



Your news in brief - 18th December 2011

Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah

The Committee and I wish everybody a cheerful and happy Festive Season.

First, a brief update. This year has been particularly active, with many events and happenings in and around City Hall. We have done our best to report on these during the year. Now at last council is taking its annual break, until February. We expect many newsworthy items next year. We should see the eventual opening of the GESAC regional sporting complex sometime later in the summer. Expectations are now for a February or March starting date. Watch this space! Late next year there will be council elections. These are now held only once every four years, so the city-wide elections will be a major community event. Finally, we note that the usual in-fighting over whether or not to advertise the CEO position has ceased, with Mr. Newton having been re-appointed as CEO.

Come in Spinner! 'Two-Up' at City Hall NEW Mayor for Glen Eira
Last week councillors elected a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. For once, there was transparent democracy. But Cr. Lobo was absent, which meant a possible draw. Crs. Magee and Hyams were nominated for Mayor. The voting result was a draw, four votes each. In such a case, the Act specifies that lots be drawn. (In the past, Caulfield Council followed the procedure laid down by the Local Government Department. Brightly coloured straws were drawn, so as to be clearly visible from the public gallery). Now, however, Mr. Newton CEO decided to use the toss of a coin instead. He read out his list of rules, including the need for a clear landing space for the coin. Newton then flipped a single coin, instead of the normal two. Also, he used his hand to flip the coin, instead of the usual 'kip' board. So this was to be one up, not two up, Glen Eira style. Cr. Hyams called Heads. The coin came to rest under a table. According to Newton's rules it should have been re-tossed. But Newton failed to re-toss the coin. Both councillors inspected the coin, and Newton announced the result: **Heads!** Cr Penhalluriack objected to Newton's error, but Hyams facetiously interjected, 'Do you want the best out of three?' Newton then declared Hyams the new Mayor. **So Cr. Hyams was declared the new Mayor. Congratulations, Jamie.** (Note: No other councillor inspected the coin, and the public were not invited to). So, 'situation normal', for Glen Eira. Cheers for now, see everyone next year. (Don Dunstan, President)