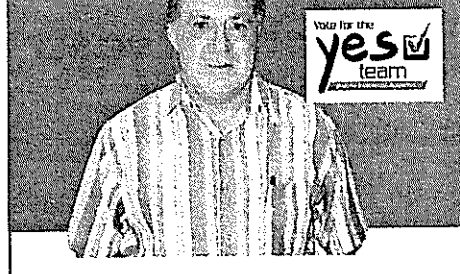
"My focus on council will be to provide a balanced view to the process of governing our community into the future. It is focus of best practices and corporate governance and transparency of process."

Adam Prussing says that this means:

- Providing infrastructure well ahead of development. My vision would be for sustainable development that is relative to the lifestyle of our community.
- Supporting council and focusing on developing stronger ties with the community through consultation and structured support for community organisations, sporting and business groups and building a strong sense of community.
- Supporting council to cope with the large growth rate affecting our area and making sure there are checks and balances for future development.

Adam Prussing owns Supalook Smash Repairs with his wife Julie in Jindalee Road, which has won many service and best business practice awards and has attained Quality Assurance to Australian Standards. Supalook has twice been awarded the NSW Motor Traders Association's State Regional body 'Repairer of the Year'. He also represents his industry at a regional level.

Adam Prussing is No 3 on Mayor Rob Drew's ticket.



## Ian Adams

- Representation for all
- Sporting facilities
- Supporting primary industry
- Rural enterprise

Ian Adams was born on the Macleay in the township of Smithtown. Moving to Sydney with the family as a youngster, Ian went to school and spent his teenage years in Sydney's inner and southern suburbs. Joining the workforce in his mid teens, Ian undertook a career in banking, specialising and spending 24 years in the International Banking arena. In this specific area of banking, Ian dealt with both Importers and Exporters from small family run business's to large International Corporations.

He became closely associated with the growing wine industry in the Hunter Valley and in the Hastings subsequently joining Cassegrain Vineyards in the early nineties.

In the mid-nineties, Ian formed his own Marketing and Promotions company whilst still retaining an interest in the wine industry working closely with Bago Vineyards. Ian is most likely best known for the major events such as the Cassegrain Discovery Concerts, Bago Vineyards Jazz and, for the many other concerts staged at various venues throughout the Hastings.

Ian is currently in his second term as president of the Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and, secretary of the Mid North Coast Winegrowers Association. He is also the Marketing Director for the Little Athletics Association of New South Wales having been a director of that association for the past twelve years.

Ian Adams is No 4 on Mayor Rob Drew's ticket.

Vote for the



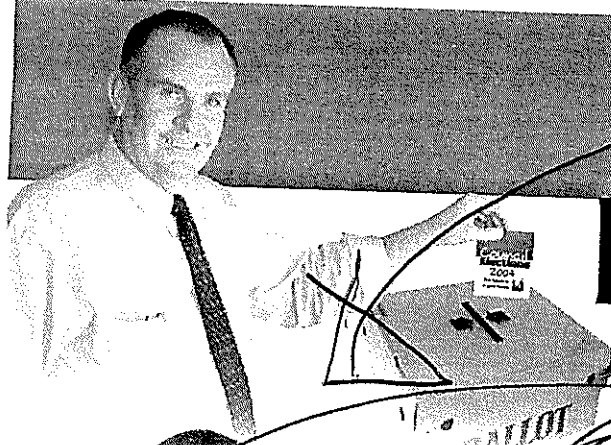
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# Council Elections 2004

Vote for the **yes team**



**David Mayne**

- Sensible planning
- Primary production
- Environment
- Responsible governance

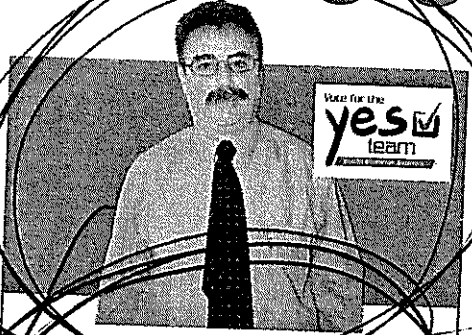
It may sound well-repeated rhetoric that is echoed by just about every candidate standing for any level of government election throughout the country but this upcoming local government election is one of the most important elections that the Hastings has faced. This is for a number of reasons. Firstly, I believe that the groundwork has been put in place to not only establish the Hastings as a good place to live but that it be a great place to live and holiday.

You don't have to be a genius to know that the Hastings is the shining jewel of the Mid North Coast. This is not just my personal parochialism as our economic growth over the last few years is the envy of many regional areas throughout the country.

To say we need 'zero' development is not only impractical but it is down right destructive to the Hastings. What must be done is ensure that sensible development doesn't compromise or distract from the pristine environment that makes us unique in Australia.

The newly elected council must continue to recognize that the larger centres in the Hastings still act as service providers for our rural (farming) community. Our primary producers are the backbone of our Shire.

I believe I have this understanding and experience to be able to aid in the implementation of sensible development without the destruction of our natural environment and compromising our aesthetic ambience.



**Noel Campbell**

- Sporting infrastructure
- Sustainable growth
- Future planning
- Cohesive experience

Noel Campbell has a wealth of local knowledge and a real passion for the constituents of the Hastings and their needs.

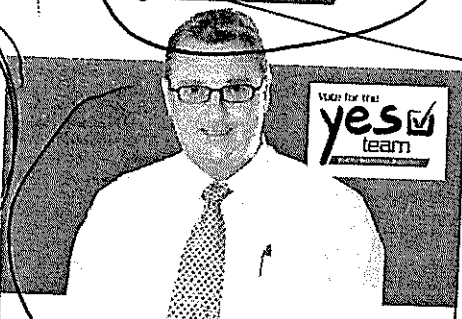
Within the community Cr Campbell has been for many years actively involved in sport and the support of our young and up and coming sporting representatives. For several years he was the President of the Port Macquarie Sharks Rugby League Club and had a considerable impact on the development of the game.

He has a vision is to see the establishment of a world class sports ground worthy of high profile events here in Port Macquarie, and the Regional Stadium now has the blueprint to take it in that direction.

Noel is a believer in the sustainable growth of our area and has played an integral role in a number of council committees over the past four years. His knowledge of our area is considerable and his links with different organisations is extensive. Noel Campbell will tenaciously fight for what he thinks is right."

"Improvement to roads, water augmentation and the development of world-class waste disposal have been real pluses, and the release of the CBD development proposals has put our future on the agenda for the next council," Noel Campbell said.

"The next council will be different to any previous council with fewer numbers and a popularly elected Mayor. It needs experience to help educate any new councillors.



**Brett Martin**

- Crime Prevention
- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Safety for all

As a small business operator, with an extensive background in the NSW Police Force, Community Safety & Crime Prevention I have the experience and skills to deliver expert leadership in local government.

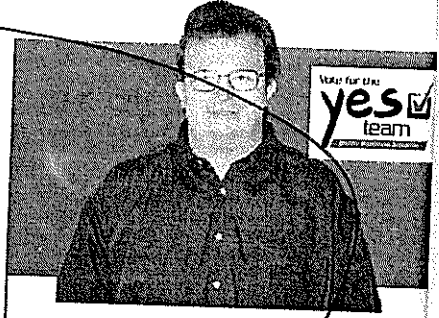
Maintaining Council investment in infrastructure, planning to ensure public and community safety, protection of our fragile environment and supporting community and business development are vital.

Only as a team I believe we can work together to direct the Hastings Council in developing a strategic council vision, attributing values, determining our direction and setting clear objectives and performance goals.

As an elected official I will have a responsibility to represent the interests of all constituents, to act on present short-term issues, but more importantly to look beyond those immediate issues and develop strategies that will provide solutions preventing the recurrence of these issues.

I have the confidence of my convictions and the ability to suppress nuisances. It is my intention that the Hastings Council develops a vision of the community's direction and to assist the Hastings community to reach it's full potential.

As a team I believe if we work together by steering the Hastings council in developing a strategic council vision, attributing values, determining our direction, and setting clear objectives and performance goals.



**Peter Saville**

- Technology
- Infrastructure
- Outer areas
- Civic Duty

Peter Saville is a 27-year-old information technology professional and community media personality who has lived in the Hastings all his life. He also has keen interest in Information Technology and Computing of which generates his primary source of income.

Over the past 27 years he has seen the Hastings evolve into one of the most enjoyable and productive places to live anywhere in NSW. "However, over the past 10 years as the evolution has accelerated, we have seen growth in certain areas explode without growth in the essential services and facilities. If the population is to grow and new buildings are to be constructed we need to make sure the Hastings has the correct level of infrastructure for current and future citizens", he said.

Peter also believes the outlying areas are not to be neglected, as often happens in some local government areas where the major population centre is constantly the focus, while the smaller towns in the area fail to have their issues properly addressed.

Peter believes that nominating for council is not something you do to impress your mates at the pub, or because it has perks and looks good on a resume. "It is something you do because you feel a sense of civic duty and a belief you can make a difference. Pushing your own agenda or that of political parties should not be part of this council. This is why Peter Saville is proud to be part of the David Mayne ticket.

Vote for the



Youthful Experienced Supportive

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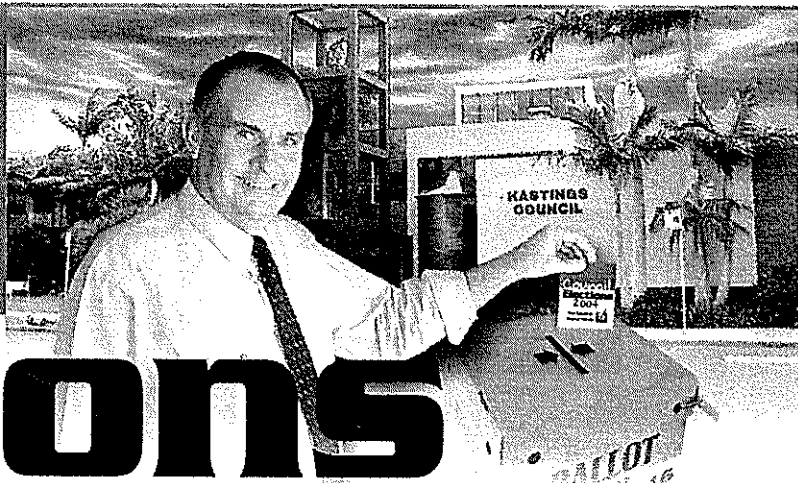
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Council

# ✓ Elections

The future is in your hands



2004

## How to VOTE

in the Local Government Election for the Hastings Council on Saturday March 27, 2004



Vote ✓ Rob Drew  
for Mayor

Combining experience on council with leadership for the future

**PLEASE NOTE:** When voting for your choice for Mayor, it is important that you select a candidate that appeals to a cross section of the council and show shares a direction and HAS A VISION

To do this you can VOTE in TWO WAYS:

1. Vote ABOVE THE LINE for at least TWO groups
2. Or, vote BELOW THE LINE by knowing which individual you wish to vote for and numbering your preferences in order of merit.

**NOTE:** You can preference your groups by numbering in every square ABOVE THE LINE to ensure NONE OF YOUR VOTE IS WASTED.

How to  
Vote for

Vote for the  
**yes** ✓  
team  
Your Experienced Supporters



1. Vote 1 Rob Drew for Mayor
2. Select the box above the group headed by:  
**Rob Drew, Daphne Johnstone & David Mayne**  
And number 1, 2, 3 in your order of preference for those groups
3. To ensure you vote for ROB DREW as MAYOR is correct, you may collect a HOW TO VOTE form from the 'Yes' team on polling day, Saturday March 27.

The 'Yes' election feature was authorised by:  
Rob Drew, 21 Peppermint Crescent, Wauchope. Jim Pearson, 42 Jindalee Road, Port Macquarie. David Mayne, 69 Greenmeadows Drive, Port Macquarie.

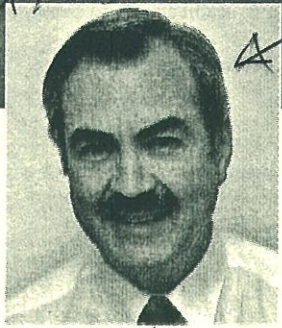
ALL ABOUT

# RAN

*Residents' action Network*

*Ran under RAN assistance  
These notes were written  
Became Deputy Mayor  
to Mayor DREW*

The Residents' Action Network (RAN) is standing four candidates at the March 27 Local Government elections. RAN is a community based organisation with a fast growing membership of independent, fair minded residents from diverse backgrounds throughout the Hastings.



"There needs to be better long term planning for development that reflects the shared vision for the Hastings. I support development that does not compromise local character or the environment," said Cameron Price.

They have common concerns about the quality and integrity of our local area and government.



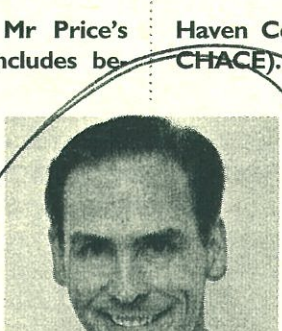
Rick Sharp is an organic farmer in Pappinbarra and past President of Hastings Organic Group. He is also a qualified accountant with multinational finance and management experience having held the position of Finance Director. Besides representing the rural areas of the Shire, he will bring a financial analytical approach to Council.

Bob Sharpham will be standing for Mayor. His commitment is to truly represent the community. Bob's leadership, management, coordination and communication skills are clearly demonstrated in the enthusiastic and professional manner in which he undertakes tasks and responsibility.



"The workings of Council must be made transparent so we understand how Council functions; currently we do not have that transparency," said Rick Sharp.

His experience in construction, community care, education & training and his direct community consultation to all areas of the Hastings gives him the understanding; insight and direction required to take us into the future.



Sandy McClimont is a retired Solicitor who lives in Kendall. She has worked for the Australian Government Solicitor's Office and the Northern Territory Government. Her legal experience gave her insight into government processes and involved her in high level government negotiations. She is President of Camden Haven Community College (formerly CHACE). She was a member of the Tourism Sub-committee of the Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce and assisted in the Chamber's successful campaign to retain the Visitors Information Centre at Kew.

Website designer Cameron Price considers standing for Hastings Council is a natural progression from his community interests. Mr Price's community involvement includes being President of the Wauchope Community Arts Council; Chairperson of the Wauchope Arts Hall Committee; Convenor of the Comboyne Heritage Group; and he played a major role in securing funding for the Kendall Comboyne Community Technology Centre and Comboyne Community Centre. He is also on several Council committees, including the Arts and Cultural Development Taskforce and the Heritage Sub-Committee.

"I am standing for Council because I want to give the people of Hastings, and particularly the rural and village areas, a voice in Council," said Sandy McClimont.

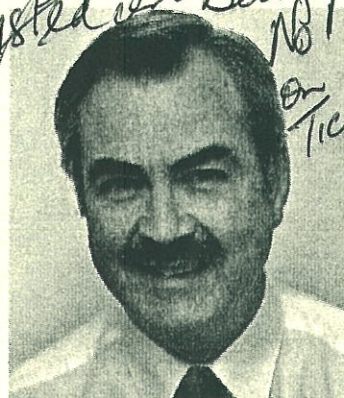
For more information see RAN's website at [www.wolven.com.au/ran](http://www.wolven.com.au/ran).

## Putting the Community back into Council

# VOTE 1 RAN

## The Residents' Action Network Team

*insisted on being No 1 on Ticket*



1. Bob Sharpham



2. Cameron Price



3. Rick Sharp



4. Sandy McClimont

*Just Missed out*

- Community Consultation
- Long Term Planning for Development
- Fairness and Equity
- Accountability and Openness
- Environmental Protection

# RAN RESIDENTS' ACTION NETWORK

For further information on the RAN Candidates and policies visit the RAN website on [www.wolven.com.au/ran](http://www.wolven.com.au/ran)  
E-mail: [ran@midcoast.com.au](mailto:ran@midcoast.com.au)  
or write to: **P.O Box 337, Port Macquarie 2444**

Authorised by S.Baker, PO Box 337, Port Macquarie 2444.

*Wavering Independent mostly with DREW & others Balance in Council to 2 Independant.*