

# LANE COVE MAYORS

A RETROSPECTIVE

1895 – 2023



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# FOREWORD

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Lane Cove Municipality was incorporated in February 1895 and has undergone a great deal of growth and development over the last 128 years. When the Municipality was incorporated the area looked more like a collection of country villages than the dense residential area we recognise today. There was very little street lighting and the lighting that did exist was by kerosene lamp. The few 'constructed' roads were made of dirt and gravel. One Council ganger of the day told his daughter Daisy that residents preferred to use the bush tracks rather than attempt to navigate the muddy tracks churned up by horses and car traffic.

According to the Sands Directory of 1897 there were 233 dwellings and a population of just 1,200. In 2016, the residential population was estimated to be 36,996.

In February 1885, 150 ratepayers of River Ward, North Willoughby (now the Municipality of Willoughby) signed a petition asking for separation from the Municipality of Willoughby. On this occasion they were unsuccessful, but a second petition signed by 306 ratepayers in 1893 met with more success. The first Lane Cove local government election was held on the 26 March 1895 and

the first Mayor, Jeremiah Roberts, was formally elected by his fellow Councillors on the 4 April 1895. As with today, public infrastructure was vital and one of Council's first projects was to call for tenders in May 1895, for the construction of St Leonards Wharf (now known as Bay Street Wharf).

Lane Cove's Mayors and Aldermen have reflected the general make-up of the community. They have worked in all types of industries and have included influential business people, local environmental activists, farmers and scholars. Some could be classified as characters, including Mayor 'Fred' Graham who enlisted to drive trucks in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) during the First World War. Mayor Richard (Dick) Nossiter continued the tradition when he served on Allied convoy ships in the North Atlantic during World War II. Lane Cove broke ground when Marjorie Propsting was elected the first female Mayor on the North Shore and Council continues to have a high proportion of women serving the Municipality.

There is one aspect that unites the Mayors of Lane Cove – a drive and compulsion to serve the community in which they live, and to leave it better than how they found it.

**MAYOR: 1895, 1896**

# JEREMIAH ROBERTS

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1895 – 1903  
Served as Alderman on Willoughby Council: Prior to 1895

Jeremiah Roberts was born in Ireland circa 1853 and emigrated to New South Wales when he was 10 years old. He served as an alderman on Willoughby Council, and became Lane Cove's first Mayor when the Municipality was incorporated in 1895. He oversaw Council's establishment and its first budget which included funds

for improving the Municipality's roads which had been neglected while the Municipality formed River Ward in the Borough of Willoughby. During Roberts' second tenure as Mayor the first Council Chambers was constructed at the intersection of Longueville and River Road West.



**MAYOR: 1897**

# JAMES ROBB

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1895 – c. 1904

James Robb oversaw the surveying of land in the south-eastern corner of the Municipality for the construction of sewer and water lines by the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. As Mayor he lobbied for the extension of

tram services further along the Pacific Highway. He also successfully lobbied the Royal Botanical Gardens for a selection of ornamental trees for the Municipality's parks and reserves.



*The first tram to Lane Cove, 1897  
(Courtesy of the Sydney Tramway Museum)*

**1900:** Resumption of three acres of land for a cricket ground at Longueville, now known as Kingsford Smith Oval.

**MAYOR: 1898 – 1899, 1901 – 1903**

# HENRY CHARLES CATT

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1895 – 1916  
Served as Alderman on Willoughby Council: Prior to 1895

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Henry Charles Catt was a real estate agent and developer who during his term as Mayor lobbied and oversaw local surveying for the extension of reticulated water supplies and sewerage lines in the Municipality. He was responsible for the extension of gas-lighting into Longueville and along sections of the

Lane Cove Central Business District. Henry successfully lobbied for the Lane Cove Ferry Service city terminus to be moved from Erskine Street to Circular Quay and extended Council's opening hours from Tuesday evenings to Wednesday and Fridays 10 am to 12 noon.



**MAYOR: 1900**

# CHARLES EDWARD HENRY JOHN LUDOWICI

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1895 – 1901, 1904 – 1906, 1908 – 1919

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Charles Ludowici was the son of John Charles Ludowici, one of the Municipality's earliest industrialists. Charles split with the family company, J. C. Ludowici & Son in 1913 and went on to establish Mangrovite Industries.

During Charles Ludowici's term as Mayor the Municipality was divided into three wards; East, Central and West Ward. He

began lobbying for the relocation of Greenwich Public School from Greenwich Point to a more 'central' location further up the peninsula. The tramway service was extended from Crows Nest to Gore Hill and Council began to lobby for the extension of the service into Lane Cove. During this time Lane Cove was lit by 35 gas lamps.



MAYOR: 1904 – 1905

# CYRIL BLACKET

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1903 – 1906

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Cyril Blacket was the second son of well-known Australian architect Edmund Thomas Blacket. Cyril moved to Greenwich circa 1902 and resided in the area until circa early 1907.

He was elected to Council to fill an extraordinary vacancy in February 1903. As Mayor, Cyril Blacket introduced a policy of 'development without cost'. It was hoped that improved community facilities would attract more residents and therefore more rates. The policy also

hoped to get financial support from local residents, under the 'guidance of the Council' to assist with the construction of the new facilities. The new Town Hall (completed 1906) on the corner of Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway) and Bellevue Avenue was built as a result of this policy. Mrs Agnes Williams invested £3000 for the purchase of the land and construction, and received interest of 6 percent on rentals of the premises.



MAYOR: 1906 – 1909, 1912 – 1913

# JOSEPH BURDEKIN HOLDSWORTH

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1903 – 1913

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Joseph Burdekin was born in 1851, the son of immigrants from Yorkshire England. He inherited his father's wholesale and retail ironmongery business and continued to expand the business during his tenure as owner.

He was elected to Lane Cove Council in 1903 and served a number of terms as Mayor. He lobbied for improvements to

the tramway services and the line was extended to the corner of Longueville Road and Burns Bay Road in 1909. During his tenure as Mayor in 1912-1913 a referendum was held to establish public support for the construction of Baths at Greenwich. The community support was encouraging, however the baths wouldn't be completed until 1916.



**MAYOR: 1910 – 1911**

# WALTER VIVIAN THOMAS

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1905 – 1912

During his term as Mayor, Walter Thomas oversaw the dedication of part of Manns Point Reserve. In October 1911 voters from East Ward approached Council to ask for a separate municipality. The proposal was turned down by Council but

the voters appealed to the Public Works Department and an inquiry was held in 1912 during Holdsworth's tenure as Mayor. The commissioner also found against the separatists.

**1916:** Opening of Greenwich Baths**MAYOR: 1914 – JUN. 1917**

# JAMES WILLIAM TOMLIN

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1903 – 1919

James Tomlin was the eldest son of one of Northwood's earliest families, John and Mary Tomlin. He established a successful metal trading business and was a keen cricketer who served as President of the Lane Cove Cricket Association for a number of years.

James Tomlin was Mayor of Lane Cove for much of World War I and had the unenviable task of assisting with the

writing of condolence letters for members of the community who had lost sons during the war. On a happier note he oversaw the opening of Greenwich Baths in November 1916 and electrical street lighting was introduced in the Municipality for the first time. On a happier note he oversaw the opening of Greenwich Baths in November 1916 and electrical street lighting was introduced in the Municipality.



MAYOR: JUL. 1917 – 1919

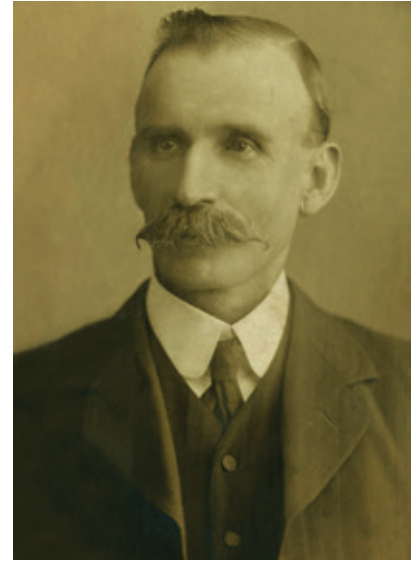
# JOHN LLOYD JONES

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1911 – 1919

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During his term as Mayor John Lloyd-Jones initiated a number of public infrastructure maintenance projects, including joining with North Sydney Council to take over control of the Wollstonecraft Bridge (now known as the

Beencke pedestrian bridge) and repairing the Phoenix Street bridge. At this time Council also remitted building application fees for the construction of homes built as part of returned servicemen's housing schemes.



MAYOR: JUN. 1919 – 1920

# ROBERT JOHN HARRISON

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1895 – 1902, 1914 – 1917, 1919 – 1920

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John Harrison went to sea as an apprentice at 15 years of age and immigrated to New South Wales where he joined the Defence Department, retiring with the rank of Major. He was secretary of the first Lane Cove Cricket Club and vice-president of the Greenwich branch of the United Australia Party, the forerunner of the Liberal Party of Australia.

Following the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 John Harrison oversaw some of the Municipality's peace celebrations. In December 1919 Council signed off on the purchase of four lots of the Tramway Estate, part of which included the site of the Municipality's third civic centre site, now the Library.



MAYOR: 1920 – JUL. 1923, 1926

# ANGUS JAMES FRASER

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1917 – 1923, 1926 – 1930

Angus Fraser was a well-known Sydney-based butter, hides and tallow exporter. He served two terms as an Alderman, resigning from Council in mid 1923 to spend more time with his family. At that stage he had five children and ‘they are just at that stage when I should be with them as much as possible.’ He was re-elected in 1926 and served with Council until 1930.

As Mayor, Alderman Fraser was responsible for having more horse troughs constructed in Central and West Wards. Money was also voted to lay tarred gravel

from the Lane Cove Fire Station (corner of Pacific Highway and Longueville Road) to the Tramway Estate (Central Lane Cove business district) and to construct Moore Street. The East, Central and West Wards were declared residential districts, except for the current industries already in operation. Council voted £20 to assist with celebrations to open the new Longueville Public School building (now Lane Cove Public School). Angus Fraser and the Council also established a design competition for the proposed new Town Hall on Longueville Road (now the Library).



MAYOR: JUL. 1923 – DEC. 1923, 1939 – 1943

# ARCHIBALD AITKEN JOHNSTON

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: May 1912 – 1931, 1935 – 1943

Archibald was a contractor. He was involved with establishing the Lane Cove Masonic Hall and was one of its first directors.

Archibald served two terms in office as Mayor, the first was for six months between mid 1923 and December 1923. Mayor Johnston opened the Lane Cove War Memorial School of Arts (now the Lane Cove Living and Learning Centre) during this first tenure as Mayor on September 1, 1923.

Germany and Japan began the descent into war during Archibald Johnston's second tenure as Mayor from 1939-1943, and this time saw a massive increase in Council civil defence projects, including

the construction of community air raid shelters and slit trenches. Of interest was Council's co-operation with the NRMA to train women to drive lorries for civil defence purposes. It was the first Council in the metropolitan area to adopt the scheme. Lane Cove Municipality's first written history was also published during Johnston's second tenure as Mayor in 1939. 1941 saw a change of council boundaries on the southern boundary between North Sydney and Lane Cove. From the beginning of 1943 Johnston and Council began to plan for post-World War II reconstruction. Reports were commissioned for the construction of roads, drains, paths and parks and the role Council could play in post-war housing construction.



MAYOR: 1924

# THOMAS JOHN HOWELL

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1923 – 1927, 1932 – 1934

Thomas John Howell represented West Ward and served two terms on Lane Cove Council, 1923-1927 and 1932-1934. He was a building contractor, president and life member of the Lane Cove War Memorial School of Arts and a leading local Freemason.

During Howell's tenure the tender for the construction of the third Lane Cove

Council chambers and offices (now the Library) was awarded to Mr P. Bottomley and the foundation stone was laid on the 2 May. The Town Hall was officially opened December 16, on the same evening that incoming Mayor Vincent Carroll was elected. The land for Tantallon Oval was also cleared during this period and an angle rail fence was built around the oval.



**1923:** Opening of the Lane Cove War Memorial School of Arts (now the Lane Cove Living and Learning Centre).

MAYOR: 1925

# VINCENT ALOYSIUS CARROLL

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1923 – 1925

Vincent Aloysius Carroll was a company secretary and had lived in the Municipality for four years. He was elected Mayor at the age of 35 and at the time had the distinction of being the youngest Mayor to have served on the North Shore. He had worked at sea until 1915 and served in the

Australian Imperial Forces during World War I.

During his tenure as Mayor, Vincent Carroll oversaw improvements to the Longueville Cricket Ground and Tantallon Oval.



**MAYOR: 1927 – 1929**

# FREDERICK WILLIAM DUNN

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1923 – 1931, 1935 – 1936

Frederick Dunn initially trained as a teacher, before becoming the principal of a real estate firm in Lane Cove, F.W. Dunn and Co. He was on the committee of the Lane Cove School of Arts, took an interest in the Lane Cove Cricket Club and was secretary of New South Wales Rugby Union for a number of years. He died in 1936 while serving on Lane Cove Council.

During Dunn's tenure as Mayor the Council successfully lobbied for the abolition of kerbside petrol pumps, where the pumps were placed on the kerb directly adjacent to the street and were a significant road safety hazard. Their lobbying saw the

introduction of the 'drive-in drive-out' petrol station we are familiar with today. Dunn and the Council also held a civic reception for Charles Kingsford Smith and Ulm after their crossing of the Pacific Ocean in 1928 and the Council renamed Longueville Cricket Ground the Kingsford Smith Oval in honour of the achievement. Charles Kingsford Smith's family lived at Longueville during this period. Dunn and the Council also began to lobby for a bridge at the end of Mowbray Road across the Lane Cove River. The bridge would be built with the construction of Epping Road in the 1930s.



**1924:** Opening of the Lane Cove Council Chambers on the site of the current Lane Cove Library.

**MAYOR: 1930**

# WILLIAM MALACHY BRADY

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1929 – 1937, 1942 – 1948

William Brady worked as a prosecuting officer for the Taxation Department and served two terms as a Lane Cove Alderman. He was appointed Mayor in 1930, just twelve months after being elected to Council for his first term.

During Brady's tenure as Mayor, Council finalised the purchase of Pottery Green from Mr W. B. Scott-Fell and they received approval from the Department of Local Government to begin construction of Mars Road from the Depot to Barwon Road.

Council also began to introduce programs to relieve male unemployment brought about as a result of the Great Depression. One of the schemes introduced by Council during Brady's tenure asked householders to contribute 1 shilling a week financial assistance and Council would provide public works projects and training to assist local unemployed men with work on a number of days a week. Two of the public works involved landscaping and laying-out Pottery Green and the construction of Mars Road.



MAYOR: 1931, 1934 – 1938

# JOHN MARSH

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1926 – 1941

John Marsh left school at the age of 12. He eventually emigrated from England with his wife, Rosa. John had a dairy in the block between Morrice Street and Tambourine Bay Road. At the height of the dairy's growth he had 8 delivery carts, a route that stretched from Roseville to Northwood and a stud herd of Jersey cows. He was elected to Lane Cove Council in 1926 and continued to serve on Council until 1941. John had a particular interest in the Municipality's recreational facilities and his wife, Rosa, organised the soup kitchens that operated in Lane Cove during the Great Depression.

John Marsh was Mayor of Lane Cove during some of the worst periods of

the Great Depression. In February 1931 Council agreed to an application from the local relief fund to provide Council's basement for a soup kitchen, with Council also covering the cost of the necessary alterations. In August of 1934 Council received approval from the Department of Labour and Industry to form a recreation ground at Gore Creek as part of a work relief program for the unemployed. The recreation ground (later renamed Bob Campbell Oval) and the Gore Creek reclamation project would continue for a number of years during the 1930s. The process of resuming land on the Pacific Highway for Coronation Viewpoint was commenced in 1935 when the Council purchased one lot. Three lots were



purchased by the State government and were handed over to Council for use as a public reserve. A bowling green was constructed at Central Park, Longueville in 1936 and was leased to the newly formed Lane Cove Bowling Club. In 1937 the Council activated a £110,000 works scheme to provide fulltime employment for 300 men. The projects funded included roads, footpaths and drainage schemes.

MAYOR: 1932

# CHARLES ROBERT CONRAD SCHARKIE

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1930 – 1937

Charles Scharkie was the son of Reverend John Scharkie and grew up in the Hunter Valley. He enlisted in World War I and fought in Egypt and France. On return to Australia he worked as an auditor and company accountant and he was a company director with a number of Sydney commercial firms. Charles was honorary secretary of the Constitutional Association for nearly three years and

stood as a Reform Party candidate at the City of Sydney elections in 1930.

During Scharkie's tenure as Mayor the clubhouse was opened at Greenwich Baths on 24 September 1932 and Council held its first Mayoral Ball. Councillors also attended the opening of the first Lane Cove Picture Theatre on the 8 August 1932. Council received £1,000 (approx. \$93,000) for an employment relief



program to level and fill Pottery Green. By 1934 the Great Depression was beginning to bite and unemployment was running very high, the Council tried to ensure that unemployed local men were employed in local programs over those who resided out of the area.

**MAYOR: 1933**

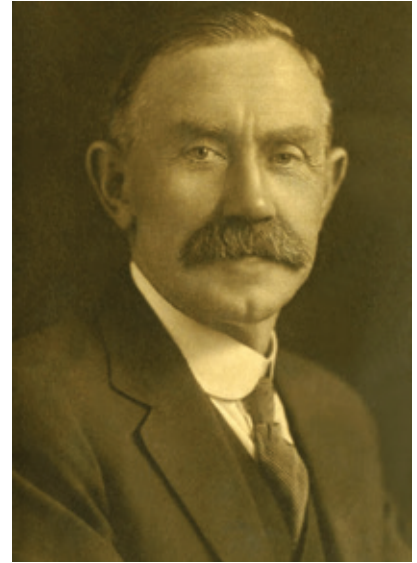
# FREDERICK GRAHAM

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1911 – 1922, 1932 – 1934 (He was granted a leave of absence to serve overseas in Australian Imperial Force from 1916 – 1918.)

Frederick Graham was described in his obituary as a 'colourful figure in the early days of Lane Cove'. He established the first Lane Cove service station and was a carrier by trade. Frederick Graham requested a leave of absence to serve during World War I and Council minutes record his adventures in Mesopotamia, now modern Iraq.

In February, during Frederick Graham's tenure, Council received a cheque for £50 from North Sydney Council to cover their half of repairs to the Wollstonecraft Footbridge and the repairs were

completed during the course of the year. Construction of the Longueville Rowing Clubhouse was also commenced and completed and the clubhouse opened its doors on the 25 November. The reclamation of Gore Creek and the oval continued as part of Council's emergency relief operations for the unemployed and Council made the decision to move the Depot from the corner of Northwood Road and Kenneth Street to Mars Road, now Blackman Park. However the entire move would take a couple of years to be completed owing to the difficult economic environment.



**1940:** Opening of Epping Road with two new bridges, the Lane Cove River Bridge and the Stringybark Creek Bridge.

**MAYOR: 1944 – 1946**

# GEORGE POLSON HOLLOWAY

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1932 – 1934, 1938 – 1953

George Holloway was born in 1893 and was a commercial artist who operated a printing and packaging business. Mayor Bill Henningham said that 'Lane Cove was poorer for Mr Holloway's passing' when George died in 1980. George was a member and president of the North Shore branch of the Road Safety Council of New South Wales and a foundation member of

the Lane Cove Bowling Club. He was also a life member of the New South Wales Masonic Club and the Greenwich Flying Squadron.

Holloway was Mayor for three years from 1944 to 1946 and in 1945 he participated in discussions on changes to municipal boundaries across Sydney.



MAYOR: 1947 – 1948

# JAMES ERNEST CLANCY RAWSON

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1938 – 1950

James Rawson served as an Alderman on Lane Cove Council from 1938-1950 and served as Mayor from 1947 to 1948. He was an auditor and worked for the Sydney City Council and Sydney County Council. James was also a Fellow of the Institute of Commonwealth Accountants and a member of Institute of Public Administration. He was an active member of the Lane Cove Bowling Club and served as President on occasion. He died in December 1950.

During Rawson's tenure as Mayor a new baby health care centre opened on what is now the current location of Gallery Lane Cove. The Council cleared an area at Tambourine Bay, now Riverview, for a post-World War II New South Wales Housing Commission estate, and the Housing Commission transferred land, free of cost, to Council for what would become Tambourine Bay Reserve. Sadly, due to chronic shortages of building materials following the war and lack of a permit from the Department of Building Materials, Council had to put



back renovations to the Lane Cove War Memorial School of Arts (now the Lane Cove Living and Learning Centre) for its conversion to a free public library. As Mayor, Rawson had also played a leading part in fighting the amalgamation of Lane Cove with other municipalities.

MAYOR: 1949 – 1950

# JOHN HARGRAVES HODGSON

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1932 – 1951

John Hargraves Hodgson was a customs manager with a large city warehouse, Chairman of the Sectional Committee for the Sydney Chamber of Commerce and an executive member of the Riverview Progress Association. He served as an Alderman for Central Ward and was on Council from 1932 to 1951, and Mayor from 1949 to 1950. Hodgson was a Freemason and was appointed Grand Master from 1951 – 1952.

During Hodgson's tenure as Mayor Council embarked on the development of its first systematic town planning scheme, and was assisted by the recently established Cumberland County Council. The development and construction of war service homes and related infrastructure in Riverview was a priority and Council completed the construction of Surada Avenue, Romani Avenue, parts of Miramont and Flaumont Avenue, the western part of Kallaroo and sections of Tambourine Bay Road.



MAYOR: 1951 – 1952

# JOHN HAROLD BLACKMAN

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1949 – 1959

John Blackman was born in Launceston, Tasmania on 15 December 1910. He worked for the North Sydney Gas Company from the age of 16 until he retired. Beginning as a clerk and accountant he rose to become Managing Director and also President of the Gas Association. He died in August 1986.

During Blackman's period as West Ward Alderman and then Mayor, a scheme was initiated to reclaim the mouth of Stoney Creek by depositing water-borne rocks

along the edge of the mangrove swamp where Stoney Creek joined the Lane Cove River, to ultimately fill the area with 'land deposited spoil'. In February 1952 controlled tipping of council garbage began on the site. This tip finally closed in 1979 and development of the area for recreation purposes began. It would become known as 'Blackman Park', after John Harold Blackman and is today a popular community hub for a wide range of recreational activities.



MAYOR: 1953 – 1954

# GEORGE OLIVER VENTEMAN

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1945 – 1968

Born in Mudgee NSW in 1897, George Venteman served in the Australian Imperial Force in World War I and continued his working life as an electrician on the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Re-enlisting for World War II, he later became Industrial Officer for the Lane Cove West chemical manufacturers, Robert Corbett Pty Ltd and continued living and working in Lane Cove.

Elected as a West Ward Alderman, while on Council he chaired many Council committees, served with several local sports clubs and was a trustee of the

Lane Cove National Park Trust. In 1954 during his mayoral office, the Queen Elizabeth II Royal Tour passed through the Municipality, Lane Cove shopping centre was gaily decorated, an archway erected at the approach to the Figtree Bridge and a fireworks display held on Pottery Green in her honour. The largest local factory, manufacturers and agents for Lakeland and Derwent pencils, Columbia Products also opened on Mowbray Road West. Mayor Venteman initiated a permanent troop of Boy Scouts to attend him on official occasions, the first of its kind to be



formed in New South Wales, and hosted the first naturalisation ceremony held in Council Chambers. The east bank of the Lane Cove River from the northern boundary to the end of Lincoln Street and the reserves along the foreshore are now known as Ventemans Reach.

**MAYOR: 1955 – 1956**

# GEORGE BATTEN

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1948 – 1959

Born in New Tredegar, South Wales in 1906, George Batten served with the Australian Army during World War II in the Field Ambulance division. He was discharged in 1944 before joining Lane Cove Council as an Alderman in 1948. He died at the age of 90, still a resident of Lane Cove.

Batten's term as Mayor began with the opening of three new play centres in Lane Cove in January 1955. Play centres, usually

held in local public halls and schools, had grown in popularity after World War II and catered to school-aged children during summer holidays. Activities often included games, classes in handicrafts, art, and the occasional day trip. This was followed in February with the opening of the first free Public Library in Lane Cove in the War Memorial School of Arts building. A much awaited service, over 3,000 people joined up and over 24,000 books were issued in the first three months.



The bushland area from Epping Road along Stringybark Creek to Centennial Avenue, Lane Cove, was gazetted as Batten Reserve in the Mayoral report of June 1960, named in honour of the recently retired and long-serving Alderman.

**1955:** Opening of the first free public library in Lane Cove.

**MAYOR: 1957 – 1958**

# ALBERT EDWARD SHAW

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1951 – 1968

Born in Newcastle, New South Wales in 1902, Albert Edward Shaw was ordained a Methodist minister in 1927 and worked in the coal industry most of his life. He served on Tarro Shire Council and Newcastle City Council before moving to Sydney and joining Lane Cove Council in 1951. He died in 1987.

During his time as Alderman he was elected to the Local Government Association of New South Wales, of which he was President in 1964-65. He also served with the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Crown Employees

Tribunal, the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee, the Royal Automobile Club of Australia and on various other public and private bodies.

With a growing population of over 22,000, agitation in Lane Cove for a community hall was growing and in November 1957 Mayor Shaw opened the Greenwich Memorial Community Centre, erected on three blocks of vacant land in Greenwich Road. That month he also laid the foundation stone for the new Lane Cove Town Hall, which officially opened on 31 May 1958. He chaired a committee of



Aldermen who prepared a comprehensive report on the transport needs of Lane Cove. Alderman Shaw was also the first Mayor to contribute weekly press articles covering local government affairs and formed the first Lane Cove Municipal Choir.

MAYOR: 1959 – 1961

# ARTHUR EDDINGTON LANGFORD (TED) GRIFFITH

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1954 – 1962

Born in Longueville 'Ted' Griffith attended Lane Cove Public School and went on to become a chemical engineer and company director. A sports lover, he helped found the Longueville Baseball Club and also initiated construction of the Lane Cove 12 Foot Sailing Clubhouse at Longueville Wharf. He died in June 1997.

As Mayor 'Ted' Griffith led the ongoing construction of a new Town Hall and Council Chambers and offices, the Olympic swimming pool, the conversion of the old Council Chambers into

the Library and the construction of more parking areas in Lane Cove. The Advertiser of December 17, 1959 wrote 'Never before in the history of Lane Cove has a Mayor outlined a programme of works and improvements as ambitious and as visionary...'. Other projects he oversaw were the construction of Birrahlee Kindergarten, Lane Cove Women's Bowling Club and the creation of Lane Cove West Industrial Area in 1956. A modern Council Works depot was constructed in 1961. The landmark



Lane Cove Community Aid Service also began that year, providing community transport, care and welfare for the aged, legal advice, marriage and child welfare guidance, amongst other vital community services. In 1961 Lane Cove Council won the coveted A.R. Bluett Memorial Award for the most progressive local council. Griffith Park was named after the visionary 'Ted' Griffith.

MAYOR: 1962 – 1963

# RUSSELL JOHN BRICKHILL

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1954 – 1968

Russell Brickhill was born in Melbourne in 1911 and the family moved to Greenwich, Sydney when Russell was a boy. Russell Brickhill studied civil engineering at Sydney University and worked as a Royal Navy engineer during World War II in Europe and Africa, before returning to Australia. He worked on the Burrinjuck Dam project and on retirement was Officer of Works at Sydney University. During post-retirement he started up a pre-purchase property inspection business, the first of its kind in Australia. He died in 2002.

As an Alderman he was active on building, environment, roads and transport committees. He worked for the limitation of high-rise development in the Lane Cove Municipality when the construction of flats was just taking off and initiated rules which prescribed the amount of shadow that could be cast on neighbouring properties. He supported the early development of motels against much local opposition and was an enthusiastic advocate of women in local government.



In 1962 he presided over the opening of the Lane Cove Senior Citizens' Centre. The following year the famous Bogle and Chandler deaths had Lane Cove in the headlines. The new Fig Tree Bridge also opened in 1963. The naming of Brickhill Playground in Ronald Avenue near Panorama Road in the Mayoral report of 1960 was made in his honour.

MAYOR: 1964 – 1965

# MARJORIE GERTRUDE ELEANOR PROPSTING MBE(C)

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1949 – 1972

Born in 1905, Marjorie (nee Bowman) trained and worked as a librarian before marrying Henry Propsting in 1934. Following the birth of two children she returned to work at the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers Training College. Living in Greenwich, Marjorie was elected an Alderman for the East Ward of Lane Cove Council in 1949, a position she held for 22 years. In 1970 she was appointed MBE and died two years later.

As an Alderman she was involved in the founding of the Lane Cove Homes for the Aged Association (Pottery Gardens), and was a member of the Finance and Library Committees. Marjorie was a prominent member of several women's associations including the Australian Local Government Women's Association, of which she became President.

In 1964 Alderman Propsting became the first female Mayor of Lane Cove. In that year she established a branch library at



Greenwich, which would later be named in her honour and in 1965 she travelled to Papua New Guinea to lend official support to the development of local government there. During her term she also presided over the construction of the Lane Cove Lower Town Hall and the introduction of the first Meals on Wheels service to the Lane Cove elderly.

MAYOR: 1966 – 1967; SEP. 1987 – SEP. 1991

# SYDNEY JACK (SYD) FRIEDLANDER OAM

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: Mar. 1961 – 1968, Sep. 1971 – Sep. 1991

Born in 1921 in Bondi Junction, Syd Friedlander studied the local government engineering course and became a structural engineering draughtsman. He married Sylvia Tooler and they moved to Lane Cove to start a family. First joining the Lane Cove Public School Parents and Citizens in the 1950s, Syd Friedlander embarked on a remarkable period of community service.

The longest serving Alderman on Lane Cove Council he was first elected in 1961 and completed his final term as Mayor in 1991. In the 1960s he'd argued the case for a 'green belt' around Sydney, and while

Mayor in 1989 oversaw the completion of the Heritage Study of the Lane Cove Municipality which provided Council with a comprehensive view of the Municipality's environmental and built heritage. From 1988, with the coming into operation of the Lane Cove Local Environmental Plan (L.E.P.) 1987, Council adopted Development Control Plans for residential, commercial and industrial zones. During this period Mayor Friedlander also lobbied for the creation of a university on the North Shore, which eventually became Macquarie University.

Serving on multiple council, community and sporting committees, the Cumberland



County Council and the Local Government Association, Syd Friedlander was honoured by Lane Cove Council in 1985 with the naming of Friedlander Place at St Leonards. In 1991 he received a Medal of the Order of Australia for nearly 30 years service to local government and a Centenary medal in 2003. He died in Longueville in 2008.

MAYOR: 1968

# ARCHIBALD WILLIAM MACKINNON

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1963 – 1968

Archibald William Mackinnon married Marjorie Souter in New South Wales in 1937. As a young man he was a keen sportsman and a member of the Bondi Surf Life Saving Club. He was also one of the founders of the Lane Cove Country Club, a onetime Secretary and President of the Club and elected Life Member. He retired to the Blue Mountains and died in 1988 at the age of 77.

He was first elected as a Central Ward Alderman to Lane Cove Council in 1963. During his Mayoral term in 1968 he hosted a group from the Duke of Edinburgh Commonwealth Study Conference. With the Municipality's population by then growing to around 25,000, he highlighted an increase in responsibility for social welfare and parking issues. That year 36 self-contained living units for the aged called 'Pottery Gardens' was opened in Little Street, and the 'Lane Cove Planning Scheme' was also launched for public display by Council.



**1969:** Carisbrook House was purchased by Council as a gift to the community.

MAYOR: 1969 – 1970

# ANDREW WHITE AITCHISON

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1966 – Sep. 1971

Husband and father of three, Andrew Aitchison became an Alderman for the East Ward of Lane Cove Council in 1966. Andrew Aitchison died in May 1975 and was buried at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

During his first term as Mayor in 1969, a Benevolent Fund was established as part of the Community Aid Service, to subsidize the increasing costs of providing welfare assistance to needy residents.

That year the Council also purchased Carisbrook House as a gift to the Lane Cove community. Built in the 1880s from locally quarried sandstone and overlooking Burns Bay it was the oldest surviving, largely intact house in the area and would become a permanent reminder of the Municipality's heritage. The following year the council celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Municipality which had been declared in 1895.



**MAYOR: 1971 – SEP. 1973**

# RICHARD HARWIN (DICK) **NOSSITER** DSC OAM

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: 1969 – Sep. 1977

Born in 1910 and educated at Lane Cove Public School and Fort Street, 'Dick' Nossiter became sales manager for a large company. In 1935, his father Harold built a schooner, *Sirius* and with his two sons, Richard and Harold Jr., the three became the first Australians to circumnavigate the globe by yacht. During World War II Dick served with the Royal Navy on escort duty in the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Circle and Russia.

In 1969 Richard Nossiter became a Central Ward Alderman with Lane Cove Council. During his term as Mayor a successful legal battle was fought with local businesses over plans to turn the upper section of Burns Bay Road into a pedestrian plaza, resulting some years later in today's Lane Cove Plaza. Dick also facilitated the formation of the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society in 1971 and presided over Council's support for the formation of the Lane Cove Centre House Association in 1972. In 1973 Nossiter



was elected President of Lane Cove Community Aid and in the following year was elected President of the Lane Cove Homes for the Aged Association. In 1981 he retired to Newcastle and in 2010 aged 100, was awarded an Order of Australia for services to sailing. He died in 2013.

**MAYOR: SEP. 1973 – SEP. 1975**

# ARTHUR GREATREX (REX) **LEMAIRE**

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1971 – Sep. 1977

Born in 1915 in Leeton, NSW, 'Rex' Lemaire was an electrical engineer by profession. After serving as an officer with the 2/1 Survey Regiment in World War II, the family moved to Lane Cove in 1953.

Rex Lemaire was Mayor during the ongoing debate over the creation of a plaza in Burns Bay Road. He campaigned for strict controls on new home unit approvals under the Council's Planning Scheme and was an active member of the Board of the Lane Cove Community Aid

Service for ten years from 1968 to 1978. He continued volunteering with that service in his retirement. A supporter of the Lane Cove Library, Lane Cove River Park Trust, Lane Cove West Bowling Club, Lane Cove District Music Club and Longueville Tennis Club, he was also long-time chairman of the Lane Cove Retirement Units Association.

Active in the community until the end, Rex died in January 2000.



**1974:** Trial closure of Burns Bay Road (now Lane Cove Plaza) to vehicles for 90 days.

MAYOR: SEP. 1975 – SEP. 1977

# WILLIAM ALBERT FLEMING

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1974 – Sep. 1977

With a Bachelor of Arts from Sydney University majoring in Economics, Bill Fleming worked in computer management and lived in the U.K., U.S.A. and South Africa before returning to live in Lane Cove with his wife and children. Before his election as an East Ward Alderman for Lane Cove Council in 1975 he had been involved in various local groups including Centrehouse, the Youth Coffee Club, the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society and Community Aid Abroad in the Lower North Shore.

Campaigning on environmental and conservation issues, improved local public transport, and improved youth and social services in the municipality, Bill Fleming was elected Mayor in 1975. In 1976 following a long running petition for a child care facility, the Lane Cove Childcare Centre opened (still operating as Kindy Cove Child Care Centre). In 1977 the Traffic Authority of New South Wales was created, and with authority for local traffic control being delegated to local government, a Lane Cove Traffic Committee was established. In the following months a



major report was also delivered by the State Pollution Control Commission highlighting the poor water quality of the Lane Cove River during and after significant rainfall.

Bill Fleming left Council following the 1977 council elections.

MAYOR: SEP. 1977 – SEP. 1981

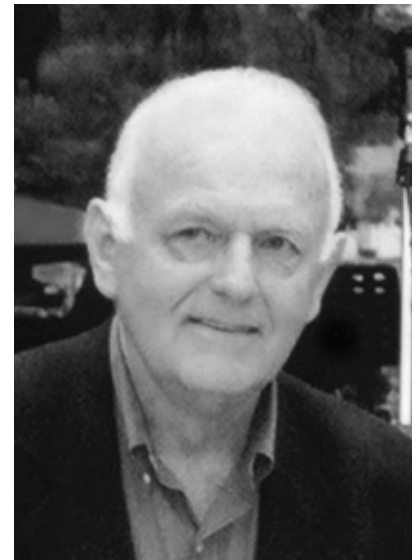
# WILLIAM ARTHUR (BILL) HENNINGHAM JR. PSM

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: Apr. 1976 – Sep. 1983

Son of former Lane Cove Alderman William Henningham (Snr), Bill Henningham Jnr. became a solicitor before being elected a Lane Cove Alderman in April 1976. Always active in the Lane Cove community he would become President of the Community Aid Service, the Centrehouse Association and Greenwich Memorial Community Centre Association.

Elected Mayor in September 1977, he presided over the formal opening of the innovative Lane Cove Plaza in November. The plaza was first proposed in 1960 and was the first local pedestrian mall created in New South Wales by closing off part of a main street.

With Mayor Henningham a strong advocate of open government and public participation, public seminar workshops were held by Council in 1979 to assist with Municipal planning, and the Lane Cove Sport and Recreation Task Force was created. During his term there was also sponsorship by Council of a family day care scheme and a traffic study was initiated to examine local traffic congestion issues. In 1981 Project Environment, sponsored by Council was launched, its aim was to raise awareness of the need to protect the local environment and this project continued to play an important role for the next 15 years. In the lead up to the 1980 council elections the



threatened amalgamation of councils was a dominant issue.

During his four-year tenure as Mayor, Bill Henningham also served on a wide range of local and regional community associations and committees and following his departure from Council, was appointed secretary of the New South Wales Local Government and Shires Association in 1983. Bill Henningham was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1990 and in 2009 Bill received the Lane Cove Citizen of the Year Award.

**MAYOR: SEP. 1981 – SEP. 1984**

# ROSILYN IVY **BAXTER** OAM

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1974 – Sep. 1995

Rosilyn Baxter grew up in Queensland and raised her children in Dundas, Sydney before moving to Lane Cove. Rosilyn won a WEA (Workers Education Association) scholarship to Sydney University in the 1960s and became a university research assistant.

Moving to Lane Cove in 1963, she became Secretary to the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society and was elected as a West Ward Alderman in September 1974. In September 1981 Rosilyn Baxter was elected the second female Mayor of Lane Cove. During her Mayoral term

Cunningham's Reach foreshore was landscaped and made accessible. Lane Cove Library participated in the Shorelink Network which computerised and linked Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby libraries with a shared electronic system. Lane Cove Council was granted money by the State Government to establish a home care service and the Occasional Childcare Centre at Pottery Green was opened. Word processing was introduced to all Council departments at a cost of \$48,000 and the Plaza Bandstand inspired by artist Lloyd Rees was officially opened.



In 1995 Alderman Baxter was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to 'local government and the environment'.

**1983:** Lloyd Rees Band Stand officially opened in Lane Cove Plaza.

**MAYOR: SEP. 1984 – SEP. 1987**

# RICHARD RAYMOND JOHN (JOHN) **MCGIRR**

Served as Alderman on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1984 – Sep. 1987

A dentist and father of five, John McGirr became Mayor only 12 months after joining Lane Cove Council as a Central Ward Alderman. During his term the currently used circular logo for the Municipality was first designed and launched (in 1986) and the Lane Cove Bicentennial Community Committee was established to plan events for the upcoming 1988 national bicentenary celebrations. He also supported a local Afghan Community Support Association which was formed to aid the large population of Afghan refugees

in the Municipality. Construction was commenced on a link road to connect the industrial area directly to Epping Road.

Since the passing of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act in 1979, local governments were developing planning instruments and in October 1987 the Lane Cove Local Environmental Plan (L.E.P.) was originally gazetted by Council. The L.E.P. was to be read in conjunction with the Zoning Plan of December 1986 which displayed a street and property plan of the whole Municipality - colour



coded and marked to show the zone designations of each property. In 1987, in conjunction with the Department of Environment & Planning, Council also commissioned a Heritage Study of the Municipality to identify sites of particular heritage significance.

John McGirr left Council in 1987.

MAYOR: SEP. 1991 – SEP. 1993

# JAMES DOUGLAS (JIM) WELSH

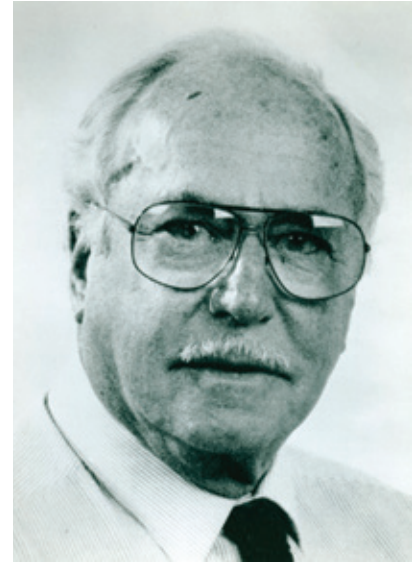
Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1987 – Sep. 1995

Jim Welsh was born in Lane Cove in 1922. Becoming a father of six, from 1948 to 1995 he also worked in, and then ran, B. & W. Motor Engineers in Longueville Road, making a very good living buying, selling and repairing cars.

In September 1987 'Mr Lane Cove' as he became known, was elected a Central Ward Alderman on Lane Cove Council. During his Mayoral term in 1992 he oversaw the refurbishment and reopening of the Council Civic Centre, the opening of a new bushwalking track on the south side of Epping Rd, the launch of the Library's CD collection and a new

weekly garbage roadside recycling service for residents. In 1993 Mayor Welsh also gave active encouragement to the establishment of the Lane Cove local paper *The Village Observer*. During 1992 and 1993, Mayor Welsh led the Council through a challenging time with the introduction of the State's SEPP 25 planning legislation and the gazetting of the new Local Government Act seeking greater accountability and transparency from councils into the future.

Soon after the end of his second term as Councillor, the well-known local identity died in April 1996.



**1993:** Council took over the management of Lane Cove Youth Centre.

MAYOR: SEP. 1993 – SEP. 1994

# BARRY JOHN HARRISON

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1991 – Sep. 1995

Barry Harrison was elected to represent the Central Ward in 1991, having resided in Lane Cove for the previous nine years. He worked in the banking industry and was a proprietor of a mixed business in Lane Cove for four years. During 1991 he re-established the Lane Cove Chamber of Commerce. He also initiated the main street program for Lane Cove and St Leonards and advocated for an open-plan European style plaza redevelopment.

During Councillor Harrison's time as Mayor, a new management plan was introduced to implement the reforms and changes made necessary by the new Local Government Act 1993. The community was concerned by increasing traffic and the impact of dual occupancies. Council extended its services by taking over the management of the Lane Cove Youth Centre. The centre had been run by a management committee for the previous 10 years. Street signs throughout the Municipality were upgraded using new style name blades.



MAYOR: SEP. 1994 – SEP. 1996

# RODERICK TREVOR (ROD) TUDGE

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1983 – Sep. 2012

Rod Tudge represented the East Ward as an independent Councillor for 29 years. As a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers (Australia), he had an understanding of the strategic planning required for the current and future needs of the Municipality. His long-term family residency gave him significant experience in the many issues facing the community and local government in the area.

In 1994 Council adopted the Heritage Study of the Municipality which had been prepared during 1993. Lane Cove Council

joined 11 other metropolitan councils to fight against the impact of increasing noise and pollution from the expansion of Kingsford Smith Airport. The options for a tunnel to improve traffic conditions on Epping Road were investigated with consultants and public meetings. Recycling by residents greatly increased with the introduction of Council's new recycling bins and a new regular collection service. Residents strongly supported Council's opposition to Optus deployment of pay TV cabling across the



Municipality. An upgrade of the Plaza improved the Lane Cove shopping area in appearance and for pedestrians. The Centenary of Local Government in Lane Cove was celebrated during 1995 with 36 major events organised by the Centenary Community Committee.

MAYOR: SEP. 1996 – SEP. 1998

# MARY JEAN RAWLINGS

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1991 – Feb. 2004

Mary Rawlings stood for Council following her involvement with the campaign against the Rosenthal Avenue development. She held a Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology, worked as an insurance manager, and was elected to represent the Central Ward. She was a member of many community groups including the Access and Lane Cove Occasional Child Care Committees and was also a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. She was elected as President of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) during her time representing Lane Cove. She also represented Lane Cove on the Lower North Shore Domestic Violence Liaison Committee.

During Councillor Rawlings' term as Mayor, the problems caused by aircraft noise, overhead cables and urban consolidation, along with the increasing traffic travelling on the major roads through the Municipality continued to be major issues for Council. A new Strategic Social plan was established to set up a framework of holistic planning beyond 2000. A footbridge across Stringybark Creek was opened during May 1997, completing a 4 kilometre Lane Cove West bushwalk from Blackman Park. An upgrade of the Longueville Road shopping area began in early 1998 to connect it to the previously refurbished Plaza. It included new kerb and guttering, widening and repaving of the footpaths, new seating, street lighting and



re-surfacing between Austin Street and Birdwood Avenue. The Austin Street car park was also rezoned to enable planning for the redevelopment of the site.

Mary Rawlings continued serving community organisations after her retirement from Council, especially with the management of Centrehouse and Pottery Gardens. She was awarded a Leadership Award at the 2009 Lane Cove Citizenship Awards.

MAYOR: SEP. 1998 – SEP. 1999

# FRAN TEIRNEY

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1995 – Sep. 1999, Mar. 2004 – Sep. 2008

Fran Teirney represented the West Ward as an independent Councillor. She lived locally with a large family and brought her extensive life experience in aged care, disability and childcare to Council. She was an advocate for children in crisis and disadvantaged families and a campaigner for women's and workers rights and vocational education.

During Councillor Teirney's term as Mayor Council added a further 8000 square metres of pristine bushland to its riverfront open space with the acquisition of the former Elcom site at Lane Cove West. Stormwater projects were undertaken along the tributaries of Stringybark Creek and upper Tambourine Creek and Council worked with other local councils and state government bodies to develop a comprehensive stormwater management plan for the Lane Cove River



catchment. Another highlight was the launch of the Men's Shed in conjunction with the Uniting Church and the Northern Sydney Area Health Service to meet the needs of older men in the community.

MAYOR: SEP. 1999 – SEP. 2000, SEP. 2001 – SEP. 2002

# ANTHONY ROBERTS

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1995 – Feb. 2004

Following his education at Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, Anthony Roberts studied business at the University of Technology, Sydney and in 2010 he graduated with a Masters of Arts in Strategic Communications from Charles Sturt University. Anthony volunteered with the Australian Army Reserve and served for nine years, retiring with the rank of Captain. In 2003 he was elected as a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, representing the Electorate of Lane Cove for the Liberal Party. Anthony also served as an advisor to Prime Minister John Howard between 1996 and 2003.

Elected to Lane Cove Council in 1995, he served two terms as a Councillor and two separate terms as Mayor. Councillor Roberts became Lane Cove's youngest serving Mayor when he was elected to the position at age 29 in 1999.

A great achievement for the Council and community was Lane Cove receiving the Metro Pride Award overall winner's prize for 1999, run by Keep Australia Beautiful. Council also won first prize for its environmental policy initiatives. Another achievement and the dream of many previous Mayors, and following years of financial stringency, Lane Cove was able to enter the new millennium debt free thus allowing income to be channelled into works and services. The much needed and planned upgrade of facilities at the Municipal Olympic Pool commenced, with construction beginning on a new Lane Cove Aquatic Leisure Centre.

Councillor Roberts was elected Mayor for a second term in 2001. The Council's main focus was addressing the challenges of the State Government's Urban Consolidation Policy which highlighted the



need for planning revision for the future accommodation of all sections of the community and a review of the existing Local Environmental Plan. A Village Advisory Committee was launched, with sixteen members working to improve the image and facilities of the town centre. Additional car parking for 65 cars was achieved with the completion of work on the Coles car park. In November 2001, the refurbished youth centre was reopened and renamed Synergy Youth Centre. A strategic plan for bushfire management in the district was achieved with the Hunters Hill/Lane Cove/Ryde/Willoughby District Bushfires Committee's Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.

MAYOR: SEP. 2000 – SEP. 2001

# STEPHEN BOWERS

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1995 – Feb. 2004

Stephen Bowers was a solicitor who practiced law in private practice as well as in the public and corporate sectors prior to his election for the East Ward in 1995. He had lived with his family in Greenwich since 1987 and was a member of the Greenwich Progress Association and the local Neighbourhood Watch. He was concerned with local traffic and parking problems and effective representation for the people of the East Ward.

While Councillor Bowers was Mayor, some relief for parking was achieved with the additional spaces provided at Little Street car park, and the permanent construction

of a car park in Beatrice Street, Lane Cove West. In November 2000, the Planning and Support Service Division was created to deliver better strategic services for Council. A new two-bin collection of waste for recycling was rolled out enabling residents to recycle more than the previous crate system. The Seniors Centre was upgraded and officially opened as the new Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Centenary Centre. While the Greenwich Community Centre was also renovated and extended to provide improved facilities for the community and preschool. In September 2001, Stephen welcomed the Prime



Minister, John Howard to officially open the new Lane Cove Aquatic Centre, which was described as 'a significant infrastructure achievement'.

**2001:** Opening of Lane Cove Aquatic Leisure Centre by Prime Minister John Howard.

MAYOR: SEP. 2002 – FEB. 2004

# JOHN MAY

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1995 – Feb. 2004

John May was an active member of the Greenwich community, dedicating more than 25 years to community service in Greenwich and the wider Lane Cove community. This included managing the Greenwich Community Hall, holding the position of President or Secretary of the Greenwich Progress Association and the Greenwich Community Centre Association. He was an active member of the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery and was also active in the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch on the Greenwich peninsula. John was one of the co-founders of the popular Greenwich Games. John died in February

2015.

Varying proposals for an extension to the Library and additional car parking for Austin Street were under major consideration during Councillor May's term as Mayor. Council together with the Lane Cove Tunnel Action Group persuaded the Road Traffic Authority to radically improve the design for the planned tunnel under Epping Road, and linking the M2 to the Gore Hill Expressway. An aggressive campaign for in-tunnel filtration also commenced. Community consultation and progress was made in the compilation of a new Draft Local Environment Plan,



which once completed would replace the 1987 version. Six new volunteer bushcare groups were established. In February 2004, the Reconciliation Memorial Plaque at Woodford Bay was unveiled following the signing of a principle of cooperation agreement with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

MAYOR: MAR. 2004 – SEP. 2009

# IAN MALCOLM LONGBOTTOM

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 1991 – Sep. 2012

Ian Longbottom represented the people of the West Ward for 21 years. A long-time resident of the district, he held memberships of many local community organisations and within them held a number of executive positions including President of the Rotary Club of Lane Cove, President of the Lane Cove Community Aid Foundation and Chairman of the Board of the Lane Cove Club Ltd. In August 1993 he commenced the local monthly publication The Village Observer as owner and editor. He retained ownership until 2009, when he moved into a career in banking.

The Cultural Action Plan, Social Plan and Sustainable Action Plan were completed in 2004 along with the Strategic Action Plan (Lane Cove ALIVE!) for the revitalisation of the town centre. The Sustainability Levy was implemented in 2007, commencing the roll out of many 'green' projects. Smoking bans were introduced in playgrounds, reserves and public spaces. After many years of debate, including a New South Wales Land and Environment Court challenge, the plans for a new Lane Cove Library and Market Square development were finalised and construction commenced early in 2008. The development would assist the revitalisation of the shopping precinct and provided much needed new parking spaces, a new link road,



school drop-off zone in Austin Street and a modern library. During the construction phase the Library continued to operate, doing so from two sites in Longueville Road. Also during Councillor Longbottom's term as Mayor the construction of the Lane Cove Tunnel began and the Council continued to lobby government bodies for filtration of the tunnel. The Lane Cove Tunnel opened in March 2007.

MAYOR: SEP. 2009 – SEP. 2012

# WINIFRED ANNE (WIN) GAFFNEY

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Mar. 2004 – Sep. 2012

Win Gaffney lived locally for over 30 years and was a passionate supporter of many local community organisations. She was elected in 2004 and served as a Councillor for eight and a half years. Win dedicated many hours as a trustee of the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery and the Chair of Shorelink. She also held the position of President of the New South Wales Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (NSWMPLA) and was awarded Life Membership of the New South Wales Public Libraries Association (NPLA) in 2016.

Lane Cove's new Local Environment Plan (L.E.P.) was gazetted in February 2010

and during 2011-12 the infrastructure levy for funding of roads, footpaths, stormwater and community facilities was introduced. The installation of solar panels on many Council facilities made for a more sustainable Lane Cove, while the Council News moved to an e-newsletter format, to be sustainable and cost saving. Improved drainage and returfing works were undertaken at Pottery Green, Bob Campbell and Blackman Park ovals. Gallery Lane Cove opened in 2012, adding an exhibition space to cultural facilities of the area. In 2012 the Greenwich shopping precinct benefited from a streetscape upgrade under the Neighbourhood



Shopping Precinct Improvement Program. Council introduced an Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP) to ensure planning decisions were depoliticised and based on merit. Planning commenced for an upgrade of the Plaza's Lloyd Rees Bandstand and public spaces within the plaza with the aim to make it a more vibrant village centre.

MAYOR: SEP. 2012 – SEP. 2013

# SCOTT BENNISON

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 2008 –

Scott Bennison was born in Wellington, New South Wales and moved to Lane Cove in 1996 with his wife Julia. In 2003 he established a financial services business, became involved in the community, and has served as both Treasurer and President of the Lane Cove Chamber of Commerce. His professional qualifications include registered tax agent, registered company auditor, financial planner and Chartered Accountant.

Councillor Bennison's frustration with car parking in Lane Cove first led him to run for Council in 2004 however it was not until 2008 that he was successfully

elected as a Councillor for Central Ward. Councillor Bennison was re-elected in 2012 (representing West Ward) and served as Mayor during 2012-13. During his period as Mayor some of his first actions of leadership was the installation of the Aboriginal Flag within Council Chambers and initiating the development of the Rosenthal Avenue car park and Plaza upgrade. In addition, Councillor Bennison officially opened the 'Stokes Street Community Facility'. The development included a substantially larger childcare centre, café and community kitchen. Several Lane Cove River foreshore



boardwalks were upgraded with the help of State Government funding grants, including Ventemans Reach, Batten Reserve, and Gore Creek. A new kitchen was installed at Carisbrook House and restoration work was carried out on the underground cistern. Final approval for the Little Street car park redevelopment was also achieved.

MAYOR: SEP. 2013 – SEP. 2015

# DAVID BROOKS-HORN

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 2008 –

David Brooks-Horn was elected as a Councillor for East Ward in 2008. He grew up locally and attended Greenwich Public School. He worked locally while studying business, information technology and workplace training before embarking on a career in product support and technology. He is committed to improving local opportunities with increased parking and revitalisation of the town centre. David also volunteered with many community organisations and served on the Board of Directors of the Lane Cove Club.

During Councillor Brooks-Horn's term as Mayor, the State Government introduced its 'Fit for the Future' reform package making

the issue of Council amalgamations one of the biggest challenges. Council also delivered much needed local infrastructure upgrades and facelifts in the town centres. Upgrades to the facilities in the Lane Cove CBD included the Plaza and the Aquatic Centre. The Lane Cove Seniors Centre was renamed the Living and Learning Centre following its refurbishment and Kindy Cove also received its first major refurbishment in 40 years. Many Council-owned community facilities had energy saving solar and heat pump hot water systems installed. The Blackman Park playing fields were significantly improved with an upgrade to a synthetic surface and new lighting, and a new walkway was opened



from Manns Point to Greenwich Baths. The redevelopment of the Little Street car park site commenced and a new roadway, Waterview Drive, was constructed and opened to allow better access for the 314 Burns Bay Road development. Council's website was improved and upgraded for easier navigation and the inaugural Lane Cove Literary Awards were launched in May 2014.

MAYOR: SEP. 2015 – SEP. 2017

# DEBORAH HUTCHENS

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 2012 – Nov. 2020

Deborah Hutchens was born in South Australia and lived in the Longueville area for about 20 years prior to her election as Councillor for Central Ward in 2012. She had previously worked in the computer, building and construction industries and as a high school teacher's aide. She is involved with school parent and citizens committees and community organisations.

During her tenure as Mayor, the new Scout Hall and Sports Amenities building at Blackman Park and the new Waterview

Community Centre and Hughes Park were completed. The long proposed redevelopment of the Rosenthal Avenue car park was approved and the Lane Cove Festival by the River commenced as an annual event from 2015. A master plan for the future development of St Leonards South was adopted. New technology was installed at the Library with an automated book sorter and a 3D printer made available to the public. Mayor Hutchens has also had to contend with the amalgamation of local councils.



Councillor Deborah Hutchens died on 2 November 2020. Her contribution to the community was recognised with the opening of the Deborah Hutchens Playground in Longueville Park in May 2021.

MAYOR: SEP. 2017 – DEC. 2021

# PAM PALMER

Served as Councillor on Lane Cove Council: Sep. 2008 – Dec. 2021

Pam Palmer has resided in Greenwich since 1988. Her career has included positions as a management/information technology consultant and company director in the insurance and banking sectors. Over the years she has been involved with a number of community organisations including the Greenwich Community Association, Greenwich Community Preschool, Greenwich Public School Parents and Citizens Association, Greenwich Sports Club Soccer and the Greenwich Sailing Club.

Pam was elected as a Councillor for Lane Cove Council in September 2008, serving

as a representative for East Ward. She was elected Deputy Mayor in September 2009 and served in this role until September 2012. In September 2017 she was elected Mayor and continued in this capacity until December 2021. The NSW Local Government elections were delayed from September to December 2021 due to COVID-19 impacts.

During her tenure as Mayor a number of significant infrastructure projects were delivered including the construction of The Canopy, a range of public art projects, renovations of a number of local parks, the replacement of the outdoor 50m pool



and grandstand at the Lane Cove Aquatic Leisure Centre and the construction of the new Longueville 12 Foot Skiff Club boathouse.

Pam Palmer was Mayor during the 2020/2021 COVID-19 epidemic and helped to support the community through this challenging time.

# COUNCILLORS

## SERVING ON LANE COVE COUNCIL 1895-2023

NAME	SERVED AS ALDERMAN / COUNCILLOR	YEAR OF MAYORAL APPOINTMENT*
ACKERMAN, Maureen Lyle	1984 – 1990 / 1992 – 1995	
AITCHISON, Andrew White	1966 - Sep. 1971	1969 – 1970
ANDREWS, David Ernest	1975 – 1977	
ARENA, Norman Nicholas	1963 – 1965	
BALMAIN, James R	1938 – 1941	
BATTEN, George	1948 – 1959	1955 – 1956
BAUM, Richard Edward Francis	1895 – 1897 / 1903 – 1905	
BAXTER, Rosilyn Ivy OAM	Sep. 1974 – Sep. 1995	Sep. 1981 – Sep. 1984
BENCH, Graham John	1982 – 1993	
BENNISON, Scott	2008 –	Sep. 2012 – Sep. 2013
BLACKET, Cyril	1903 – 1906	1904 – 1905
BLACKMAN, John Harold	1949 – 1959	1951 – 1952
BLOXHAM, George	1908 – 1911	
BLOXHAM, Sydney Eric George	1935 – 1937	
BLUNDELL, Richard Peters	1914 – 1922	
BOWERS, Stephen	Sep. 1995 – Feb. 2004	Sep. 2000 – Sep. 2001
BRADLEY, Burton	1920 – 1922	
BRADY, William Malachy	1929 – 1937 / 1942 – 1948	1930
BRENT, Karola	2012 – 2021	
BRICKHILL, Russell John	1954 – 1968	1962 – 1963
BRIGDEN, Helen Catherine	1981 – 1983	
BRIGDEN, Robert Joseph	1988 – 1990	
BROOKS-HORN, David	2008 –	Sep. 2013 – Sep. 2015
BRYLA, Kathy	2021 –	
CAMPBELL, Arthur Bede	1937 – 1944	
CAMPBELL, Barbara Anne	1981 – 1983	
CARROLL, Vincent Aloysius	1923 – 1925	1925
CATT, Henry Charles*	1895 – 1916	1898 – 1899, 1901 – 1903
CHAMPION, John Charles	1920 – 1922	
CHAPMAN, Alfred Ernest	1907 – 1910	
CHEONG, Soo-Tee	2012 – 2017	
CHOWN, Brian Alfred	1969 – 1971	
CLARK, William	1897 – 1905	
COLEMAN, Charles Christopher	1917 – 1918	
COWELL, Cecil Harold	1942 – 1950	
COWELL, James Edwin	1960 – 1965 / 1972 – 1974	
CRANEY, Janina Margaret (Jan)	1978 – 1980	
CRAWFORD, Robert Slessor	1929 – 1931	
D'AMICO, Rick	2004 – 2008	
D'APICE, William Reginald	1994	
DALY, Warren James OAM	1991 – 1993	
DUNN, Frederick William	1923 – 1931 / 1935 – 1936	1927 – 1929
EDWARDS, Maurice Charles	1951 – 1953	

NAME	SERVED AS ALDERMAN / COUNCILLOR	YEAR OF MAYORAL APPOINTMENT*
FEARON, Donald James	1984 – 1987	
FITZ-GIBBON, Peter Gerald	1988 – 1990	
FLEMING, William Albert	Sep. 1974 – Sep. 1977	Sep. 1975 – Sep. 1977
FLOOD, Rochelle	2021 –	
FORREST, Shauna	2008 – 2012	
FRASER, Angus James	1917 – 1923 / 1926 – 1930	1920 – Jul. 1923, 1926
FRASER, Bruce James	1978 – 1981 / 1988 – 1990	
FREEDMAN, Kay	Dec. 2001 – 2008	
FRIEDLANDER, Sydney Jack OAM	Mar. 1961 – 1968, Sep. 1971 – Sep. 1991	1966 – 1967, Sep. 1987 – Sep. 1991
GAFFNEY, Winifred Anne (Win)	Mar. 2004 – Sep. 2012	Sep. 2009 – Sep. 2012
GALVIN, Patrick Francis	1935 – 1937	
GARNSEY, John Apperley	1954 – 1956	
GOLD, Marc	2012 – 2017	
GRAHAM, Fred	1911 – 1922 / 1932 – 1934	1933
GRIFFITH, Arthur Eddington Langford (Ted)	1954 – 1962	1959 – 1961
GROZIER, Alan Hamilton	1969 – 1978	
HARNETT, Richard Hayes Jr.	1906 – 1910	
HARRISON, Barry John	Sep. 1991 – Sep. 1995	Sep. 1993 – Sep. 1994
HARRISON, Robert John	1895 – 1902 / 1914 – 1917 / 1919 – 1920	Jun. 1919 – 1920
HASSARATI, Joe	2004 – 2008	
HENNINGHAM, William Arthur Sr.	1937 – 1941 / 1954 – 1956	
HENNINGHAM, William Arthur Jr. PSM	Apr. 1976 – Sep. 1983	Sep. 1977 – Sep. 1981
HODGSON, John Hargraves	1932 – 1951	1949 – 1950
HOLDSWORTH, Joseph Burdekin	1903 – 1913	1906 – 1909, 1912 – 1913
HOLLAND, Leanne	1995 – 1999	
HOLLOWAY, George Polson	1932 – 1934 / 1938 – 1953	1944 – 1946
HOWELL, Thomas John	1923 – 1927 / 1932 – 1934	1924
HUDSON, Davis Gerard	1978 – 1979	
HUNTSMAN, Robert William (Bob)	1984 – 1987	
HUTCHENS, Deborah	2012 – Nov. 2020	Sep. 2015 – Sep. 2017
HYDE, Alfred MacCartney	1923 – 1925	
JACKSON, John	1920 – 1922	
JAGGERS, Albert Charles	1978 – 1980	
JERREMS, Edwin Lewis	1914 – 1917	
JERREMS, Ernest Alfred	1928 – 1937	
JOHNSTON, Archibald Aitken	May 1912 – 1931 / 1935 – 1943	Jul. 1923 – Dec. 1923, 1939 – 1943
JONES, Herbert Alwyn	1906 – 1907	
JONES, Maurice Keith	1969 – 1971	
KANN, Edwin William	1949	
KARPIN, David AM	2012 – 2017	
KELLY, Edward Henry	1923 – 1928	
KENNEDY, Bridget	2021 –	
LANDERS, John Frederick*	1895 – Oct. 1900	
LAVELLE, Paul B	1988 – 1990	
LAWSON, Tom	Mar. 2004 – 2008	
LE QUESNE, Noel Winter	1945 – 1947	
LEACH, Gladwys Madge (Claudia) MBE(C)	1960 – 1971 / 1975 – 1977	
LEMAIRE, Arthur Greatrex (Rex)	Sep. 1971 – Sep. 1977	Sep. 1973 – Sep. 1975
LEVICK, Sydney Bernard	1895 – 1898	

NAME	SERVED AS ALDERMAN / COUNCILLOR	YEAR OF MAYORAL APPOINTMENT*
LLOYD JONES, John	1911 – 1919	Jul. 1917 – 1919
LONGBOTTOM, Ian Malcolm	Sep. 1991 – Sep. 2012	Mar. 2004 – Sep. 2009
LUDOWICI, Charles Edward Henry John	1895 – 1901 / 1904 – 1906 / 1908 – 1919	1900
LYONS, Alexander	1908 – 1910	
McGIRR, Richard Raymond John (John)	Sep. 1984 – Sep. 1987	Sep. 1984 – Sep. 1987
McGOWN, James C	1926 – 1931	
McGREGOR, Sydney Alfred	1942 – 1944	
McILROY, Keith	2008 – 2012	
MacKINNON, Archibald William	1963 – 1968	1968
McLOUGHLIN, Hugh Alphonus	1948	
MacREADY, Elizabeth Jane (Liz)	1991	
MAHONEY, Margaret A	1987 – 1980	
MARDEN, Ronald Garth	1978 – 1980	
MARSH, John	1926 – 1941	1931, 1934 – 1938
MARTIN, Douglas	1995 – 1999	
MARTIN, George Rupert	1923 – 1925	
MARTIN, Thomas Holdsworth	1938 – 1944	
MAY, John	Sep. 1995 – Feb. 2004	Sep. 2002 – Feb. 2004
MAYNE, James Brian	1960 – 1961 / 1966 – 1968	
MITCHELL, Leigh Ashton	1986 – 1987	
MOLESWORTH, David Gordon CBC(C)	1969 – 1971	
MONRO, Walter Joseph	Nov. 1898 – Jan. 1900	
MORRIS, Alexander Campbell	1952 – 1953	
MORRIS, Katherine	2017 – 2021	
MORT, Katherine	2021 –	
NIXON, Charles Edwin Vandervord (Ted)	1984 – 1987	
NOSSITER, Richard Harwin DSC OAM	1969 – Sep. 1977	1971 – Sep. 1973
OWENS, Warren Anthony	1980 – 1983	
PALMER, Pam	2008 – 2021	Sep. 2017 – Dec. 2021
PARKS, John	1960 – 1961	
POWER, Patrick Francis	Sep. 1911 – 1913	
POWNALL, Leslie	1945 – 1950	
PRICE, Helen	1972 – Apr. 1976	
PROPSTING, Marjorie Gertrude Eleanor MBE(C)	1949 – 1972	1964 – 1965
RAWLINGS, Mary Jean	Sep. 1991 – Feb. 2004	Sep. 1996 – Sep. 1998
RAWSON, James Ernest Clancy	1938 – 1950	1947 – 1948
REEVES, George	Nov. 1900 – 1910	
REID, Cathryn Patricia (Kate)	1981 – 1983	
ROBB, James	1895 – c. 1904	1897
ROBERTS, Anthony	Sep. 1995 – Feb. 2004	Sep. 1999 – Sep. 2000, Sep. 2001 – Sep. 2002
ROBERTS, Jeremiah*	1895 – 1903	1895 – 1896
ROBINSON, Ian Kenneth	1951 – 1953	
ROENFELDT, David	2021 –	
ROSE, Glen Estelle	1972 – 1974 / 1978 – 1983	
RULE, Karen	1999 – 2001	
SCHARKIE, Charles Robert Conrad	1930 – 1937	1932
SHAW, Albert Edward	1951 – 1968	1957 – 1958

NAME	SERVED AS ALDERMAN / COUNCILLOR	YEAR OF MAYORAL APPOINTMENT*
SIMONSON, Leopold John	1918 – 1922	
SINCLAIR, Alan Callander	1972 – 1974	
SMITH, Ann	2004 – 2012	
SOUTHWOOD, Merri	2021 –	
SMOOTHEY, Sidney	1926 – 1928	
STEGGALL, John Cecil	1962	
STEPHENS, James Benjamin	1911 – 1913	
STEWART, Anne Elizabeth	1984 – 1985	
STRASSBERG, Daniel	2017 – 2021	
SUTTON, Gillian Frances	1972 – 1974	
TAYLOR, Laurence William	1932 – 1934	
THOMAS, Walter Vivian	1905 – 1912	1910 – 1911
TEIRNEY, Fran	Sep. 1995 – Sep. 1999 / Mar. 2004 – Sep. 2008	Sep. 1998 – Sep. 1999
TOMLIN, James William	1903 – 1919	1914 – Jun. 1917
TUDGE, Roderick Trevor (Rod)	1983 – 2012	Sep. 1994 – Sep. 1996
VENTEMAN, George Oliver	1945 – 1968	1953 – 1954
VISSEL, Frances	1999 – 2008 / 2017 – 2021	
WELCH, John St Vincent*	1895 – 1902	
WELSH, James Douglas (Jim)	Sep. 1987 – Sep. 1995	Sep. 1991 – Sep. 1993
WEYNTON, Herbert Oswin	1900 – 1903	
WHITTY, Francis Joseph MBE(C)	1969 – 1971	
WILLIAMS, George Beresford	1957 – 1959	
WORNER, Fay Linette	1991 – 1995 / 1999 – 2004	
ZBIK, Andrew	2017 –	Jan. 2022 –

# TOWN CLERKS

## SERVING ON LANE COVE COUNCIL 1895-2023

TOWN CLERK	EMPLOYMENT DATE	ROLE
ARMSTRONG, Alexander Boswell	April 1895 – July 1895	Council Clerk
KEMMIS, J. Montague	August 1895 – August 1895	Council Clerk
ROBERTS, Francis P. R.	August 1895 – December 1901	Council Clerk
WINTERS, George F. M.	January 1902 – November 1903	Town Clerk
WILLIAMSON, Arthur J.	December 1903 – September 1907	Town Clerk
ALLEN, John	October 1907 – June 1911	Town Clerk
MARSHALL, Arthur Cleve – first term	August 1911 – Enlisted 20 October 1916	Town Clerk
JAGO, Thomas Charles	October 1916 – Enlisted 5 May 1917	Acting Town Clerk
DAVIS, G. R. C.	May 1917 – June 1919	Acting Town Clerk
MARSHALL, Arthur Cleve – second term	June 1919 – April 1922	Town Clerk
WEBSTER, Thomas Brown	May 1922 – November 1928	Town Clerk
EVERY-BURNS, Joseph William (Acting T.C.)	November 1928 – May 1929	Acting Town Clerk
ALDER, Henry Robert	May 1929 – November 1960	Town Clerk
CARTER, Leon Parmeter	November 1960 – July 1971	Town Clerk
HOWARD, Mervyn John	July 1971 – February 1981	Town Clerk
BYLEVELD, Alan William	July 1980 – December 1993	Town Clerk Elect circa July 1980. Town Clerk from March 1981. General Manager from 1993
WONG, Henry T.	January 1994 – December 2002	General Manager
BROWN, Peter	November 2003 (Acted from circa January 2003) – August 2012	General Manager (and Acting)
WRIGHTSON, Craig	September 2012 – Current	General Manager

### **Mayoral Terms of Office**

- From 1895 terms for Mayors were generally based on the calendar year, i.e. they were appointed in late December of the previous year or in January through to March of that year.
- From 1971 mayoral elections were changed to late September each year to coincide with local government elections held in September every four years.
- Names marked with a following asterix [ \* ] had previously served as Aldermen on Willoughby Municipal Council prior to the incorporation of Lane Cove Municipality in 1895.
- Dates of service with an open [ – ] indicate Councillors continuing to serve.

### **Postnominal Abbreviations**

AM = Member of the Order of Australia

CBC(C) = The Order of the British Empire - Commander (Civil)

DSC = Distinguished Service Cross

MBE(C) = The Order of the British Empire - Member (Civil)

OAM = Medal of the Order of Australia

PSM = Public Service Medal

