

150 years of Local Government in the City of Penrith



# **OUR COUNCILLORS** 2021

# **OUR COUNCILLORS** 2022

**SOUTH WARD** 

Karen McKeown OAM

**EAST WARD** 

Todd Carney (Deputy Mayor, from

John Thain (Deputy Mayor, to Sept

Bernard Bratusa

Sept 2022)

Robin Cook

Tricia Hitchen (Mayor)

**NORTH WARD** 

Marlene Shipley

Glenn Gardiner Kevin Crameri OAM

Ross Fowler OAM

Jonathan Pullen

2022)

Jim Aitken OAM Mark Davies

Sue Day

Mark Rusev

## SOUTH WARD

Jim Aitken OAM Brian Cartwright

Mark Davies

Karen McKeown OAM (Mayor)

Kath Presdee

#### **EAST WARD**

Bernard Bratusa

Todd Carney

Robin Cook

**Greg Davies** 

Tricia Hitchen (Deputy Mayor)

# **NORTH WARD**

Marcus Cornish

Kevin Crameri OAM

Aaron Duke

Ross Fowler OAM

John Thain

# SENIOR STAFF

General Manager: Warwick Winn

Director - Development and Regulatory Services:

Andrew Jackson

Director - Corporate Services: Andrew Moore

Director - City Services: Brian Steffan Director - City Futures: Kylie Powell

Director - Community and People: Sandy Davies Chief Governance Officer: Stephen Britten

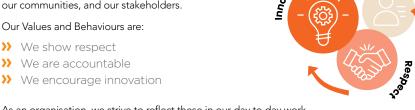
# **OUR MISSION**

#### WE WILL...

- >> Deliver the services, facilities and infrastructure that our community needs
- >> Maintain our long term financial sustainability
- >>> Work with our community and partners to achieve more than we can alone
- >>> Provide an excellent customer experience to everyone who contacts us
- >>> Value and engage our staff

# **OUR VALUES**

In addition to our Code of Conduct, Council has adopted Values to guide our behaviour in the workplace and how we relate to our work colleagues, our customers, our communities, and our stakeholders.



Scountab.

As an organisation, we strive to reflect these in our day to day work, making our workplace more enjoyable and productive.

## 3

# MAYORAL MESSAGE

In the year 2021 Penrith
City Council reached an
important milestone – the
150th anniversary of Penrith becoming
a municipality.

After many petitions from local residents, on 12 May 1871 the district of Penrith was proclaimed a municipality and announced in the NSW Government Gazette the following day. The population of Penrith township at the time was 836.

The last 150 years have seen us grow into a significant city: in 1949, Penrith amalgamated with St Marys, Castlereagh and parts of the Nepean Shire. In 1963, Emu Plains and Emu Heights joined Penrith City, and the boundaries of our contemporary city were drawn.

As we look ahead to the next 150 years – in which Penrith will become a global city, with world-class parks, well-connected employment hubs and a quality of life second to none – it is important to acknowledge the achievements of our past and those of the people whose shoulders we stand on.

Our first Mayor was James Riley, a prominent citizen who served as the local magistrate for 30 years. His eight fellow Aldermen, as Councillors were then known, included a local butcher, two publicans, a storekeeper, a farmer and a bootmaker. The local undertaker was the town clerk.

Together, these men and Councillors that followed them built the framework of local government, passing bylaws and introducing improvements to increase public safety, health and wellbeing. They championed education, improved sanitation, introduced a waste collection service, and successfully advocated for electric power, making us the first town in the Sydney region to switch on electric lights.

What our history tells us, is that the people of Penrith have always been pioneers and innovators. The fact that our community petitioned to become a municipality in the late 1800s shows they saw the huge potential of their town and wanted to have a say in their future, just as we do today.

Council is delighted to have achieved this wonderful 150-year milestone.

Across 2021 we adorned our LGA with celebratory flags and signage, displayed treasures of our past in the Library, and heard about how it all began from local historians. We shared

history from the last 150 years across our social media channels, and the 2021 Winter Issue of *Our Place*, Council's community newsletter, celebrated our past achievements and the opportunities they have created for Penrith's future – as does this limited-edition commemorative booklet. And although the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns interrupted many of our planned in-person celebrations in 2021, we made up for it with a memorable gala dinner in 2022. You can see pictures from this celebratory event later in this booklet.

The years 2021 and 2022 also marked another pioneering milestone for Penrith – the first time Penrith City Council has seen two female Mayors serve consecutively. We are proud to be part of this long lineage of innovation, excellence and community spirit.

On behalf of our fellow Councillors and the Penrith community, we would like to acknowledge the legacy that the Councillors of the past have left for our current Council to build on. In acknowledging the 150th anniversary of Penrith Council we applaud the men and women, past and present, who have championed this great City, and look forward to what we know will be a remarkable future



COUNCILLOR KAREN MCKEOWN OAM MAYOR, CITY OF PENRITH 2021



COUNCILLOR TRICIA HITCHEN MAYOR, CITY OF PENRITH 2022

# HISTORY OF COUNCIL

The first District Council for the Penrith area was appointed by Governor Gipps in 1843. The NSW district council system was beset by problems and attempts were made to remedy them. However, the NSW Legislative Council, realised it was useless to patch up a system incapable of fulfilling its functions. They declared district councils "totally unsuited to the circumstances of the country", decided against reform and district councils quietly disappeared.

The failures of district councils led to neglect of many local services, particularly the maintenance of streets in country towns. Increasing concern about this neglect led Sir Henry Parkes (then member of the NSW Legislative Council) to introduce the Municipalities Act of 1858. The Act provided a voluntary system of incorporation into councils. About 35 councils formed under the Act, but one important item had been left out – rules about rate payments.

In 1867, 167 citizens of the Penrith area presented a petition asking for incorporation as a municipal council area. The NSW Government, led by Premier John Robertson, eventually agreed to the incorporation.

The proclamation of Penrith as a municipality on 12 May 1871, was published in the Government Gazette the following day.

In 1890, 138 citizens of St Marys petitioned the government asking for incorporation as a municipality. Then Premier, Sir Henry Parkes, agreed to this request and on 3 March 1890, proclaimed the Municipality of St Marys. There was a further proclamation with new boundaries to the south in 1894, and in 1906 there was a further addition in the southern section.

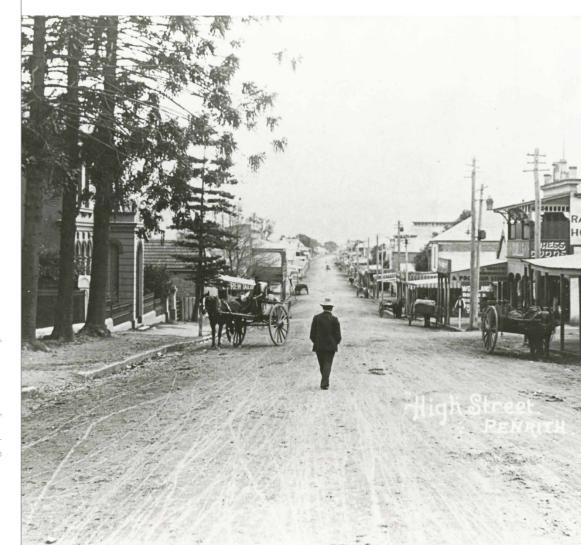
Following further petitions, the Municipality of Mulgoa was proclaimed on 26 July 1893, and the Municipality of Castlereagh on 9 September 1895.

With the passing of the Local Government Act in 1906, the Nepean Shire, south of Mulgoa Municipality, was created and it absorbed Mulgoa Municipality in 1913. Blue Mountains Shire was created to cover the area to the west of the Nepean River, including Emu Plains.

On January 1, 1949 the former municipalities of Penrith, St Marys and Castlereagh and a portion of Nepean Shire joined to form a new and larger municipality. The Municipality of Penrith was proclaimed a city on 14 November 1959.

On 25 October 1963, the Emu Plains area was transferred from the Blue Mountains City Council to Penrith City Council.

This history was first published in the 125 Years of Penrith City Council Commemorative Booklet.



Photograph by Charles Kerry

[1063



#### SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

NEW SOUTH WALES

# Government Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 114.]

SATURDAY, 13 MAY

[1871.

NEW SOUTH WALES, to wit.

| New South Wales, to wit. | Proclamation by His Excellency the Right Honorable SOMERGET RICHARD, EARL OF BELMORE, A Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council in Ireland, Governor and Commander-in-Chief Governor, Admiral of the same

WHEREAS the Municipalities Act of 1867 provides for the constitution of a Municipality on receipt of a Petition signed by not fewer than fifty persons who would upon incorporation be liable to be assessed for Municipal taxes in respect of property or household residence within the area proposed to be so incorporated: And whereas a Petition signed by one nundred and seventy-six persons liable to be so assessed upon a considerable of the secondary of the secondar

the centre of that road, crossing the Great Western Road, to the centre of the road forming the northern boundaries of T. Faux's 86 acres, R. Stuart's (jun.) 58 acres 1 road, N. Lawrence's 70 acres, W. Baker's 140 acres, T. Bigger's 100 acres, and E. Field's 100 acres, parish of Castlereagh; on the north by a line westerly along the centre of that road to the eastern boundary of C. M. Hume's 50 acres; thence by that boundary to the north-east corner of that land; thence by the boundary to the north-east corner of that land; thence by the boundary to the small creek dividing that 150 acres, small T. Green's 50 acres, from J. Fugh's 190 acres; thence by that creek northerly acres, in the small creek dividing that 150 acres, and T. Green's 50 acres, from J. Fugh's 190 acres; thence by that creek northerly acres, 150 acres; thence by a line westerly along the centre of that road to the centre of the road dividing the 190 acres and 150 acres aforesaid from T. Cheshire's 140 acres aforesaid thence by a line along the centre of that road southerly to the centre of the aforesaid road, dividing T. Lumbley's 80 acres from T. Cheshire's 140 acres aforesaid; and thence by a line westerly along the centre of that road, to the point of commencement.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, at Government House, Sydney, this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and in the thirty-fourth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By Command, JOHN ROBERTSON

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !

#### SYDNEY

Printed and Published by THOMAS RICHARDS, Government Printer, Phillip-street, 13th May, 1871.

# First Minutes of Municipality of Penrith Council Chambers July 18 - 1871

A special meeting called by the Mayor was held on Tuesday July 18th Instant at Eleven O'clock B. M.

#### Present

His Worship the Mayor - with Aldermen A F Wilshire - E J Wilshire - Smith-Matthews - Smeaton - Andrews - Reddan and Beatson

#### Motions

Mayor

Moved by Alderman A F Wilshire that an entry be made on the first page of the Minute Book of Mayor and Aldermen for the Municipality of Penrith - Also that the name of the Council Clerk be inserted -

Seconded by Alderman Matthews - Carried

Votes 103 Messrs James John Riley JP 90 "Edwin James Wilshire JP 82 "Austen Forrest Wilshire

58 Thomas Smith

131

5th

72 " John Matthews 54 " Peter Smeaton

61 Thomas Andrews

59 John Reddan
89 Donald Beatson

Council Clerk protem John Price

And Moved by Alderman A F Wilshire that the letter (accompanying the Application of Messrs Davis & Douglas for the appointment of valuers) not being worded in respectful terms - the application be not received -

Seconded by Alderman Beatson - Carried

3rd Moved by Alderman Beatson - Application from various persons having been considered 
- those of Messrs J T Ryan for £21.00 and T R Smith for £20 - be accepted as 
valuers for the Municipality of Penrith.

Seconded by Alderman Matthews - Carried

1th Moved by Alderman Beatson - that for the present the Clerk of the Council shall be in attendance at the Chambers on Monday and Thursday in each week from two to four O'clock P.M.

Seconded by Alderman Matthews - Carried

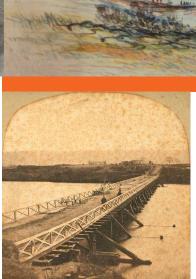
Moved by Alderman Smith that the Council be summoned to meet on Thursday next July 20th at Eleven O'clock for the appointment of Committees - and to take the Declaration of Valuers and make arrangements for the opening of a Cash Credit

Seconded by Alderman Matthews - Carried

Confd - James J Riley

# 150 YEARS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PENRITH - A PICTORIAL HISTORY

This image is the first known photograph taken of what is now Penrith City. It was taken in 1852 from Lemongrove Hill and captures St Stephen's Church, which still stands on High Street today.



Victoria Bridge changed the fate of Penrith and opened access to the gold fields of Western NSW; but by the early 20th Century, it was having some problems. Horses were getting spooked by the loud, rattling steam trains, and it was too narrow for one vehicle to pass another. And so, a second bridge was built specifically

for trains, and was tested with six of the heaviest locomotives, each weighing 107 tonnes. The Rail Bridge and Victoria Bridge were both incredible feats of engineering, and we still use them today. Pictured: The second bridge across the Nepean River (left), the first bridge across the Nepean in ruins following flooding (centre), Victoria Bridge which was completed in 1867 (above), and the opening of the Rail Bridge in 1905 (top).



much so that it is still in use today.



Council was an early champion of education in our district. When female students had their classroom moved into a tent outside at Penrith Public School, local representatives fought for funding to build them a proper classroom. The tent was in a freezing hollow, and downstream from the sewerage run-off coming from Penrith

town. The Mayor and local member argued the case and accommodated the girls in the Council Chambers until their classroom was built.

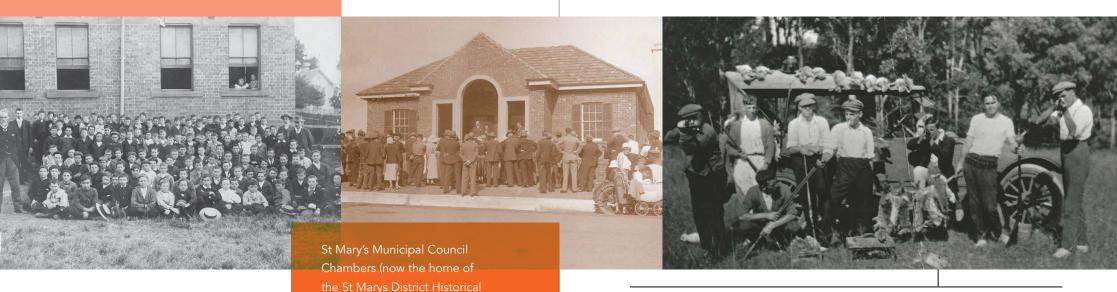
Pictured is Emu Plains Public School in 1900. This school opened in 1877 and like many schools in the district, was under constant threat of closure due to lack of students.

on 2 December 1933. Jackson

and his wife each planted one of

the two jacaranda trees that still

stand outside the building today.

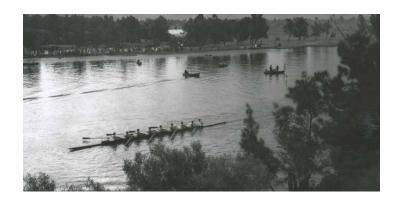


The fallout of the Great Depression reverberated around the world, and the people of Penrith were struggling. Penrith Council administered a scheme to keep men employed, offering work labouring, doing roadworks and laying water pipes. Penrith Showground was transformed into a homeless shelter.

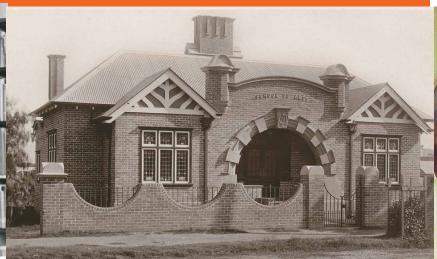
Council allowed families in need to chop down trees in Penrith Park for firewood. Local people supplemented their food rations by hunting rabbits – this photo shows rabbit hunters in Mulgoa in the 1930s, with their catch lined up on top of the vehicle.

After the Second World War ended, Penrith Council wanted to establish a free public library. Penrith Mayor Frank Allen visited Mosman Library and was impressed by the benefits and services it delivered to the community, especially to children. So, Council purchased books and shelving, and advertised the position of Librarian. Margaret Trask (nee Kinsella), a local woman who had attained a degree in Librarianship before going on to work at the State Library of NSW, was appointed to the role. Also pictured is Joan Pearson – both of these trailblazing women have rooms named in their honour at Penrith City Library.

Council has always been a strong supporter of sports in our district, championing the establishment of Nepean Rowing Club in 1928.









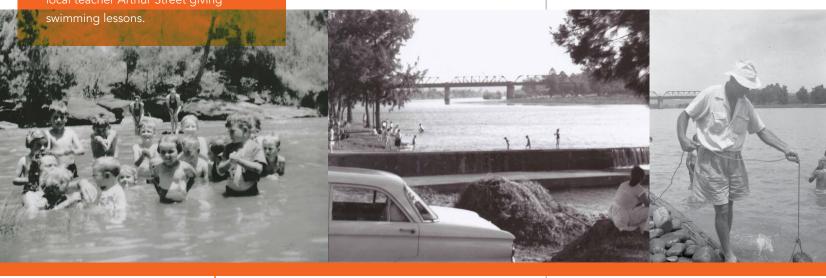
Council's donation of 15 pounds for the establishment of the club caused a stir at the time, leading one alderman to quit in protest, but Council argued that nothing could bring crowds to our River like rowing. This certainly proved true during the 1938 Empire (Commonwealth) Games rowing regatta (pictured top), where 7000 spectators watched

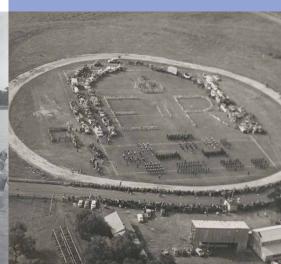
Australia win every race except the eights. But perhaps the most famous race of all was in 1887 when local rowing hero William Beach defeated Canadian Edward Hanlan to win the World Championship (pictured above). Thousands of people are said to have attended this race, with special trains being required to ferry spectators from Sydney, Bathurst and Goulburn.

Before there were pools, there was swimming - and swimming lessons - in the Nepean River.
Pictured here are grandchildren of the Quigly family, swimming in the Nepean River at Emu Heights in the 1930s, families enjoying the Nepean Weir in the 1960s and local teacher Arthur Street giving

The coronation of Elizabeth II took place in 1953 at Westminster Abbey in London, but the people of Penrith were eager to take part in the celebrations. The Mayor at the time, Bill Chapman, offered Penrith's "deep loyalty". Local school children formed a living

crown and the letters 'ER II' at Penrith Showground. It was photographed from a plane by David Leithhead, the headmaster of Penrith Public School, who had been an aerial photographer during the war.





By 1957, it was clear that local children needed a safer place to learn how to swim than the Nepean River. Mayor Bernie Fowler led the efforts to provide this for the community,

and in 1962, Penrith Memorial Swimming Pool was officially opened. In 1966, Council opened its second pool in St Marys, with an Olympic-sized pool and a learners' pool.

The first Chambers, located at Evan and Henry Streets in Penrith, was built in 1881; it was replaced in 1959 by the building on the corner of Henry and Station Streets. The first meeting was held in the then new Council Chambers on 24 November 1959, just two weeks

after the last meeting ever to be held in the first Council Chambers (pictured), on 10 November 1959. In the same year, Penrith was proclaimed a City. Our current Civic Centre was officially opened in 1994.



In 1971, Penrith City Council marked its 100th anniversary with lavish celebrations. A ball was held at Penrith Leagues Club, an elegant party took place at the beautiful Combewood homestead, and a fantastic aquatic carnival took place on the Nepean River. The Nepean District Tennis Association

set a new world record for endurance tennis, with a single game lasting 50 hours. Crowds flocked to a picnic day at Penrith Showground and enjoyed amusement rides, novelty races and even a parachute jump. Local pride was showcased at concerts, performances, a flower show, an art exhibition, BBQs and firework displays.



As part of the centenary celebrations, Freedom of Entry to the City was granted by the Mayor of Penrith to the 6th Engineer Stores Regiment of the Australian Army.



The granting of Freedom of Entry is a practice with its origins in medieval Europe. Historically, it was important for armed forces to establish good relations with the people of towns and cities where they would be stopping to rest, which would lead to cities granting them Freedom of Entry.

To find out more about the 150 year-long history of Penrith City Council, visit penrith.city/150years

# CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

Council's 150th anniversary was celebrated with posters, banners, billboards and street flags installed across the Penrith LGA. The library also displayed a significant historical collection of material from the past 150 years – photographs of this display can be viewed at www.penrith.city/150years. A compelling historical series was developed featuring local historians. This popular series was promoted across Council's social media platforms and non-digital channels. Our Winter Issue of Our Place, Council's Community Newsletter, celebrated our achievements of the last 150 years, with the anniversary also featuring prominently in our 2021 Annual Report.

Council's 150 Year Anniversary celebrations were initially intended to be celebrated from July to September 2021, with community events and in-person historical talks scheduled. However, the COVID-19 pandemic

and subsequent lockdowns meant public events were cancelled or postponed. Our finale event for this important celebration was held on September 7, 2022.

This gala evening was a fitting conclusion for what had been a fantastic reflection of Council's history over the last 150 years.

Across this page and the following are photos from this event, including the architectural 150-Years themed cake that was cut on the night by Penrith Mayor, Cr Tricia Hitchen, and our local historians who provided fantastic insights and commentary as part of our popular historical speaker series. The series can be viewed at www.penrith.city/150years.







## (ABOVE) LEFT TO RIGHT

Penrith City Councillors Robin Cook, Bernard Bratusa, Jim Aitken OAM, Todd Carney, Sue Day, Glenn Gardiner, Kevin Crameri OAM, Tricia Hitchen (Mayor), Jonathan Pullen, Karen McKeown OAM and Marlene Shipley.

#### (LEFT)

Cr Tricia Hitchen, Mayor of Penrith and Stuart Ayres MP, Member for Penrith.

### (BELOW) Penrith City Council senior staff

LEFT TO RIGHT

Director - Development and Regulatory Services:

Andrew Jackson

General Manager: Warwick Winn Director - City Futures: Kylie Powell

Director - Corporate Services: Andrew Moore

Director - City Services: Brian Steffen

#### (RIGHT) LEFT TO RIGHT

Celebrating 150 Years of
Penrith City Council, local
historians Beth Moore,
Norma Thorburn, Jim
Mason and Lorraine Stacker.
Along with other local
historians, the four shared
their memories in a video
speakers series
which can be viewed at

penrith.city/150years





Local Celebration Awards, Queen's Birthday Honours and Australia Day Honours recipients 2021-2022 with Penrith City Council Councillors and Stuart Ayres MP, the Member for Penrith, (LEFT TO RIGHT) Daena Madon, Veronica Nou, Terry Gallaway, Maria Quartiero, Michelle Barnes, Kenani Banda, Stuart Ayres MP, Alan Fowkes, Dr Harald Alexander Pope, Vivienne Ross, Lisa Harrold, Marzi DeSanti, Major Kenneth John McKay, David Andersen, Cathy DeSanti, Steven Green, Uncle Wesley Marne (front centre), John Thomas, Irene Rosetto, Kristine Gauci, Cr Tricia Hitchen (Mayor), Robert Rayner, Eric Easterbrook OAM, Cr Jim Aitken OAM, Cr Karen McKeown OAM, Cr Todd Carney, Cr Robin Cook, Cr Glenn Gardiner, Ditte Kozak, Cr Bernard Bratusa, Cr Jonathan Pullen, Cr Marlene Shipley, Cr Kevin Crameri OAM, Cr Sue Day.

 $\textbf{(LEFT)} \ \mathsf{Cr} \ \mathsf{Tricia} \ \mathsf{Hitchen}, \ \mathsf{Mayor} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{Penrith}, \ \mathsf{launches} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{CELEBRATE} \ \mathsf{event}.$ 

# PAST MAYORS AND TOWN CLERKS MUNICIPALITY OF PENRITH

# **MAYORS**

James J Riley	1871 – 1875
James McCarthy	
Donald Beatson	
James McCarthy	
Alfred Colless	1880 – 1882
Georges B Besley	
James Evans	1884 – 1885
	1885 – 1888
Michael Long	
T R Smith	1889 – 1890
A W Stephen	1891
Michael Long	1891
A W N Judges	1892 – 1894
W Fulton	1895 – 1897
A A E E V Reid	1898
W Player	1898
Michael Long	1899
W Player	1900 – 1901
F D Woodriff	1902
Michael Long	1903 – 1905
F L Vine	1906 – 1907
Dr F C Higgins	1908
H J F Neale	1909 – 1910
T Jones	1911 – 1914
W S Walker	1915
D Fitch	1916
P J Quinn	1917
T Jones	1918
J Adams	1921 – 1922
D Fitch	1923 – 1925
J J Price	1926
3 3 1 1100	1,20

J J Jenkins	1927 – 1929
L Markham	1930 – 1932
A H Hand	1933
D Fitch	1934 – 1940
L F Spence	1941 – 1942
F J H Allen	1943 – 1948
P A Tornaros	1949
W L Chapman	1950 – 1956
B N Fowler	1957
L J Spies	1958 – 1959

# **TOWN CLERKS**

J Price	1871 – 1877
H B Eager	1877 – 1878
R Stuart	1878 – 1891
E R Halloran (Ac	ting) 1891
J Macartney	1891
A C Nash	1891
H Colless	1891
Mr Fraser	1891
J G Bissland	1891 – 1906
E W Orth	1906 – 1942
L G Allen	1942 – 1948
E R Ross	1949 – 1959

# CITY OF PENRITH MAYORS

1960 – 1961	Leo Joseph Spies
1961 – 1968	William Lesley
	Chapman
1968 – 1971	Ron J Mulock AO
1971 – 1974	Brian King AM
1974 – 1977	Eileen Cammack OBE
1977 – 1985	Brian King AM
1985 – 1987	Kevin Dwyer OAM
1987 – 1988	Rodney Field
1988 – 1989	Kevin Dwyer OAM
1989 – 1990	Brian King AM
1990 – 1991	Faye Lo Po MP
1991 – 1992	Tony Aquilina MP
1992 – 1993	Bill Gayed DR
1993 – 1994	Diane Beamer
1994 – 1995	Pat Sheehy AM
1995 – 1996	Ross B Fowler OAM
1996 – 1997	Kevin Crameri OAM
1997 – 1998	Kevin Dwyer OAM
1998 – 2000	John Bateman
2000 – 2001	David Bradbury
2001 – 2002	Pat Sheehy AM
2002 – 2004	Greg Davies
2004 - 2004	David Bradbury
2004 – 2005	Jackie Greenow OAM
2005 – 2006	John Thain
2006 – 2007	Pat Sheehy AM
2007 – 2008	Greg Davies
2008 – 2009	Jim Aitken OAM
2009 – 2011	Kevin Crameri OAM
2011 – 2012	Greg Davies
2012 – 2013	Mark Davies



Ross Fowler OAM

Ross Fowler OAM

Ross Fowler OAM

John Thain

Tricia Hitchen

Karen McKeown OAM

Karen McKeown OAM

2013 – 2014

2014 – 2015

2015 - 2016

2016 - 2018

2018 - 2020

2020 - 2021

2022

#### **HISTORY OF THE CREST**

The Penrith City Council
Crest was adopted in
1953 and remained in
everyday use until 2003. It
is now reserved for use on
important civic occasions,
such as the awarding of
"Keys to the City", Sister
City initiatives or the
affixing of the Official Seal
of the Council.





Penrith City Council, 601 High Street, PENRITH NSW 2750

**W** penrith.city

