



MEDIA RELEASE

## Chester Hill Couple Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

The Federal Member for Blaxland, Jason Clare MP, today joined Marcos and Anna Pieri of Chester Hill to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Mr and Mrs Pieri celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, with a surprise party given by their children at the couple's Chester Hill home of 36 years.

Mr Clare said that he was delighted to take part in this special occasion and presented the happy couple with a congratulatory certificate and flowers. Mr Clare has also organised for a congratulatory message and certificate from the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

At the surprise party, Mr Clare was shown a photograph of the couple taken at their engagement party.

"They look as much in love today as the day they got engaged," Mr Clare said. Marcos, 83 and Anna, 75 were married 60 years ago on the island of Cyprus. Marcos migrated to Australia in 1951 to work and was later joined by his young family.

They had three children and now have eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. The couple are well known in the community after operating a successful grocery store in Lidcombe for many years. August 18 marks their 60th Wedding anniversary.

# Green team to contest council elections

The Canterbury Greens have announced their candidates for the September council elections, a diverse team of local community campaigners who bring a solid balance of experience, enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

Key Greens policies are an end to overdevelopment, local action on climate change and the environment, improved services, accountable decision-making and real consultation.

Greens mayoral candidate and lead candidate for East Ward, Linda Eisler wants to see a council that puts the community first and ends the politics of back-room deals.

"We need to bring the community back into council, to meet the challenges we face today," Linda said.

"The Labor Party has run this state – and our council – like a private club, and lost touch.

"Creating a livable city, giving our children a future, preserving our open spaces and waterways, delivering better social services – these things demand a new approach.

"Canterbury Council needs its Greens, now more than ever," she said.

Bashir Sawalha, Greens lead candidate for Central Ward, is committed to giving those who feel voiceless a chance of being heard with respect and dignity.

"The Greens' aim is to see a more humane, just and peaceful society," Bashir said.

"The Canterbury area has a rich, vibrant and diverse culture, with much to be proud of, but we have many people doing it tough as well.

"There are plenty of politicians ready to speak for the powerful and well-connected, but what we need are those ready to speak for all of us.



"If elected, I will campaign for better social services, particularly for children. More affordable, quality childcare and support services like playgroups are desperately needed.

"This election day, the people of Canterbury will have a chance to choose councillors who will give them a real voice," he said.

### Candidate profiles

#### Linda Eisler

A primary school teacher for 25 years, Linda has also worked as a research officer for the Teachers Federation and a welfare worker, has been an active unionist and long-time community campaigner.

Linda is a Hurlstone Park resident and is involved in a range of local organisations, including the Cooks River Valley Association, local landcare group the Mudcrabs, the Two Valley Trail Teachers' Resource Group, Friends of Ewen Park and Canterbury Aboriginal

#### Advisory Group.

A mother, a traveller and poet, Linda holds a number of academic qualifications, her studies including post-graduate work in environmental sustainability.

Linda has been a Greens member s-

ince 1999, and was a candidate in the 2004 council elections.

#### Bashir Sawalha

Bashir is a well-known and respected community figure in the Canterbury-Bankstown area.

A founding member of the local Greens, Bashir has been a candidate in several state and council elections.

Bashir is a long-standing resident of Lakemba, where he has run a successful graphic design and printing business for eight years. Active in a range of community organisations,

Bashir is also treasurer of the Lakemba Chamber of Commerce.

Born and raised in Palestine, Bashir's experiences there gave him a passion for social justice. Since moving to Australia, he has been involved in many campaigns, including those against the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bashir graduated from Hebron University with a Bachelors Degree in Educational Psychology and has a Masters in Management and Human Resources Development from Sydney University. He is married and a proud father of four children.



The photo shows lead candidates Bashir Sawalha and Linda Eisler, with friends at a National Tree Day planting event in Canterbury on July 27