

It's a smiling poll finale



LEFT: A winning team's victory salute — Mrs Varty, with Mr Kennett and Mr Peacock.

Pictures: CLIVE MCKINNON and MICHAEL SILVER

RIGHT: A hug for Mrs Varty from her mother Lella.



AN outsider would have had difficulty picking the winner and the loser.

Rosemary Varty forced a grin as she narrowly thanked her supporters and family before a packed Box Hill Town Hall.

Brandishing a spanner — a gesture from Jeff Kennett in reply to the ALP "spanner in the works" television advertisement — Mrs Varty seemed non-plussed at first Mr Kennett and then Andrew Peacock thrust her arm into the air for the benefit of the cameras.

Her composure was only momentarily shaken when her mother Lella congratulated her with a kiss and a hug.

Around the corner at the ALP campaign office in Bank St, the vanquished Bob Ives was smiling broadly.

It was not the end of the world, he proclaimed, and he was sure there would be other opportunities.

A weary campaign worker, slumped before a television set in the corner of the crowded room, gave the only clue to the disappointing result.

"We're even going to lose the cricket," he told nobody in particular as Bob Ives laughed for another interviewer.

— JOHN HINE

BELOW: Move spanner, will wash — that appears to be the message from Mrs Varty.



ABOVE: The smile of success — Mrs Varty at home yesterday.



LEFT: Congratulations come pouring in for Mrs Varty yesterday.

ABOVE: Mrs Varty speaks to supporters after the victory speeches on Saturday night.

ABOVE: The smile of a loser — Bob Ives in the ALP campaign room.