

Nunawading: the final result

	<i>First preferences</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>After preferences</i>	<i>%</i>
Smith (Ind.)	438	0.4	—	—
Watson (CTA)	2682	2.6	3120	3.0
Ferwerda (DLP)	1361	1.3	—	—
Ives (ALP)	40,578	39.2	40,818	39.4
Kapphan (Ind.)	75	0.1	—	—
Varty (Lib.)	51,006	49.2	52,086	50.3
Nardella (AD)	4760	4.6	4947	4.8
Lumsden (Ind.)	204	0.2	—	—
Cotterell (NDP)	2530	2.4	2649	2.6
Formal	103,634			
Informal	2055	1.9		
Total votes cast	105,689	88.5 of eligible voters		

Varty wins at last as ALP loses control of Council

By TIM COLEBATCH

Labor's six-week reign in the Legislative Council is over. Yesterday the Liberal candidate, Mrs Rosemary Varty, finally won the seat of Nunawading on the distribution of preferences.

Mrs Varty will be officially declared elected tomorrow, and will take up her seat on the next day the Council sits, probably 17 September.

Numbers in the Council will then be 22-22, with the 17 Liberals and five National Party MLCs combining to have a one-vote majority on the floor. (The Council President, Mr Rod Mackenzie, ALP, has only a casting vote.)

Both sides are now more or less agreed on the size of the swing to the Liberals in the byelection. Labor scrutineers calculate it as 4.6 per cent, while Liberal sources put it closer to four per cent.

This is significantly less than the 6.5 per cent the Opposition Leader, Mr Kennett, claimed the day after the election.

Mrs Varty reached an absolute majority of votes yesterday after the preferences of three independents and the DLP were dis-

tributed; 70 per cent of DLP preferences went straight to her.

The preferences of the Democrat, Call to Australia and Nuclear Disarmament Party candidates did not need to be distributed. About 70 per cent of Democrat and NDP preferences are estimated to have been directed to Labor, and about the same proportion of Call to Australia preferences to the Liberals (the other 30 per cent include the donkey votes flowing to Labor).

Mrs Varty said last night she was delighted by the outcome. "I'll be setting about learning the ropes for a start, but my interests are in small business, budgeting, that sort of thing, and I'd like to pursue them in Parliament," she said.

Mr Bob Ives, the Labor candidate who resigned his job as a business lecturer at Swinburne after being declared elected at the original election in March, now finds himself unemployed and "rather enjoying taking a rest".

"Looking on the positive side, I'm glad we contained it to a normal byelection swing, and I think it has enhanced Mr Cain's reputation as Premier," he said.