



## **Pennant Hills District Civic Trust Inc.**

*'Preserving the residential amenity of Pennant Hills and its environs'*

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# **Hornsby: Ward B Councillor Candidates**

## **Susan Hughes The Greens for Ward B Councillor**

**Q1. What makes Pennant Hills unique or special to you, and how do you believe we can best both preserve and enhance these unique characteristics? How would you describe Pennant Hills in 20 years?**

My family love living in Pennant Hills because they value the huge blue gums, leafy streets, community-minded schools and public resources including the sporting complex, railway station and library and the family-owned businesses. I spend a lot of time in Pennant Hills with my granddaughters who attend a local child care centre and Pennant Hills Public School, shopping and regularly visiting the library and parks. This school has helped me launch a world's first children's school bag hi-viz and fluorescent set of tubes and straps to be attached to their bags. As a small business I had pleasure in donating 80 sets of these products to all of this school's 2017 kindergarten children. Our family often meets at either the local Hotel or Bowlo, both of which have children's inside playgrounds. My mother was president of a local Girl Guide group where their committee held balls in a large community centre, where the current library is located. Parking is often a problem!

In twenty years, Pennant Hills will have a bustling, leafy, welcoming shopping area with much better retail parking so I will be confident there will be a parking spot available. There will also be a commuter-parking station, similar style to Thornleigh Station's carpark. It will have its large community centre back so the local community can hold markets, events ( eg. School dances, meetings, after-school/uni indoor activities for youth) and have an adjoining Council-run kindergarten offering long hours for busy working parents. In addition there will be a small business technology hub for many more home-based business residents to congregate. There will also be senior citizen rooms with both areas close to each other so different age-groups/sectors have the opportunity to 'rub shoulders' with a diverse range of local residents. There will also be a common area with a café to bring all residents together.

There will be numerous family-friendly facilities like playgrounds and outdoor exercise equipment and well-used green spaces for exercise and play. There will be more aged care facilities built with an integrated approach to the community so people like me will have disability access and opportunities to meet with my family in common, friendly areas.

The centre of Pennant Hills will be connected to residential areas by safe bike paths and shady walking paths. All Council and business buildings will generate their own electricity and will be designed to be cheap to heat and cheap to cool. New buildings will be beautiful, and incorporate passive solar design and plenty of tree plantings.

**Q2. Pennant Hills Rd and NorthConnex are State (RMS) jurisdiction. Considering the matters in Hornsby Council jurisdiction -- what is your vision to improve traffic flows and parking in Pennant Hills?**

A lot more consultation with residents, Council staff and the PHDCT would have to take place before I committed to any changes to traffic flows and parking. Given the Masterplan is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of development and improvement, we should commit to that process to ensure long-term benefits rather than ad-hoc changes to traffic & parking.

Q3. We have been promised a town centre Pennant Hills Masterplan since before the year 2000. Last year some progress was made by Hornsby Council. Will you commit to complete the Pennant Hills Masterplan before September 2020 (3 years)?

Yes – I will commit to having the Masterplan finished within three years. I'm really excited about the opportunity for a community-driven vision for Pennant Hills's future, **just like my family enjoyed in the previous centre, when I was a child**. The PHDCT has already done a huge amount of productive planning. I will help it become a reality, if I'm elected to Council.

Q4. What is your plan to support and grow business in Pennant Hills? What mistakes were made during the Beecroft development -- and how do you ensure that they are not repeated with any potential redevelopment of Pennant Hills?

Beecroft businesses were not consulted or supported during the massive development of the area. Small, family-run businesses are essential to a vibrant and healthy and prosperous community and must be supported. It's essential that Hornsby employ an Economic Development Officer who has the back of small business and can support and advise them during periods of change. Through my work in the Hornsby Chamber of Commerce over the past three years I have been advising Council about the importance of having an Economic Development Officer. I believe all of our neighbouring Councils benefit from having an officer who supports local businesses with their growth – there is so much red tape for small business operators to navigate. . As a Councillor I would be making this initiative a priority. More business in the area provides more local employment saving long-distance travel for employees and families hence saving money and precious time so families enjoy a better quality lives. At the very least we need Council to immediately join at the min. membership fee of only \$99 our local Chamber of Commerce and assign councillors or officers to attend Chamber meetings and get involved with our business community.

Q5. Some people see medium density housing as a way to improve housing affordability in Hornsby Shire, what is your view in relation to Pennant Hills?

There are initiatives that Councils can take to address housing affordability that don't necessarily mean accepting massive apartment developments. Local Councils could make an application for a special rates variation to double council rates on properties that remain empty after six months. This would encourage investors to rent out currently vacant properties, and boost supply. (Vacant properties currently stand at 8% in the Hornsby Local Government Area.) The revenue raised could be quarantined by Councils and invested in affordable housing stock or crisis accommodation for families.

Beyond that, Council could also advocate for changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax arrangements that reward investment in property and push up house prices.

Q6. Pennant Hills District Civic Trust, working with Beecroft & Epping Civic Trusts, BikeNorth, Hornsby Council and our State Members Damien Tudehope and Matt Kean, submitted to the State Government a proposal for a cycle path from Pennant Hills to Epping. Will you support our preferred route using the rail maintenance road between Pennant Hills and Beecroft (similar to Deniston) and help us seek State funding?

Yes! Like a lot of other local residents, I'm extremely keen to see this bike path happen, and I'm grateful for all the planning that has been invested by local residents, Civic Trusts and Bike North so far. It would mean cars off the road and exercise & recreation opportunities for residents – such important outcomes. The delays from the state MPs are not satisfactory, and if I'm elected as a Councillor, I will collaborate with all key stakeholders including state representatives to ensure this bikeway is built without further delay.

## **Joseph Nicita    The Greens for Ward B Councillor**

Joseph is with the Greens group in Ward B and has said that he is aligned with the responses from Susan Hughes above and Emma Heyde the Greens candidate for Mayor and Ward C.

## **Stacey Purcell    The Greens for Ward B Councillor**

Stacey is with the Greens group in Ward C and has said that she is aligned with the responses from Susan Hughes above and Emma Heyde the Greens candidate for Mayor and Ward C.

# Christine Berman Independent for Ward B Councillor

Q1. What makes Pennant Hills unique or special to you, and how do you believe we can best both preserve and enhance these unique characteristics? How would you describe Pennant Hills in 20 years?

When I went to school in Cherrybrook in the late 1980s I always thought of Pennant Hills as peaceful safe and convenient. I have found Pennant Hills to be a great place to live, work and go to school. Over the past 30 years, Pennant Hills has become busier with the volume of traffic on all roads far above what it was when I was at school.

Pennant Hills is likely to be a very different place in 20 years time. There is hope that Northconnex will take a lot of traffic off local roads. This gives hope that Pennant Hills can be far more liveable. Due to pressure from higher levels of government, it is likely that Pennant Hills will be called upon to accommodate a large share of future development.

Q2. Pennant Hills Rd and NorthConnex are State (RMS) jurisdiction. Considering the matters in Hornsby Council jurisdiction -- what is your vision to improve traffic flows and parking in Pennant Hills?

As Northconnex is built, traffic flow on local roads will change. Council should review all effected roads with the intention of moving traffic off residential streets.

Q3. We have been promised a town centre Pennant Hills Masterplan since before the year 2000. Last year some progress was made by Hornsby Council. Will you commit to complete the Pennant Hills Masterplan before September 2020 (3 years)?

Yes. It is needed and I'll make it a priority if elected.

Q4. What is your plan to support and grow business in Pennant Hills? What mistakes were made during the Beecroft development -- and how do you ensure that they are not repeated with any potential redevelopment of Pennant Hills?

Businesses in Beecroft were disrupted more than anyone would have imagined. Council needs to better liaise with local business to ensure these disruptions are minimised.

Q5. Some people see medium density housing as a way to improve housing affordability in Hornsby Shire, what is your view in relation to Pennant Hills?

Medium density developed is not a "silver bullet". It should be part of the solution and not relied upon exclusively.

Q6. Pennant Hills District Civic Trust, working with Beecroft & Epping Civic Trusts, BikeNorth, Hornsby Council and our State Members Damien Tudehope and Matt Kean, submitted to the State Government a proposal for a cycle path from Pennant Hills to Epping. Will you support our preferred route using the rail maintenance road between Pennant Hills and Beecroft (similar to Deniston) and help us seek State funding?

Yes.

## **Barbie Blake Independent for Ward B Councillor**

We emailed Barbie on 28.8.2017 using the email address that is on the NSWEC website. We also sent a follow up email on 6.9.2017, but did not receive any response.

If a late response is received before Friday night 8.9.2017, then we will try to update our members with an email and on our website.

## **Fionnuala Armstrong Independent for Ward B Councillor**

Fionnuala did not have a phone number or email address on the NSWEC website, nor on her Candidate Information Sheet and she did not attend the Ward B meet the candidates event at Thornleigh West. Unfortunately we have not been able to contact her to send her the questions.

If a late response is received before Friday night 8.9.2017, then we will try to update our members with an email and on our website.

# Janelle McIntosh Labor for Ward B Councillor

**Q1. What makes Pennant Hills unique or special to you, and how do you believe we can best both preserve and enhance these unique characteristics? How would you describe Pennant Hills in 20 years?**

I grew up in Hornsby, but have always used facilities in Pennant Hills and appreciated the amenity and resources that Pennant Hills offers to the community - while still very much maintaining a village feel. I used Pennant Hills sporting venues as a teenager (netball) and my six year old son attended day care in Ramsay road for many years, so we've been regular shoppers and diners in the area. I enjoy the unique shops, the village feel and easy parking. It's clear from reading the resident's responses to the PHDCT survey and the Council's "Picture Pennant Hills" consultation that preservation of the 'village feel' and all residents would like to see local businesses supported and improvements made to the general amenity, accessibility and parking in the area.

It's been said often that Pennant Hills lacks a strong public space and it would be imperative in my mind that Pennant Hills has strengthened public facilities that are well connected to the retail / commercial area.

In twenty years time I would like to see Pennant Hills continuing to provide a strong village feel, with any new developments in keeping with the heritage nature of the area. The masterplan process provides residents, the PHDCT and Council with an incredible opportunity to learn the lessons from other suburb developments (eg Beecroft). The unique Wollundry Park, and improvements to the Pennant Hills Library and adjacent community centre should be at the heart of public facility re-development in Pennant Hills. These facilities should open up to the adjacent park and provide unique opportunities for community participation and learning just across the road from the railway station. The laneways of Pennant Hills are another unique feature of the area that could be encouraged to provide a highly sought after shopping and business environment.

**Q2. Pennant Hills Rd and NorthConnex are State (RMS) jurisdiction. Considering the matters in Hornsby Council jurisdiction -- what is your vision to improve traffic flows and parking in Pennant Hills?**

Managing local traffic, handling the 'rat-runners' who use The Esplanade/Yarrara from Hornsby and addressing the well-documented parking concerns are critical for the future of the Centre. It's important that Hornsby Council maintains a strong dialogue with the RMS over the issues surrounding Pennant Hills and that the RMS are part of the ongoing masterplan process. I've heard it said it said that the opening of NorthConnex will instantly free up the local roads, but that only works if there is a strong plan in place to manage this process.

**Q3. We have been promised a town centre Pennant Hills Masterplan since before the year 2000. Last year some progress was made by Hornsby Council. Will you commit to complete the Pennant Hills Masterplan before September 2020 (3 years)?**

Yes, I think this is absolutely critical. A strong town centre needs a masterplan that is highly interactive and comprehensive - it cannot simply be about building heights or local traffic. A sound masterplan would address private developments, public domain improvements, access, traffic and transport, community facilities and business support and development.

**Q4. What is your plan to support and grow business in Pennant Hills? What mistakes were made during the Beecroft development -- and how do you ensure that they are not repeated with any potential redevelopment of Pennant Hills?**

Hornsby Council needs to re-institute an Economic Development Program and employ suitable staff to engage with business and industry in our Shire. I campaigned on this prior to election in 2004 and was successful in securing support for an economic development officer in that term of council, in developing a local program, establishing an Economic Development Taskforce and engaging with Kur-ring-gai Council with a Regional Economic Development Strategy. I spent more than a decade establishing and managing a similar program for another major Sydney Council between 1999 - 2011 and I will be bringing this issue back to Council in 2017 as a priority.

Beecroft businesses suffered as a result of the development of Beecroft, through lack of dedicated consultation and information. This would be one of the roles of an Economic Development Officer. Economic Development and support of local businesses, both centre-based and home-based must be a key feature of the Pennant Hills Masterplan.

**Q5. Some people see medium density housing as a way to improve housing affordability in Hornsby Shire, what is your view in relation to Pennant Hills?**

Medium density housing is just one option but a strong centre will provide a range of housing options to suit individuals and families at all stages of life. Ageing in place is an important consideration for our community and many residents lament that they wish to stay in their suburbs which have been home to them for decades, but in more suitable accommodation than a single dwelling home on a large block. A strong suburb will offer shop-top housing, affordable housing, seniors living, townhouses and villas, studios, apartments and single dwelling homes. It's important for Pennant Hills that the housing options addresses the unique heritage and environmental characteristics of the area.

**Q6. Pennant Hills District Civic Trust, working with Beecroft & Epping Civic Trusts, BikeNorth, Hornsby Council and our State Members Damien Tudehope and Matt Kean, submitted to the State Government a proposal for a cycle path from Pennant Hills to Epping. Will you support our preferred route using the rail maintenance road between Pennant Hills and Beecroft (similar to Deniston) and help us seek State funding?**

I support the cycle path proposed and am a strong supporter of a network of cycleways across our Shire and linking to the neighbouring local government areas. I was involved in the creation of Hornsby Shire's earlier Bike Plan, launched in 2006 and would like to see this proposal linked to a renewed Bike Plan for the Shire.

I also support exploration of other funding sources - State Government is not the only possible source of funds and I would encourage exploration of funding from the Federal Government, from s94, and from private trusts and foundations.

## **Luke Chapman Labor for Ward B Councillor**

Luke is with the Labor group in Ward B and has said that he is aligned with the responses from Janelle McIntosh the Labour candidate for Mayor and Ward B, above.

## **Joe Von Bornemann Labor for Ward B Councillor**

Joe is with the Labor group in Ward B and has said that he is aligned with the responses from Janelle McIntosh the Labour candidate for Mayor and Ward B, above.

## **Robert Browne      Liberal for Ward B Councillor**

Robert is with the Liberals group in Ward B, he has been a Councillor on Hornsby Council for many years, and is well known to many members of PHDCT, we emailed Robert on 28.8.2017. He has said that he is aligned with the responses from Philip Ruddock the Liberal candidate for Mayor. To save readers from flipping to other documents, I have pasted Philip's answers below.

## **Steve Khouw      Liberal for Ward B Councillor**

Steve is with the Liberals group in Ward B, he did not have a phone number or email address on the NSWEC website, nor on his Candidate Information Sheet. He attended the Ward B meet the candidates events at Thornleigh West and Beecroft. We emailed other Liberal candidates on 28.8.2017 asking them for Steve's email address. Steve is aligned with the responses from Philip Ruddock the Liberal candidate for Mayor.

To save readers from flipping to other documents, I have pasted Philip's answers below.

## **Usha Dommaraju      Liberal for Ward B Councillor**

Usha is with the Liberals group in Ward B, she did not have a phone number or email address on the NSWEC website, nor on her Candidate Information Sheet. She attended the Ward B meet the candidates events at Thornleigh West and Beecroft. We emailed other Liberal candidates on 28.8.2017 asking them for Usha's email address. Usha is aligned with the responses from Philip Ruddock the Liberal candidate for Mayor.

To save readers from flipping to other documents, I have pasted Philip's answers below.

## **Philip Ruddock      Liberal for Mayor**

**Q1.      What makes Pennant Hills unique or special to you, and how do you believe we can best both preserve and enhance these unique characteristics? How would you describe Pennant Hills in 20 years?**

Pennant Hills has been my home for most of my life having moved here in 1949, attending Pennant Hills Primary School and participating in church life locally. Its unique heritage buildings and infrastructure need to be maintained in both residential and commercial areas. Further development needs to complement these special characteristics, along with its significant bushland environment. I hope an enhanced centre in 20 years time will not have detracted from these special qualities.

**Q2.      Pennant Hills Rd and NorthConnex are State (RMS) jurisdiction. Considering the matters in Hornsby Council jurisdiction -- what is your vision to improve traffic flows and parking in Pennant Hills?**

Reduced traffic on Pennant Hills Road will not obviate issues surrounding weekend traffic around Pennant Hills Park and reasonable access for shoppers and for school communities on the western side. Hopefully a Pennant Hills Master Plan or enhanced parking facilities could enable a reduction in street parking and improve traffic flows.

**Q3.      We have been promised a town centre Pennant Hills Masterplan since before the year 2000. Last year some progress was made by Hornsby Council. Will you commit to complete the Pennant Hills Masterplan before September 2020 (3 years)?**

I am firmly committed to priority support for a Pennant Hills Master Plan.

**Q4.      What is your plan to support and grow business in Pennant Hills? What mistakes were made during the Beecroft development -- and how do you ensure that they are not repeated with any potential redevelopment of Pennant Hills?**

I cannot determine what the market dictates in terms of commercial opportunities. Any response has to be made in the context of those proposals, having regard to the impact on existing businesses. I would certainly try to avoid any overdevelopment in Pennant Hills that is not in keeping with its unique characteristics.

Q5. Some people see medium density housing as a way to improve housing affordability in Hornsby Shire, what is your view in relation to Pennant Hills?

In my view any medium density development should reflect the market for various accommodation needs and the aspirations of those who wish to live in this unique and picturesque area.

Q6. Pennant Hills District Civic Trust, working with Beecroft & Epping Civic Trusts, BikeNorth, Hornsby Council and our State Members Damien Tudehope and Matt Kean, submitted to the State Government a proposal for a cycle path from Pennant Hills to Epping. Will you support our preferred route using the rail maintenance road between Pennant Hills and Beecroft (similar to Deniston) and help us seek State funding?

I am familiar with the area, frequently traversing it on foot, and would support any development that would adequately accommodate both cycling and pedestrian needs.

Please note, to avoid confusion, Philip Ruddock is a candidate for Mayor, and not a Ward B Councillor, his answers are only included here because they were referenced by his Liberal colleagues.

END OF HORNSBY: WARD B COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES SECTION