

# Going it alone, together

Nick Hansen

TWO disaffected Labor aldermen went their own way in 1994, sparking an independent movement still alive on Liverpool Council today.

The Liverpool Community Independents Team celebrates its 20-year anniversary this month.

“We thought, ‘let’s give Liverpool another choice’,” LCIT co-founder and former mayor Colin Harrington said.

Mr Harrington and Alf Vella broke ranks to start the alliance, claiming they felt used and at odds with the direction of the Labor Party.

The group had Mr Harrington and Geoff Neville elected in the 1995 council elections.

Mr Harrington was re-elected in 1999 and joined by LCIT-backed Stephen Dobb-Brown who both served until the council went into administration in 2003.

When elections resumed in 2008, Nadia Napoletano won a seat for the group, along with incumbent councillor Peter Harle.

“I’m not tied down by a strict caucus,” Cr Harle,



Incumbent Liverpool councillor Peter Harle, with former Mayor Colin Harrington and former Alderman Alf Vella. Picture: TIM CLAPIN

## INDEPENDENTS CLOCK UP 20 YEARS SERVICE

now the group’s only councillor, said.

“That means I’m free to vote for what I believe is best for Liverpool.”

Mr Vella said the 20th anniversary was a chance to

thank associated councillors and members.

“I really would like to thank all the people involved over the years, a lot of hard work has gone into this,” Mr Vella said.

The Liverpool Community Independents Team still meets on the first Monday of each month in the Liverpool Community Centre and has around 60 financial members.

### LCIT FOUNDERS

- 1994 - As mayor, Colin Harrington formed LCIT with Alderman Alf Vella
- The pair sought to provide an alternative to the major parties and to promote the election and re-election of LCIT members to council