

AN AUSSIE HELLENE MAYOR CITY OF HUME

HELEN PATSIKATHEODOROU ELECTED MAYORESS

A Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis in conjunction with John Patsikatheodorou



Approximately 300 people attended the meeting of the City of Hume Council on Wednesday 2 December 2010.

The community witnessed Cr Helen Patsikatheodorou elected as Mayoress for the City of Hume for the next 12 months. Guests had arrived early and were able to obtain a seat that was provided while those who arrived after the council had begun their proceeding were forced to stand.

Family, well wishers, relatives, friends and other interested parties had also attended along with a sprinkling of former councillors and the local business community.

The photographers were similar to the European Papparazzi taking photos at every opportunity. Earlier in the evening, Helen the newly elected Mayoress had gone onto went onto address the council meeting. A brief outline of her speech is as follows:

My sincerest thank you to my fellow Councillors – I am honoured to be elected as the Mayor of Hume. I greatly appreciate this and feel privileged to be given the responsibility of being the mayor of this great community. I would also like to acknowledge our previous Mayor, Councillor Geoff Porter, for his efforts and commitment to the community. Geoff, your advocacy and commitment to Hume City Council are admirable. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the Councillors.

I look forward to your continued contribution, commitment and support to making the lives of our community better. I also look forward to working closely with the CEO, Executive Management Team and all staff. This Council is committed to achieving great outcomes for our community and the City – it is a journey we have taken and one we will continue. I think it is important for a community to have an insight into and better understanding of its leader – a person's background and what drives them often reflects the outcomes of that leadership year.

Tonight, I have here my parents Anastasia and Steve; my husband John and my sons – Dimitri, who has flown in from Perth, Stratos and Nikolas. I would also like to acknowledge my friends who are too many to name but have been very supportive and all the community members. I am honoured and humbled that you are present.

Helen gave an outline of her origins, paying tribute to her parents for all of their sacrifices and thanked her husband John and three sons for their support. I want to see a community where neighbours speak to one another and the whole community actively participates in cultural activities of our past and emerging groups. A community that is less judging and more inclusive, and ensures that our aged who live at home alone are not forgotten and our children are provided with the best possible opportunities for a better future.

In my Mayoral year, I would like to focus on several areas where I believe we can make a difference: I am committed to improved customer service – it is really important that our community

knows and understands how decisions are made, how they can get involved and the opportunities to provide feedback. As the Mayor, I am committed to listening to the community about what they value and their aspirations.



In this way we can respond to concerns raised by the community and address them; one such issue is the Tullamarine Landfill At every opportunity. I will continue to advocate to the State Government on behalf of residents regarding the rehabilitation of the Tullamarine Landfill.

We have and will continue to actively encourage the EPA to undertake its obligations as the environmental watchdog and ensure that post- closure rehabilitation is front of mind.

I want to continue the work started by our former Mayor on improving the lives of youth in the City. Our Youth Strategy is integral to this outcome and sets a new direction in service delivery. We will consider opportunities for partnerships, youth leadership, new technologies and projects that connect young people with their local community. This can be done, not just in our growth areas but areas like Gladstone Park, Tullamarine and Greenvale.



Our community has many things to be proud of – our rich diversity, geographic locations and heritage to name a few – but there are also real and significant challenges. We have the highest youth unemployment rate in Broadmeadows, mental health issues and high incidence of violence against women.

As Mayor, I will be the strongest advocate I can be to ensure that we as Council continue working with all levels of government and local organisations to improve services provided and safety of all in the City.

The final stages of the Main Street extension, the construction and opening of the Craigieburn Library and Learning Centre, further development of the Sunbury streetscape, the final stages of planning for the Craigieburn Town Centre, and the development of the Broadmeadows Central Activities District, the Capital of the North. In my Mayoral year, I am also committed to finding innovative ways to improve our levels of engagement and provide opportunities for people to have a say.

There are many opportunities for the community to be involved and I look forward to the community engagement framework that is being developed. We will continue to engage our community on all projects and listen to what matters to them. There are so many good news stories at Council from service delivery to the vast array of strategies, policies and programs that we deliver. I want to get the message out! I look forward to the delivery of our new website that will help us get these messages out.

We are a diverse community and we look at ways to partner with other levels of Government and to better deliver programs that promote social inclusion. We can do more and we can work with others to provide programs of learning, literacy and language to those that need them. I am extremely proud of Hume's commitment and reputation as a learning community.



I will continue to champion the Hume Global Learning Village, which provides learning opportunities for people of all ages, regardless of ability and ethnicity.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one – we will face much growth, change and development. A number of the projects that were started in the last two financial years are now coming to fruition.

I look forward to seeing the completion of: Our program will continue to develop community facilities including a two-court extension for the Craigieburn Leisure Centre. The Boardman Stadium in Sunbury and the Broadmeadows Town Park. And we look forward to an exciting year for our events and festivals; especially the year-long celebration in Sunbury to commemorate its 175th anniversary. I am honoured that in the Centenary of International Women's Day, I have been given the privilege of being the Mayor of Hume. Thank you and I look forward to your support and encouragement.



Before

At the end of the Council proceeding the guests were ushered into an adjoining room followed by light refreshments and congratulatory speeches.

A charity fundraiser, for "Movember" John Patsikatheodorou had volunteered along with others to have his moustache shaved by the newly elected Mayoress to raise funds for "Movember"



After



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538

CITY OF HUME ALBUM



