



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

ISSUE No 59

9 NOVEMBER 2010

COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE AM
AREA COUNCILLOR - CITY OF ADELAIDE

32 Dukes Lane Adelaide SA 5000
Email dplumrid@bigpond.net.au

Tel 8232 0515 Mob 0417 088 992
Website www.davidplumridge.com

ELECTION FEVER BUT NOT MUCH TEMPERATURE

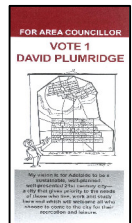
At the time of writing these Notes, the latest available polling figures for Adelaide City Council (5 November) are showing a very disappointing response with **North Ward** 1374 votes cast out of 6837 = **20.10%**; **Central Ward** 1266 out of 8788 = **14.41%** and **South Ward** 1371 out of 7611 = **18.01%** **TOTAL** 4011 out of 23236 = **17.26%**

Various reasons are offered by ratepayers as to why there is such a lack of interest in Council elections, such as ...

▪ *generally the electors are happy with the Council (!) ▪ "nothing council does affects me much so why should I bother to vote" ▪ "it's not compulsory, is it?" ▪ we have had too many elections already this year ▪ "this postal voting is all too hard to understand" ▪ I don't know any of the candidates or what they stand for" ...and so it goes on.*

So how are we supposed to get the message out there and enthuse you to vote?

Brochures and Leaflets In the City there are, overall, 31 candidates running for office, each running his/her campaign to the best of their ability and within the limited resources available. Remember that most, if not all, of the candidates running for positions as Councillors are working on their own, supported by family and a faithful band of volunteers with no financial backing. Printing costs are spiralling and if you are an Area Councillor, as I am, you are faced with a distribution to the whole city, of some 12,500 postal addresses. Many walk the streets with a self-printed leaflet, knocking on some of the doors – that is, those that are not barricaded shut – pondering whether or not to deliver to the "NO JUNK MAIL" boxes and knowing all the time that most people are probably not going to vote at all, let alone for you!



Posters and Media advertising

Generally, I think posters are a blight on the landscape and should be banned. In our campaign I commend Stephen Yarwood and Ralph Clarke for not using this form of self-promotion. Advertising in the media is also very expensive and, in my opinion, not worth the money. **It will be a sorry day for Local Government and for local democracy when the spoils of office go to the biggest spenders who offer gloss often at the expense of substance.**

For this election, the idea was that Councils should contribute to an LGA fund for wider advertising with more impact; but so far I have seen very little advertising and what I have seen has been pretty low-key. The print media and the radio stations have given very little coverage of local candidates, their policies and issues that should be discussed.

Emails, Facebook, Twitter, Blogs etc

These are the new ways of campaigning and have been used by some candidates, Stephen Yarwood in particular. It will be interesting to see how effective they turn out to be in converting an electronic link into a **written postal vote**. When we eventually have electronic on-line voting, I am sure the social media will be a major form of campaigning.

Public Meetings

To their credit our residents' groups and some of our Precinct Groups gave their members a chance to Meet the Candidates (well those who turned up) but **they were not as well-attended as they deserved to be**. Most disappointingly, **the business community has done virtually nothing** to engage their constituency, other than a couple of exorbitantly expensive forums one of which had to drag in the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to act as bait! Given the year-round strident voices of the business and property communities one can surely be excused for asking 'where the bloody hell are they' when it comes to the pointy-end of the election and voting process? **As voters they are either 'missing in action' or perhaps they really are indeed a 'vocal minority'**

Policy versus Pizzazz

Most candidates have made an attempt to present their main policy directions in down-to-earth understandable terms but of course no one can promise a particular outcome. This lack of a 'party ticket' is both a strength and a weakness in Local Government in South Australia. At times it might appear that Council is divided; some may even go so far as to call it 'dysfunctional'.

(refer 6 November Advertiser Editorial extract) But the so-called evidence is never produced and in my three years as a member of this Council I have seen few if any incidents of factionalism or internal divisions. Sure at times there have been debates and differences of opinion but that is what good democratic processes are supposed to be about.

Council has adopted and is working to a Strategic Plan, aligned to the State Plan and is showing sound financial control. Contrary to editorial opinion, Victoria Park is being developed in accordance with its Masterplan and the Victoria Square plan is currently being documented in preparation for going to tender at about the middle of 2011.

So now it's up to you

The candidates have put themselves forward, bared their souls, spent their hard-earned dollars and much personal time and now it's up to you to take the five minutes or so that it takes to fill in and return your ballot papers. **Do it now!**

So far, however, the mayoral battle has been far from edifying.
It has been more about stunts than policy, personal issues rather than expounding a vision.
For more than two decades – with a few exceptions – the council largely has been dysfunctional and there has been plenty of evidence to show its decision-making has been hampered by factionalism and internal divisions.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA (CVA)

CVA is a national, not-for-profit community based organisation that is dedicated to involving the community in practical conservation natural resource management programs. Each year CVA delivers in excess of 800,000 hours of conservation volunteering and welcomes more than 10,000 volunteers a year.

CVA works in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities, Local Councils, community groups, conservation agencies, tourism organisations and operators, State Governments and Departments, the Federal Government, NGOs and individual land owners. The local branch is running an exciting **Summer of Discovery** activities program which includes a number of interesting activities in the City in December and January. For full details, email CVA at Adelaide@cva.org.au or phone them on 8212 0777.



HOW DOES ADELAIDE COMPARE AS A SUSTAINABLE CITY?

The 2010 ACF Sustainable Cities Index (SCI) provides a snapshot of comparative performance in each of **Australia's 20 largest cities**, with the aim of encouraging healthy competition, stimulating discussion and suggesting new ways of thinking about our cities.

Adelaide is our 5th largest city and rates at 14 on the Sustainable Cities Index.

A rigorous compilation, assessment and independent review over several months established 15 indicators across three broad 'baskets': environmental performance, quality of life and resilience. http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res/2010_ACF_SCI_City_Fact_Sheet_-_Adelaide.pdf



[Some recent meeting decisions](#) (full details are available on the Council's website 5 days after the meeting)

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 1 November (next Mtg Monday 15 Nov. at 5.30)

2. Non-Complying Application

■ (Item 2.1) The Panel resolved **NOT TO PROCEED** with assessment of an application to construct a 3-level dwelling with associated garaging on vacant land at **17 Watson Street, North Adelaide** (DA/748/2010)

3. Applications for consideration on Merit

■ (Item 3.1) Development Plan Consent was **GRANTED** to demolish the rear portion of existing dwelling at **41 Stanley Street, North Adelaide** and construct a new single storey addition and carry out maintenance work. This consent was subject to a number of conditions in order to retain the integrity of the building

■ (Item 3.2) Development Plan Consent was **REFUSED** for alterations to existing and construction of 6 level addition to create 3 ground floor shops and 20 student accommodation apartments at **133-139 Hindley Street** (DA/51/2010)

The building as proposed did not comply with 9 of the relevant Principles of Development Control.

4. Schedule 10 Matter

■ (Item 4.1) The Panel resolved to advise the Development Assessment Commission that supports the proposed construction of a 9 level residential building with basement car parking on land at **111-115 South Terrace**. (DA/624/2010). The support was subject to a number of representations which led to a series of conditions.

COUNCIL MEETING - Meeting held 8 November (Next Meeting of the new Council - 6 December at 5.30pm)

8.1 A Question on Notice was asked by **myself** on the numbers of voters in the various categories on the current voters roll. There are 10,039 House of Assembly voters, 4,477 other enrolled individuals and 8,085 body corporates. and groups. The total number of separate voting entitlements is 23,236 of which 22,601 are unique entitlements.

9. I moved **Motions without Notice** 1) to extend the consultation period for the **P/Lands Landscape Master Plan** which will now run for 4 weeks from the date of its release and 2) A **horticultural matter** to be dealt with in confidence.

11. Items for Council

■ (Item 11.1) Council agreed to the **partial rescission** of the Agreement controlling desired development of the land formerly occupied by Channel 10, insofar as it affects **133 and 135 Barnard St North Adelaide**.

■ (Item 11.2) Council agreed to the **rescission** of the Land Management Agreement registered over CT Vol. 6029, folio 903 related to the development of land at **30-40 Gilbert Street, Adelaide**. The owner seeks to change from office to residential use of the site due to the current lack of funding available for office construction work.

■ (Item 11.3) Council approval was given for the **pruning of a significant tree** in Victoria Park/Bakkabakkandi and of a dead tree in Park 2 and the removal of 2 other trees in Parks 1 and 2. All work approved is for reasons of **public safety**.

■ (Item 11.4) Council gave approval for the **removal of dead trees** in Parks 27, 2 and in one in **Hurtle Square**. Again these trees present an undue risk to public safety and they also show an 'undesired visual amenity'

■ (Item 11.5) Council gave approval for the use of the North Park for car parking for the **Test Match Dinner** on 1 December (1200 guests) and the **Bradman Oration Dinner** on 2 December (600-700 guests). I object to the use of the Park Lands for these commercial events which are totally against the provisions made for the recently-adopted CLMP.

This is the thin end of the wedge – SACA will milk Council's indulgence for all they can get knowing full well that this is contrary to the provisions of the CLMP and having done absolutely nothing to begin moves to comply with the conditions of their planning consent regarding access and parking for their expanded facilities.

■ (Item 11.6) Council approved the **Annual Business Plan & Budget** variations in accordance with the June framework.

■ (Item 11.7) Advice from Council's **Audit Committee** was received and a series of recommendations were noted for action by the incoming Council. Recommendations include expanded membership by 1 independent and 1 Councillor and the extension of the term of office of the independents by at least 1 year. Remuneration should also be reviewed.

■ (Item 11.8) A report on the Outcome of the annual **Review of Confidentiality Orders** was received and noted.

12. Recommendations seeking the exclusion of the Public

13. Confidential Items 1) A request to consider a **Permit with Special Conditions** was considered in confidence and 2) A horticultural matter involving **damage to trees in the East Park Lands** was discussed and determined.

