VARTY

VICTORY

Rosemary Varty is the new Member of the Legislative Council for Nunawading Province and after nearly 12 months of solid campaigning she can't wait to start work.

Mrs Varty won the seat for the Liberal Party in last Saturday's by-election with 48.9 per cent of the vote compared to abor Candidate, Bob Ives, 39.3 per cent.

After her win Mrs Varty said she felt 'really' great.' 'It's been a long 12 months of cam-paigning and sometimes it feels like you're never going to reach your goal. Still, its been worth the wait and now I can get down to representing the people that elected me," she

Mrs Varty said the election had seen the emergence of several groups in the community who were conservative by nature, but had been forced to take political action by the attitude of the Cain Government.

'I'm speaking of groups like the Mounain Cattlemen, the Small Business Association and the police. I will be representing their interests because I feel they signify a backlash against radical ele-ments in the com-munity", she said.

"We won this election by campaigning on the issues which concerned people in the electorate. The ALP didn't do this and they

paid the penalty."

Mrs Varty joined the Liberal Party in 1975 and is a member of the Box Hill Branch.

She expects to be sworn in as a member of the Legislative Council on the third Tuesday in September.

The result of the election was certainly a blow to the ALP which had expected to do a lot bet-ter, and had in fact, been reasonably confident of holding the seat and maintaining an historic majority in the Upper House.

The Government conceded defeat only three hours after the polling booths closed.

The Premier, Mr Cain, said that Labor had done as well as any Government could which he claimed were

notorious for the emergence of protest groups.

He said he believed the Labor Government could be justly proud of its showing.

Another party to suffer the wrath of the voters was the Australian Democrats for whom support fell by nearly three per cent.
It appears that by sup-

porting conservation groups in the election the Democrats backed the wrong horse, whereas the Liberals gained the support of many people who sym-pathised with the Mountain Cattlemen in their fight against the creation of an Alpine National Park.

At the Liberal Party's victory celebrations on Saturday night Federal Opposition Leader. Andrew Peacock, was jubilant.

He claimed that if the swing against Labor was translated throughout the state it would mean the loss of about 15 seats for the ALP.

State Opposition Leader, Jeff Kennett was also on top of the world. He said the result was a victory for commonsense and decency and repeated his pledge not to block supply now that his party had control of the Upper House

The Nunawading byelection was ordered after Mrs Varty successfully challenged the results of the March 2 poll in the Court of Disputed Returns.



POLL RESULTS Rosemary Varty Lib 45,418, Bob Ives, ALP 36,503. Michael Nardella AD 4284, Al Watson CAP 2483, Jenny Cotterell NDP 2361, Peter FERWERDA DLP 1269, Basil Smith Ind 396, Brian Lunsden Ind 160, Bill Kapphan Ind 66.

CANDIDATE PERCENTAGES Varty 48.9, Ives 39.3, Nardella 4.6, Watson 2.7, Cotterell 2.5, Ferwerda 1.7, Smith 0.4, Lumsden 0.2, Kapphan 0.1.





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