



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Greens Announce Team for Council Election

Kiama Greens – Standing Up for What Matters

The Kiama greens have announced a strong ticket for the upcoming Council elections. Headed by serving councillors Andrew Sloan and Kathy Rice, the Greens have also added some fresh faces to the team.

Andrew is a practicing Civil Engineer with a Master's degree in Local Government and Planning Law. With a young family, Andrew is focussed on improving facilities for families, in addition to protecting the character of the area from overdevelopment. He was very actively involved in the anti-amalgamation campaign.

Kathy from Kiama Downs, is a former science teacher at Kiama High School who is passionate about extending Kiama's strengths as a Healthy City and increasing regional agricultural diversity. She is determined to promote and invite community participation in making decisions about Kiama's future. Throughout the current Council term Kathy has taken an active role in the management of Blue Haven and chairs the Health and Sustainability and Youth Advisory committees of Council.

At number three on the ticket is Bethamie Woodstone. Bethamie has a Masters in International Politics and studied conflict resolution. She has been a small business owner and worked for the Departments of Community Services, Health and Immigration. She worked for many years as a research analyst focusing on environmental issues like climate change and alternative energy. However her primary focus over the past decade has been raising her three young children who attend primary school in Kiama.

Jodi Keast, Manager at the Kiama Community College and Deputy Chair of Grand Pacific Health Ltd joins the ticket at number four. Jodi is a certified practising accountant, with many years' experience as an executive manager in the federal public service specialising in financial, strategic, risk and business continuity management. Jodi is passionate about engagement with, training and employment for young people and age-friendly programs that are accessible to all.

Aged in his early 20's, and born and raised in Kiama, Patrick Hugh McDonald works part time whilst studying Creative Writing and History at the University of Wollongong. With a passion for youth and environmental concerns, Pat brings a fresh perspective to the team.

Rounding out the ticket again is Warren Holder, a former teacher, champion windsurfer and President of the Gerroa Environment Protection Society for the past 10 years.

Andrew Sloan believes that the Kiama Greens have earned the trust of the community when it comes to protecting the unique character of the region from overdevelopment. “Kiama Council is under constant pressure from the State and developers for more urban sprawl, higher buildings and oversized and inappropriate developments. I think that the constant efforts of Kiama Greens over 20 years to protect our farmlands from urban expansion, make urban areas more liveable and ensure our natural environment is conserved is appreciated and well understood by the community.”

“We also understand that in order to maintain Council independence we must manage Councils budget responsibly”.

Kathy Rice added “The community know that we can be relied upon to support the high level of services Council provides for our community, in particular the expansion of retirement services, the arts and youth services. We have also worked positively to support local Economic Development”

“I am delighted to welcome Bethamie and Jodi to the team. I was the only woman on the last Council and I am hopeful that these two very talented women will help change the gender balance. I hope that the community will continue to put their faith in us and help elect more capable and strong women onto Kiama Council.”



Back Row: Patrick McDonald, Andrew Sloan and Warren Holder

Front: Jodi Keast, Kathy Rice and Beth Woodstone

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