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Singleton Council candidates' plans to shape town's future

By Chloe Coleman
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The Argus **asked the candidates vying for seats on Singleton Council what they can bring to council and offer Singleton's ratepayers. Here are their answers (in ballot paper order).**

Peree Watson (Labor) (mayoral candidate)

I am standing for mayor and council, to give the voters of Singleton the choice of a fresh strong new voice for our community. In the coming years our town will undergo changes: a bypass, the arrival of new emerging industries, the evolution of mining and its support for our community and the need for additional housing and vital infrastructure. Singleton will decide on September 14, on the team of 10 councillors who will be tasked with looking forward, so that we continue to thrive and sustainably grow. We need a strong ,dynamic, collaborative leader for this team, one who will fight for and represent Singleton to state and federal government. To fight for a fair economic share for Singleton, public education, housing, public health services, public transport and support of the most vulnerable in our community.

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Patrick Thompson (Labor)

As a local, Patrick Thompson has seen how Singleton has grown and changed over the decades. As a disability worker, he has helped address the needs of vulnerable residents in the region. Patrick is a passionate advocate for community engagement and accessibility, ensuring that everyone can fully participate in the opportunities and services Singleton offers. Drawing from diverse industry experience, he is committed to developing the Singleton area while remaining mindful of the cost of living pressures faced by families today. He believes in fostering a strong sense of community and belonging, ensuring that no one is left behind. Patrick's dedication to inclusivity and support has made a tangible difference in many lives. In recent years, Singleton residents have consistently highlighted 'activities and options for kids and young people' as a top priority. Patrick aims to support and spotlight the excellent youth programs run by our library and youth centre. By raising awareness about these existing programs, he contributes to better support for young people in our community without affecting your rates during the current cost of living crisis.

Tim McGeachie (Labor)

My name is Tim McGeachie and I am an enthusiastic and dedicated 28-year-old with a passion for local politics. I am proud to be a third generation local, having grown up in Broke, with family still settled there. I am focused on the future of Singleton as a community for all people, ages and origins and with a focus on the smaller communities. I am currently studying to provide school-based education support, and as a councillor I will actively engage with the youth. Our council should reflect the community it services and as a young councillor I will be focused on the future for our community.

Mel McLachlan (Independent)

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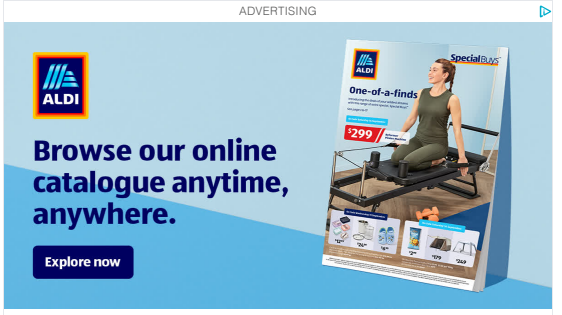

Having served as a councillor in the last term, my goal is simple and unwavered in that I will continue to fight for the sustainable future of Singleton. Singleton is entering a period of inevitable change which will see a transition to renewable energy. Should I be re-elected I will continue to be an approachable, honest and transparent representative for the community as a whole.

Danny Thompson (Independent) (mayoral candidate)

I am standing for mayor and council because I love this community and have appreciated everything it has done for me. I want to ensure we pass it on to our children in a better way than we received it. That means we need to ensure we have a strong economy to provide them with greater opportunities. Our community should be safe, friendly and welcoming. They should feel pride in their facilities and environment. The most important thing that council needs to do is work with all levels of government and business to maximise the opportunities available for our community. We should be stridently advocating that this community gets it fair share of the wealth that is generated here, not just allow the state and federal governments to take that wealth and support the big cities. We are the ones who have to put up with the noise, dust, congestion and inadequate infrastructure. We need to be advocating for more police, better public transport options, an improved TAFE offering in Singleton and links to other higher education institutions. I have served in numerous community organisations all my life. I have over ten years experience in local government and feel I understand this community and its needs.

Sue George (Independent)

I have been a councillor since 2016 and aim to continue the hard work and focus of the last council in ensuring a prosperous, safe and vibrant community and economy. Many issues face residents in the LGA, some council is responsible for - roads, rates and rubbish, others we can actively advocate for such as improved transport, increased policing, air quality and economic assistance as the economy changes. Council has had great success with its advocacy agenda and my aim is to increase and focus on the benefits the community can receive. I have a strong community focus, through my role as president of Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and other organisations, I have been a council representative on a range of committees including the Bush Fire Management Committee, Combined Rural Halls, Local Traffic, Community Economic Development Fund, Audit Risk, Property Advisory, Weeds and three Community Consultative committees. I have the time, energy and enthusiasm to serve all residents in the Singleton LGA and I look forward to continuing my role as a councillor.

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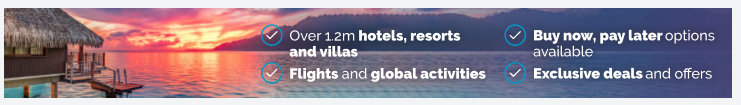

Anne McGowan (Independent)

Anne McGowan is standing as an Independent candidate for councillor. With her business background, she feels she could bring a good skill set to the table at council, including business, consultancy and public relations. Anne is a company director and friend of Rotary; she was a part time business and communications studies teacher at Singleton TAFE and coordinated training courses for unemployed involving work experience. She founded Protecting Seniors Wealth to safeguard senior and vulnerable people from financial exploitation and lobby for law reform, she has experience in liaising with all levels of government and business. Anne is standing as an Independent to represent the community. We will need to focus on how we transition with the bypass and other important considerations in the coming years such as continued economic and industry development. There will be opportunities to continue to improve lifestyle and businesses. We could benefit from more skills training opportunities at Singleton TAFE, and how do we plan for a quality retirement community development. Anne is aware our shire has upcoming pressing issues such as homelessness, and we will need to consider how to progress and prepare to take advantage of new industry prospects.

Sue Moore (Independent) (mayoral candidate)

My name is Sue Moore - I am currently Singleton Mayor. I have been on council for 25 yrs, including mayor for 12 years. My background is primary production, and my family has been on our property since 1850's. In the past term I achieved changes to the bypass design that will allow better access to the main street. Helped towards Arts and Culture Centre, several new bridges and causeways were built or planned. Most importantly our Community Economic Development fund which has supported many projects and programs in our local area. We need action on the Singleton police station-State Government has committed some funds to the refurbishment of the existing station. This is not ideal as a purpose-built modern station is what Singleton needs and deserves for 24 hour operation. Housing- there are several thousand housing blocks rezoned however are restricted by lack of infrastructure-currently we are not eligible for grant funds. Growth for Singleton is at our doorstep with the completion of the bypass we must be ready. Planning for traffic flow around town when we no longer have a national highway through our town. Local jobs and planning for mine land re-use when the mines close are matter that need addressing for the prosperity of Singleton LGA.

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Scott Yeomans (Libertarian Party formerly Liberal Democrats)

I have lived in the Singleton area for the last 25 years. Married and raised two children, built a home and business, employed other locals, contribute to local events, and support local/Australian as much as possible. After a lifetime of experience and learning, I realise that I have to contribute to the ongoing prosperity of our society, the direction we are heading concerns me. I have no great desire to be a councilor but I have a strong sense of duty to the future. As a candidate in the upcoming local elections, I seek to promote Libertarian principals into council. This basically means council should focus on basics and not much else, keeping costs and interference with peoples freedom to a minimum. I have no grand plans I simply want to minimise the drift towards central planning and hold it accountable where I can. It should make us grateful that we are among the few who happen to be born in an era of self-sustained global progress. But it should also make us focused.

Godfrey Adamthwaite (Independent)

I have served my country and my community and wish to continue serving my community for another term. If re-elected I will continue working to future proof Singleton LGA for our children and the whole community for generations. I will continue to promote and advocate with stakeholders to continue moving forward with better health and welfare, and expansion of health services in our area; seek ongoing commitment to and expansion of vocational education programs in Singleton; commitment to increase the stock of housing as well as provision of suitable homing of our homeless; continue to promote tourism, also I would like to see the completion of the Singleton bypass in a reasonable time; maintain water security for the Hunter; pushing for more train services and to get on with upgrades to police, fire and ambulance services; continue the planning for an improved environment for beyond mining.

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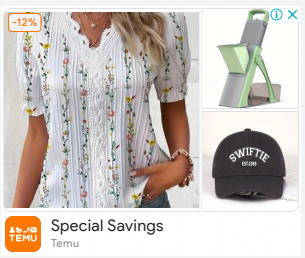

Hollee Jenkins (Independent)

My priority is to continue to improve Singleton and ensure that we remain a

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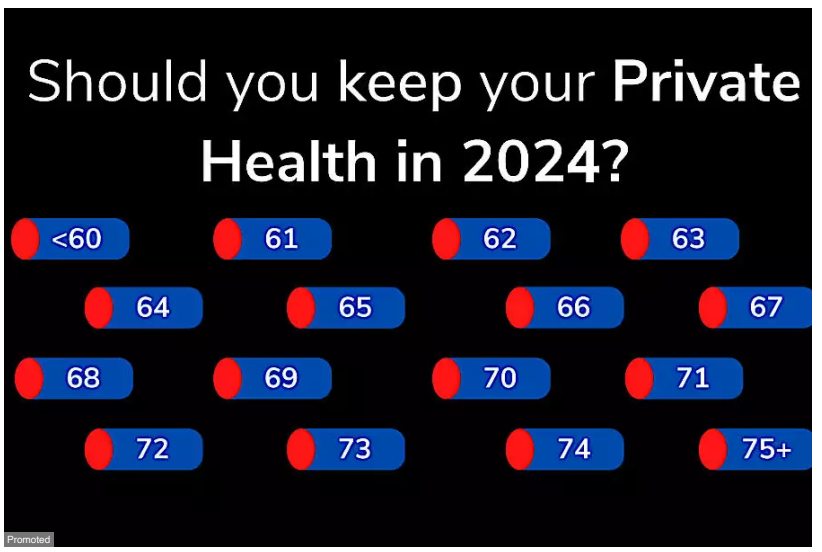

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