

NATIONALS

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Nats in the hot seat

By TOM SEBO

A THREE cornered contest for Hume is all but certain following last week's announcement that Alby Schultz would step down at the next federal election.

The Nationals Party NSW state director Ben Franklin told the

Goulburn Post it was likely they would run a candidate in the vacant seat.

"We are still in the process of (negotiating) the federal coalition agreement and haven't made a decision whether to run at this stage," he said.

"But, given our long history in representing the seat it would be unlikely if we chose not to run."

However, when asked if the party had any candidates in mind, Mr Franklin was not prepared to put forth any names.

"We have been working under the assumption that Alby would be running and we don't run against sitting members. So, it has come as a bit of a shock to us all and we are currently considering all of our options," he said.

During an interview with the *Post* last week, Liberal Member for Goulburn Pru Goward said she wouldn't be surprised if the Nationals did run a candidate.

"The Nationals have always had a special place in their heart for Hume. John Sharp was a National Party member and I think they would love to win back the seat," Ms Goward said.

"...But I hope the Nationals take the Coalition's interests into account because the most important thing next year is to win government."

She said the amount of effort that it took to campaign against each other in Hume could be better utilised to fight Labor in marginal seats.

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Youth rock up to PCYC

HUNDREDS of young people turned up to Goulburn PCYC's open day and youth activity expo on Saturday, including Canberra-based graffiti artist James Small, who is keen on the idea of legal graffiti art spaces.

Mr Small, pictured with PCYC-based Senior Constable Mandy Thornthwaite, was a hit, with his colourful masterpieces and artistic tips creating much interest.

Visitors were entertained by a variety of activities including indoor rock climbing, martial arts and cooking, and performances from bands and singers.

The Southern General Practice Network, Anglicare and Community Drug Action also had a presence during the day, providing demonstrations and hosting activities such as a temporary tattoo and hair colouring stand.



Photo: Darryl Fernance

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