The election of Lord Mayor is the City of Adelaide’s main event. Since nominations opened in September there have already been a few verbal blows exchanged, although the coming weeks will see plenty more action before the votes are in on November 7. With individuals and business owners judging the fight, the diverse group of contenders have a range of competing interests to consider, as well as their own vision to promote. SA Life offers some background on the individuals, including one last-minute nominee, who believe they have what it takes to wear the robe and chains.

**Stephen Yarwood**

**Age:** 43  
**Training:** Norwood High School; Masters Degree in Business Administration; Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies; Graduate Diploma in Regional and Urban Planning; Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning  
**Career achievements:** Incumbent Lord Mayor and past deputy lord mayor and councillor; award winning member of the Planning Institute of Australia; urban planning experience in state and local government and South Australian parliament; prolific public speaker locally, nationally and internationally; top 10 per cent social media influencers globally (measured by Klout Score on Twitter).  
**Hobbies:** Electric car and cycling enthusiast; science and technology; photography and the arts; family, health and wellbeing.  


**City role model:** Sister city Austin, Texas: small, creative, fun and successful. An entrepreneurial city hosting technology giants such as Dell, Texas Instruments and Apple with a thriving live music culture and arts community.  

**Talking tough:** “I offer leadership with a vision for Adelaide’s future:  
• Fun, creative and interesting: I want to support residents, business, entrepreneurs and the multicultural community to encourage more people to spend more time in Adelaide.  
• Modern thriving economy: It is critical we nurture small business, innovative
technology, creative industries and trade to enliven our education, retail, entertainment and night-time economy.

- World-renowned liveability: An actively engaged community with a council focused on supporting residents can make Adelaide the world’s most liveable city.

- Effective integrated transport: Improving accessibility for all ages via better parking, public transport and safe pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

- More trees, a greener city: I want to protect our green heritage, accelerate street plantings and activate our parklands with well-designed community infrastructure.

- Smart, sustainable development: Quality development with community input plus strong heritage and sustainability goals that focus on the long term will make Adelaide a beautiful city for visiting and living in.

- Caring, collaborative council: A motivated “outcome focused” culture; council must be a team player and solutions provider as well as prudent and efficient.

- International brand of excellence: Connecting business, education, and the arts to export skills and goods and expand Adelaide’s reputation and influence.

I have dedicated my life to developing cities, love Adelaide and care about its future!

Mark Hamilton

Age: 62
Training: Geelong Grammar School; Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws (Commercial); Master of Business Administration; Practitioner’s Certificate in Mediation and Conciliation.

Career achievements: Founder, principal and managing partner of Grope Hamilton Lawyers, a CBD-based commercial law firm in its 31st year; founder of Hamilton’s Ewell Vineyards Pty Ltd. Member of Adelaide City Council for 17 years including a term as deputy lord mayor; former member of State Heritage Authority; former director of Women’s and Children’s Hospital; and former deputy member of Australian Grand Prix Board.

Hobbies: Running and exercise; wine; classic cars; Regency and Georgian antiques; modern Australian art; and lifelong education.

Mentors/people who inspire: My late father-in-law John Roche AM, former Lord Mayor, a man with a lot of common sense, had a lot of influence. Sir Winston Churchill for his steadfastness, advocacy skills and tenacity – he never gave up when fighting for a just cause.

Malcolm Turnbull – I find myself...
agreeing with just about everything he says. A small “L” liberal conservative who believes in looking after everyone’s interests in a considered fashion. **City role model:** London – how to retain heritage and allow respectful development; and how to maximise parking and keep traffic moving with a large population. **Talking tough:** “The very role of and reason for existence of the capital city council, on behalf of its community, will be under threat during the next council term. The city community needs a Lord Mayor, fiercely independent of the state government, who has the council experience, capacity and will to fight tenaciously to preserve the role of Adelaide City Council as the body which devises planning policy for the city and assesses developments for the city community. State planning minister John Rau is hell bent on taking these functions away from councils and placing them in regional boards; and significantly watering down heritage protection. The next council term is going to see a stand-up, knockdown fight between local government and the state government over these issues. Nothing is more important than fighting to preserve the right of the city community to determine the form and shape of their area, by setting policy and assessing developments – through an elected council, which is accountable to them. I will fight tirelessly to preserve these rights.”

**Michael Henningsen**

**Age:** 56

**Training:** Christian Brothers’ College; Adelaide University

**Career achievements:** Currently a consultant orthopaedic surgeon in both public and private practice; Adelaide City Councillor for the past seven years and former deputy lord mayor; former chair of the Australia Day Council of SA; former war surgeon with the International Committee of the Red Cross in the International conflict in Afghanistan.

**Hobbies:** Snowboarding, vintage automobile restoration and home renovation.

**Mentors/people who inspire:** Mentors are Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, together with my parents. People who inspire me: Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

**City role model:** Oxford UK – A city which cleverly built an industry on both education and heritage but managed to successfully combine these roles while developing a modern industrial and manufacturing economy. Adelaide can and should strive to be the undisputed education capital of Australia.

**Talking tough:** “I’m about getting the balance right, working collaboratively...”
with both state and federal governments and leading a united council which focuses on delivering a world-class city for business and residents in the CBD and North Adelaide. Successive city councils have not put enough funds into maintaining the standard of our city. Compared to the city I remember from my childhood, the roads, footpaths, the parks and gardens are tired, in poor repair and unfixed. I unashamedly will strive to restore pride in our city and North Adelaide by concentrating on what I consider to be the core responsibilities of a local government authority. Ensuring the city is clean and well-presented: planting, maintaining and establishing succession planting of trees and adding trees back into our streets. Upgrading footpaths and maintaining our roads properly. Reinstating a program of undergrounding power lines so our business and residential streets are attractive, and continuing with the roll-out of LED lighting to increase public safety. Continuing council’s support for the arts, maintaining our built form heritage and fostering high quality, complying development to increase the city’s population in a sustainable manner are all my priorities.”

Martin Haese
Age: 48
Training: St Ignatius College; Graduate Diploma in Management; Master of Business Administration (MBA)
Career achievements: Launched Youthworks fashion (1993) which expanded to 16 stores and 220 employees. Led Rundle Mall Management Authority (2010-13), instrumental in securing exclusive public holiday trading for City of Adelaide. Managing director of Retail IQ, an advisory business working with local governments and retail precincts across Australia and Asia. Board director, Adelaide Convention Bureau; committee member, Property Council (SA) Mainstreets Committee; chairman, Bay to Birdwood Run.
Hobbies: My wife Genevieve and I enjoy exploring the city’s arts and cultural heritage. We love the music and food scene as our cafes, restaurants and wine bars are incredible. Historic motoring is a great passion. I speak conversational French and we are learning Bahasa Indonesian. We love to travel; Genevieve is from Singapore and we often visit family.
Mentors/people who inspire: Dame Roma Mitchell, who was my godmother, is a great inspiration as is Steve Cenkos, who has such a strong community focus.

My wife is an accomplished entrepreneur who studied in Los Angeles, worked in advertising in central London, opened her own advertising agency in Singapore and launched holistic healing retreats across Asia.

City role model: Singapore inspires me because of its “can do” culture.

Talking tough: The City of Adelaide is at a cross roads and I put myself forward to lead our city toward a more secure and prosperous future. As a city resident, entrepreneur and educator with experience in local and international business, I will listen to the community and lead a more inclusive and accountable council. My vision is that Adelaide will be a compelling place to live, learn, work, play and visit. Residents and business people will be supported by a council that better understands their needs and aspirations, by ensuring the City of Adelaide:

- provides a safer, cleaner and more livable city
- is the first-choice destination for visiting, learning and doing business
- eases traffic stress to better serve the needs of its motorists, cyclists, commuters and pedestrians
- is accountable to its ratepayers
- will get the basics right: reduce the barriers to entry, welcome more people to the city and build upon our credentials as a livable city.

I will ensure North Adelaide, the city precincts and the parklands are safe, clean and attractive places. I will respect our heritage, engage our diverse cultural communities, retain our youth, encourage education, arts, sport and tourism, drive greater innovation and restore our standing as one of our nation’s great capital cities. I will ensure council plays its part in helping those that are less able to help themselves. I will lead and unify the council.