

## **4. MAYORAL MINUTE**

### **4.1 Eric Kontos and Mandy Perrin**

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#### **Attachments**

Nil

Tonight, I would like to formally recognise two of our most outstanding local community members – Eric Kontos and Mandy Perrin – for their contributions to the city.

Between them, they have clocked up almost 70 years of reporting on the local scene in Campbelltown and the wider Macarthur region. While I may not always agree with their point of view, their commitment and dedication to the city cannot be overstated.

#### **Eric Kontos**

From a young age, Eric knew that a life in news reporting was for him. He migrated with his family from Greece when he was just 10, and despite no knowledge of English, went on to achieve his goal of becoming a journalist.

During the course of his career, Eric has worked at a variety of suburban newspapers, including the Liverpool Leader and Bankstown-Canterbury Express, and went on to become editor of the Macarthur Chronicle in 1988, followed by the Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser in 1994, before taking up the editor's role at the Liverpool Champion in 2004. The Macarthur Advertiser was recognised as Best Local Newspaper in Australia in 2001, under the leadership of Eric.

After many years in print media, Eric turned his attention to the digital space and launched his own online paper, the South West Voice, in 2014. With the goal of providing timely, relevant information to the community, 'without fear or favour', his online endeavours are going from strength to strength.

#### **Mandy Perrin**

Earlier this year, Mandy received a Jubilee Award, recognising that she has been a member of the Campbelltown community for 50 years. After graduating from Hurlstone Agricultural High School, where she was part of the first intake of girls, Mandy joined the Macarthur Chronicle as a cadet reporter.

She has since forged a 31 year strong association with the local newspaper, including 23 years as editor. To have such a long affiliation goes to show how committed Mandy is – not just to the newspaper, but to her local community. The Macarthur Chronicle masthead has been recognised with many accolades while Mandy has been at its helm, and she regularly campaigns on behalf of readers to make the community an even better place to live, seeing her role as editor as a privilege to be able to advocate on behalf of her community.

Both Eric and Mandy are proud and vocal supporters of the Campbelltown community. The passion they display for the city and its residents is genuine and authentic; their hearts are entrenched in Campbelltown and the wider Macarthur region.

On behalf of Campbelltown City Council and the local community, I would like to present Eric Kontos and Mandy Perrin with a Community Service Award each to thank them for their considered efforts to showcase the best of what our city has to offer. May their excellent work continue for many more years to come.

### **Recommendation**

That the information be noted.

### **Council Meeting 16 August 2016 (Hawker)**

That the information be noted.

### **Council Resolution Minute Number 129**

That the information be noted.