

18 line up in poll dance

By LOUISE THROWER

House hubbie tops 'ungrouped' ballot paper



A SELF acknowledged wild card has won top spot on the ballot for Goulburn Mulwaree Council elections next month.

Frank McAlister (pictured top right) only fully decided a week ago to nominate, after speaking to friends and attending a Council information session.

On Wednesday he was thrilled he had drawn top spot on the ballot, ahead of 12 other ungrouped candidates.

"That's good - it's a coveted position," Mr McAlister said.

"I suppose everyone will be chasing me for my preferences."

He grew up on a Currawang property, attended school at Tarago and Goulburn High, and has lived in Goulburn the last 12 years.

The 56-year-old "house husband" and former grazier cites rates, improving sports facilities and looking after the elderly and younger generation as just some of his priorities.

All up, 18 candidates are standing for Goulburn Mulwaree, five of those on an independent ticket that will appear on the left hand side of the ballot paper, below the line.

The other 13 will appear on the right side of the paper, also below the line.

Returning officer Brenda Hangilias said there was no need for the group to be part of the draw, as they were on a ticket.

Their self-nominated order is Robin Saville, Jason Shepherd, Roger Lucas, Laszlo Strasser and Andrew Thistleton.

The draw determined the ungrouped candidates' order as follows:

1. Frank McAlister (independent); 2. Geoff Kettle; 3. Alfie Walker; 4. Carol James; 5. Andrew Banfield - independent; 6. Bob Kirk - independent; 7. Richard Orchard - independent; 8. Sam Rowland - independent; 9. Nina Dillon - independent; 10. Geoff Peterson; 11. Neil Penning; 12. Denzil Sturgiss - independent,



WHO'S FIRST?: On Wednesday Electoral Commission returning officer Brenda Hangilias and office manager Warren Guyer conducted the draw for Goulburn Mulwaree Council's elections on September 8. Candidate Frank McAlister won top spot.

and, 13. Margaret O'Neill independent.

Voters will go to the polls on Saturday, September 8 to elect nine councillors. All existing representatives are re-nominating.

Candidates have to secure the quota, plus one to be elected. The quota is calculated using the number of formal votes divided by the number of vacant spots, in this case nine.

Goulburn Mulwaree has approximately 18,000 eligible voters, according to the Electoral Commission, who will lodge their choice at 11 polling booths.

Meantime, members of the independent ticket said they were pleased with their placing below the line.

Mr Saville said two groups would have been necessary to be placed above the line, a spot which has traditionally attracted the 'donkey' vote.

"We still see it as an advantage where we are," he said.

"We're committed to working together, united and pleased with the outcome."

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Goulburn Mulwaree ballot paper

GROUPED

1. Robin Saville*
2. Jason Shepherd*
3. Roger Lucas*
4. Laszlo Strasser*
5. Andrew Thistleton*

* Independent candidate

■ Election will be held Saturday, September 8

■ Nine councillor spots are up for grabs

■ The Goulburn Post's 'Meet The Candidates' night will be held on August 29 at the Workers Club

UNGROUPED

1. Frank McAlister*
2. Geoff Kettle
3. Alfie Walker
4. Carol James
5. Andrew Banfield*
6. Bob Kirk*
7. Richard Orchard*
8. Sam Rowland*
9. Nina Dillon*
10. Geoff Peterson
11. Neil Penning
12. Denzil Sturgiss*
13. Margaret O'Neill*

* Independent candidate

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