Governor calls for Aboriginal cultural centre

John Queripe

At a media event held at Bondi Beach’s Chapel by the Sea, where the heart of Gordon and Elaine Syron’s Keeping Place collection of Aboriginal art is currently exhibited, a number of prominent guests showed their support for the aim of saving the collection, keeping it in public space.

The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Marie Bashir, said: “It is my dream and my hope that I see before long that a fine centre of Aboriginal culture is established somewhere on the foreshores of the harbour – maybe not so far from where the first fleet landed. Perhaps I’m stepping out of line now, but to say it’s somewhat overdue – a cultural centre which is home to the great works of art, to artists in residence, to an elder in residence and a very full library and access to people from all over the world who may want to come and study this great continuous living culture.”

The Governor was joined, among many other prominent figures, by former High Court judge, the Hon. Michael Kirby and the “Father of the House” Philip Ruddock MHR. Media figures Jeff McMullen and George Negus were also present expressing their support, as was academic, Professor Larissa Bahrendt, along with many other prominent figures, by former High Court judge, the Hon. Michael Kirby and the “Father of the House” Philip Ruddock MHR. Media figures Jeff McMullen and George Negus were also present expressing their support, as was academic, Professor Larissa Bahrendt, along with many other prominent figures.

Engaging the wheels of change

Libby Hogan

REDfern: The appointment in February of new CEO, Lisa Havilah, marks a new phase in the evolution of CarriageWorks. Ms Havilah aims to develop her arts programs in response to the history and the unique location of CarriageWorks. She said: “CarriageWorks has such a rich cultural history … this building, built in 1890 has a strong history of innovation and making trains, three state premiers emerged from working at CarriageWorks, home of the union movement, innovative on a whole range of levels.”

One challenge that Ms Havilah faces is that CarriageWorks is still a relatively new space of only six years and that many people still do not know what goes on at this old railway warehouse. She will market each project differently and aims to broaden audience appeal. “CarriageWorks is still finding its identity. I always like to think the first thing you are making, if there is commitment to excellence in your program, will define your brand for the future.”

Ms Havilah has focused on creating a contemporary arts program that emerges from the community including an Aboriginal arts project, mentoring programs enabling local artists to work with international artists and developing programs enabling local artists to work with international artists and developing programs enabling local artists to work with international artists.

Mindful of the changing nature and demographics of Redfern, Ms Havilah has noted changes in the area’s makeup. She is interested in what effect that change has on the community. The demographic is changing as more public housing is turned into private residences, with different communities moving into the area. She has also noticed visible changes on Redfern Street, such as the developing café society with an original two or three cafes expanding to “15 cafes in a 16-week period”.

“Change is fantastic for Redfern”, she says, “but it also is important for Redfern to remain who it is, not to lose its identity with gentrification.”
Governor calls for Aboriginal cultural centre (Confidential from page)

Ericksonville shed, owned by the Greens, to a chicken coup in Epping and a barn on the NSW Central Coast. One wonders what sort of reflection this makes on a society that reduces such a collection to this.

Prominent Aboriginal artist Gordon Syron, with his wife Elaine, an accomplished photographer, have over many years gathered together some 1,200 pieces. Erected last year by the Redfern-Waterloo Authority from premises where the art was stored, the Syrons are searching for a new location in which to not only store this art but also to exhibit it so that all can share in the message it brings. A group of supporters is trying to bring this dream to reality and has organised a number of functions to make this possible.

Perhaps in such a coming together of the establishment of the English invaders in order to save this art some progress is being made.

**Moves to promote health and wellbeing**

**REECE MERRIDETH**

**SORRY MULLS:** During our somewhat nippy winter, several organisations have completed a planned move to a new shared location at 414 Elizabeth Street in Surry Hills, close to the rail and bus transport hub at Central Station and just a block away from Alfred Park which has undergone a major facelift with a rededicated swimming pool and grounds nearly complete.

Combined with the friendly Cafe 414 on the ground floor, the refurbished five-storey building, are floors designed to encompass vital community-based organisations including Positive Life, HALC (HIV/AIDS Legal Centre), New Mardis Gas, and the Positive Living Centre, formerly situated in Bourke Street.

With a mission statement to “promote the health and wellbeing of NSW’s gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community” ACON (formerly known as the AIDS Council of NSW) also “provides information and support for people living with HIV, including sex workers and people who use drugs.”

As a community-based non-government organisation, the work done by ACON is “done in our community, for our community and by members of our community.”

Healthy food choices are offered at Cafe 414 and a range of support services for HIV-positive people such as a hairdressing, massage options, counselling and legal advice services operate from the new building.

A host of community activities such as Fag (Mature Age Gentlemen) and workshops (substance abuse, coming out) have also remained as part of the ACON outreach services.

With health choices and activities, especially in marginalised GLBTI communities, ACON continues a history of our community response to HIV/AIDS begun originally by partners, friends and families of people living with HIV in the late 70’s and early 80’s of the last century, when the AIDS epidemic was rife.

**REDFERN:** During August two exciting initiatives with some fun activities took place at the Redfern Town Hall and at Redfern Park, involving local residents of Waterloos and Redfern, and focusing on issues affecting tenants living in public housing.

In the Redfern Town Hall workshop, facilitated by University of Western Sydney researchers, social housing residents and other interested community representatives were provided the necessary background research and similar project examples in supporting and developing this community-based project. Residents’ Voices will also develop a web-based forum where local issues and opinions, experiences and activities can be shared and posted online, encouraging further discussion and airing of our varied experiences and concerns relating to living in the social mix that is Redfern-Waterloo.

Together with support from residents involved in an earlier meeting at the Factory Community Centre, workshop participants committed to ongoing promotion and support for this unique project.

A second Planning Expo at Redfern Park invited local residents to come along to the RedWater Markets, to take part in the Redfern Waterloos Masterplan, supported by the Australian Government’s Housing Affordability Program and Housing NSW. I attended, with many other locals, writing down “What is the event organisers, John Queripel, and provided ideas of concerns and issues affecting our neighbourhood.

Send us your story ideas

The SSH welcomes story ideas and community notices. Please email news@ssh.com.au or phone Lyn on 0400 008 338

---

**N I L S ® N S W**

**No Interest Loans Scheme**

NIFS is a community managed small loan program developed by the Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service designed to assist low income people, i.e., receiving income support from Centrelink. Loans for approx. $1,000 are for new essential household items, medical goods and other worthwhile purposes.

Phone 1800 509 994 – 9:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday (except public holidays) for information/eligibility/schemes in your local area.

NIFS is not for emergency relief, bond or rent, living expenses or debt repayment. For help with credit & debt difficulties, please call the Credit & Debt Hotline: Freecall 1800 808 488

www.nilsnsw.org.au
Sophie Wotton

Redfern: Ten year-old Kalisha Morgan reads more like a 13 year-old. But that wasn’t always the case. Just six months ago she was branded a low-progress reader, struggling to sound out difficult words and embarrassed to read in front of her peers. After completing an intensive literacy program with the Exodus Foundation, Kalisha now reads difficult words with aplomb and has high hopes for her future.

“I want to be a journalist on a TV show like ‘Today Tonight’, she said during her recent graduation ceremony. “I want to tell stories about people who struggle.”

A Year Five student at Matraville Sikhers Settlement Memorial School, Kalisha is one of more than 1,400 students to have completed the Exodus literacy program since 1996. Students improve their reading age by an average of 14-16 months during the 18-week program and continue to improve after graduation.

“Exodus uses the MULTILIT (Making Up Lost Time in Literacy) program developed at Macquarie University by Professor Kevin Wheldall, and maintains a teacher manager for Exodus. “If they hadn’t had this opportunity the gap would still be widening and high school would be almost impossible.”

Exodus uses the MULTILIT (Making Up Lost Time in Literacy) program developed at Macquarie University by Professor Kevin Wheldall, and maintains a teacher manager for Exodus. “If they hadn’t had this opportunity the gap would still be widening and high school would be almost impossible.”

Ms Salazar said Kalisha’s achievement was remarkable. “She came to us in the bottom 10 per cent of all 10 year-olds out there and through persistence she is now in the top 10 per cent of her cohort. “She is bright, motivated, hard-working – what’s to stop her?”

Kalisha’s mother, Lacey Berwick, agrees. “She’s a happier person and so much more confident,” she said. “Sometimes when I nag her, she’ll just look up at me and say ‘Mum, be civil!’ It’s like I’m dealing with a little woman.”

As many as you will be aware, the University is planning a number of changes on the Darlington side of the campus. We are continuing discussions about the concept and design for the new Business School.

The other exciting development concerns the changes to the Noel Martin Sports and Aquatic Centre. As well as being used by many of our sporting groups, this is a centre for the whole community and the additions will allow more people to enjoy the facility.

The changes are planned to take place in two stages and we have just received development consent from the City of Sydney for the building. Stage one will involve the demolition of an existing building currently used for storage and the construction of a new sports hall which will be used for a variety of indoor sports, mainly basketball.

There’ll also be include areas for various University clubs including boxing and other combat sports, as well as space designed for group fitness activities.

Stage two, which will happen in about 18 months time, will involve construction of a new pool for water polo as well as landscaping of the area.

We’re building a better centre for the whole community. Why not become a member.


Building is expected to commence within the next month. Further details are on our web site: www.sydney.edu.au/facilities/projects/sac/expansion

Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor

Community Contact Details

Security and after hours: 1800 063 487 (free call) 24hrs a day, 7 days a week
Enquiries: 9114 0523 Email: local.comunity@sydney.edu.au

Heritage Volunteers

Australian Technology Park (ATP) Eveleigh, once the site of Australia’s largest workforce employing state-of-the-art technology in the manufacture of steam locomotives, is now managed by Australian Technology Park Sydney Ltd (ATPSL).

Applications are invited from people with a passionate interest in Australia’s industrial past to join a committed team of part-time volunteers at ATP.

ATPSL is inviting interested volunteers to submit expressions of interest for the following activities:

Customer Service Volunteers
• To assist visitors to the ATP with way-finding and interpretation of ATP’s rich heritage and lead small group tours from time to time as required.

Cataloguing of heritage assets

Conservation Volunteers
• To work on heritage equipment, machinery and other assets. This will involve working with light hand tools, paint brushes etc.

Cataloguing of heritage assets

For an information pack with further details, please contact:

Gary Love Project Manager Sustainability & Volunteering
Australian Technology Park Sydney Ltd

Email: g.love@atp.com.au

Phone: 9209 4426

It’s a winning formula, according to Maricel Salazar, Co-ordinator of the Redfern Tutorial Centre.

“We support the students by praising them for trying hard, not just for academic achievement,” she said. “By coming to Exodus and reading with kids from other schools they realise they’re not alone and the anxiety is removed from learning.”

According to Ms Salazar, students can struggle to read for all sorts of reasons.

“Some kids are at a disadvantage from the beginning,” she said. “They might have been through trauma, they might have attention problems, they might not have been mature enough to start school. Once there is a gap, it just widens and they feel like giving up.”

Ms Salazar said Kalisha’s achievement was remarkable. “She came to us in the bottom 10 per cent of all 10 year-olds out there and through persistence she is now in the top 10 per cent of her cohort. “She is bright, motivated, hard-working – what’s to stop her?”

Kalisha’s mother, Lacey Berwick, agrees. “She’s a happier person and so much more confident,” she said. “Sometimes when I nag her, she’ll just look up at me and say ‘Mum, be civil!’ It’s like I’m dealing with a little woman.”
The meaning of community

SHH

SURREY HILLS: A number of Sociology and Planning students from the USA recently spent two weeks at the Northcott Community Centre. They are now reflecting on the meaning of community.

Onome Uwubia

I started my daily trips to the Northcott Community Centre on July 12, and coincidentally that was a Tuesday, and Oz Harvest (a food donation program) was arriving that afternoon. We came to the centre with no clear idea of what to expect – or where exactly the centre was – but upon getting there, Marguerite [Perryman] was introduced to us and we began our first project, building a volcano. Later that afternoon, we met Pete from Oz Harvest and since then we have perfected a rotating food assembly line to get the bags of food out quicker to the waiting residents.

That first day has been quite representative of my time at Northcott. Every day I met someone new, from the wonderful Maggie, to the joker Roy, to the amazing Audrey, and all the others that come every day and talk to us. I have had to rebuff numerous offers of food, so as not to gain weight on this Australian trip, but Maggie knows that I really wanted that ice cream... I just had to say "No!"

From Northcott I have learned so much about Australia and Australians. I have had debates with David about the educational system, I have re-learned knitting from Maggie and have participated in community meetings and conferences on Housing in Sydney. I have been taken to Cabramatta and had the most amazing Vietnamese food, and gotten to see numerous nooks and crannies of Sydney through Dave's and Michael Ellyn's help.

These past four weeks have contributed to an amazing experience I will never forget.

Sarita Sharp

Community means a family, a home, and unity within a relaxed lifestyle. Those that contribute to the makeup of a community are essential for the type of community one would live in. An individual provides character and personal strengths and weaknesses. These qualities help to shape the environment into what it is for all others to live in and enjoy. A community may not just be a neighbourhood, but a home to many people with similar interests and qualities, such as economic and health status or the ideal location for individuals of a particular age group, ethnic group, or religious practice.

A community should be comfortable for everyone to live in, getting to know one another in your surrounding is important to the success of a community. If there is no communication, then the atmosphere just feels unwelcoming and dreary. There would be no sense of unity and oneness. To add a more inviting feeling to the surroundings, one should make another feel as comfortable as possible. This would provide optimal community at Northcott, I realise that community is more of a family. People from Russia, China, Vietnam, and other parts of the world come together to live in a government-subsidised community. They might not share a language, idea, way of life or culture, but they do have the same philosophy of helping each other and the passion for understanding others.

It really touched me that a Chinese old man who only knows how to say "Yes" and "No" can communicate with a native Australian who does not know Chinese at all. They use other forms of communication like body language, facial expressions, or simply imagination. They share the hope for a better and nurturing life. They help each other by buying snacks, fairly distributing free food, and discussing interesting events or life stories. Maggie even taught me how to knit (I made a wool scarf by the end of the month)! A community is made of bricks that stick together because they are the foundation of a society. Northcott is glued together by the people's collective enthusiasm for nurturing life. They help each other by providing for you what you need, tell you the hard facts and help you get through life in easy and hard times.

At Northcott my experiences with community have been very different from what I experience at home. Community here is the willful collaboration of strangers to make a place for everyone regardless of their affiliation with Northcott. Community at Northcott is the welcoming of strangers – albeit cautiously until further acquaintance, which as my grandmother says, is good common sense.

There is no one definition of community. To one, community might mean a single person, to another, community is an entire nation...

To one, community might mean a single person, to another, community is an entire nation...

Tian Xia

I was born in China and moved to the United States when I was in middle school. I first learned the word “community” in biology class. The teacher defined it as a group of different organisms living in the same environment. I have lived by this definition as one for human society as well. I believed that the community we live in is just people with different races interacting in order to survive and prosper.

But after experiencing the real community at Northcott, I realise that community is more of a family. People from Russia, China, Vietnam, and other parts of the world come together to live in a government-subsidised community. They might not share a language, idea, way of life or culture, but they do have the same philosophy of helping each other and the passion for understanding others.

The Productivity Commission found that Australia’s disability services system was unfair, underfunded and fragmented, and in need of fundamental change.

The Australian Government agrees.

The Productivity Commission has recommended that Australians should be insured against significant disability – so that people with disability get the kind of care and support they need.

The Productivity Commission outlines the development of a system which would entitle people with significant disability to support based on need, access to nationally consistent services, and greater control over the support they receive.

We’ll work with the States and Territories who deliver disability services, and who have primary responsibility for funding them, to lay the foundations for reform.

We’ll support this work with an additional $10 million, and we will set up an Advisory Group of experts in disability services to work with us.

We have a lot of work ahead of us to deliver the kind of care and support for Australians with disabilities that we’d expect. This work begins with the acknowledgment that we all deserve to know that if something did happen to us or our loved ones, that there is a strong system of support in place.
The new retro

SANDRA BEETSON

In the last few years, Redfern-Waterloo seems to have become a destination of choice for lovers of vintage and retro designs. A guide published last year by Urban Walkabout, whose aim is to provide ideas for the tourists or flâneurs for visiting shops around Sydney’s trendy suburbs, dedicates a number of pages to these shops gathered along Redfern and Regent streets, as well as Elizabeth and Danks streets.

Featuring in the guide is Graham & Graham Designs, a mid-century shop and design studio based in Regent Street. Owner Matthew Graham is not surprised by this increased interest on the part of visitors from other suburbs, in Redfern, which for a long time projected a very different image than that of a trendy retro hub: “Mum and Dad have been down the road for 15 years, when everybody said ‘Don’t come to Redfern, it’s bad’. It was quite bad, but over time it’s gotten much better.”

Matthew, after years of working as an architect but struggling to find stable work during the Global Financial Crisis, decided to join the family business and open his own shop of mid-century furniture and design up the road from his parent’s shop, over two years ago. A year later his brother Alan, previously a shipping broker, also opened his shop on Regent Street. All three family shops are now within 30 metres of each other.

He explains the concentration of retro shops in Redfern by the proximity to Newtown, another area known for its retro shops along King Street. Since his shops in Redfern by the proximity to Regent Street. All three family shops were part of the Seasonal Concepts’ owner Ken Wallis never considered: “Unlike other shops, we fold our doors back completely open all day everyday, we never contemplated putting a shutter on the door, either on the inside or the outside. A lot of the fear associated with Redfern is perhaps associated with a myth, or a past part. It’s not as scary as people make out. I don’t feel at risk because I don’t have a shutter on the door. Conceptually, I think it’s beautiful without it!”

What drew Ken Wallis to the area two years ago to open his shop, an imagination-stirring display of vintage ware, curiosities and original flower arrangements, was the “affordability, easy access, parking, all of which you can’t find in Danks Street. The social mix, even the cultural mix, adds a bohemian element that people like to be part of.”

Both Ken Wallis and Matthew Graham agree on the fact that the increasing number of retro and vintage shops is a positive thing for the area and for the customers: “if they come to one shop, they might stumble upon our shop and vice-versa”, says Matthew Graham. Ken Wallis says: “People like choice, so the more the merrier. There’s more than one old-ware shop here, and we all cater differently.”

Yes, Redfern retro shops are definitely in vogue and an unmistakable sign of it was Lady Gaga’s production team commissioning Seasonal Concepts to decorate her back of house for the exclusive Town Hall Monster Show in July. Did Ken get to meet the new Queen of Pop? “Too many minds!” he laughs, before adding: “It was unexpected for us, but we don’t like to say no very often, we like to say ‘Yeah, let’s give it a go!’”

Transfer of land in Redfern to the Aboriginal Housing Company

Have your say on the transfer of land in Redfern to the Aboriginal Housing Company.

The City of Sydney owns some land which is included in the Aboriginal Housing Company’s Pemulwuy Project, an initiative to regenerate ‘The Block’. The City’s land includes Eveleigh Lane, part of Caroline Lane and 91-99 Eveleigh Street and 119–121 Eveleigh Street.

The City proposes to transfer this land to the Aboriginal Housing Company, to assist in providing accommodation and other facilities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, for $20. This notification is required by Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The transfer of land is essential to the success of the Pemulwuy Project and the nominal sum will reflect support from the City of Sydney.

The transfer of land to the Aboriginal Housing Company will be exhibited publicly from 1 August to 19 September 2011.

Copies of the draft report to Council and supporting material are available for inspection at:

• One Stop Shop
  Level 2, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney
  Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

• Redfern Community Centre
  29–53 Hugo Street, Redfern
  Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm
  Saturday, Sunday: Venue available for bookings

This is also available on the City of Sydney website at: http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council/OnExhibition

Have your say: Submissions should be made in writing and lodged by 8pm, 19 September 2011, marked ‘Transfer of Land in Redfern to the Aboriginal Housing Company’, Reference: S072236.007 and addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney, GPO Box 1591, Sydney 2001
Attn: Samantha Urquhart

Alternatively, email surquart@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

For more information please contact Samantha Urquhart, City of Sydney on 9265 9333 or email surquart@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Privacy Note: The purpose for which this information is being collected is for Council to consider comments on the public exhibition of the draft amendment. Submissions are voluntary and the intended recipients of this information will be Council staff and the general public by document access request. It is a requirement of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 that the draft planning controls are on public exhibition and that the community is consulted. All submissions will be stored in Council’s electronic files.

Note: Persons lodging submissions are required to declare political donations (including donations of more than $1,000) made in the previous two years. For more details, including a disclosure form, go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations
Rally in support of animal welfare

SANDRA BEESTON

On Sunday August 14, about 20,000 people gathered in Canberra, Sydney and other major Australian cities to attend rallies organised by the RSPCA, Animal Australia and other organisations. They came in support of a Petition which the Green Edge and interest in the sport is expected to launch its Australian initiative for a nation of cyclists to grow. In 2012 Australia is expected to launch its NSW, and the Sydney representative of the Sydney rally crowd. A lifetime of being a cyclist, I am not inclined to fight any battle on their behalf. The recent incident on the Al-Messilah vessel has helped give more weight to the animal activists’ claims that live animal exports are cruel. The boat, the Al-Messilah, is without merit.

The RSPCA did later obtain a warrant to inspect on-board conditions on August 19.

The Al-Messilah incident and the failure of the anti-live exports bill, far from derailing Prince Alfred Park as part of over $200 million worth of bike lane infrastructure. The question is, will the cyclists ever return?

It seems strangely wrong that Lord Mayor Clover Moore, who successfully lobbied for the extension of cycle lanes in the Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club. Within a year, I was initiated into cycling argot and etiquette, the thrill of the velocipede, and discovering my absolute physical and mental limits on a bike. Finally, I came across a quasi-religious event. My dedication to my daily efforts to be healthy. The ride waged as her last opportunity to win the world’s greatest cycling race. The Tour has run for 108 years and never previously been won by an Australian. Despite a number of Australians entering the tour as late as 194, cycling is still a European dominated sport. The Tour covers a distance of almost 3,500 kilometres in 21 days and is regarded as the most physically demanding sporting event in the world.

For three weeks I clenched my teeth and prayed that Cadel could hold on to his yellow jersey. I was one of the small mishap could be overtaken. Often cyclists are to pedestrians what it was found that hundreds of sheep had died during the trip. Nami is barely 17 but she already knows her future loses: “This is my passion, I value it a lot. In the future I want to be a lawyer just for animals, and I want to be a lawyer just for animals, and I value it a lot. Having personally given up any dream of being a champion, it is the joy of cycling itself and the friendships of the sport is growing at unprecedented levels across Australia. The Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club, which was founded back in 1908, has grown from 20 to 200 members within five years.

For many riders, competition and work alongside the government, then they could do that. All life is valuable. No one deserves to be in pain, no matter who you are.”

The Al-Messilah incident and the failure of the anti-live exports bill, far from derailing Prince Alfred Park as part of over $200 million worth of bike lane infrastructure. The question is, will the cyclists ever return?

It seems strangely wrong that Lord Mayor Clover Moore, who successfully lobbied for the extension of cycle lanes in the Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club. Within a year, I was initiated into cycling argot and etiquette, the thrill of the velocipede, and discovering my absolute physical and mental limits on a bike. Finally, I came across a quasi-religious event. My dedication to my daily efforts to be healthy. The ride waged as her last opportunity to win the world’s greatest cycling race. The Tour has run for 108 years and never previously been won by an Australian. Despite a number of Australians entering the tour as late as 194, cycling is still a European dominated sport. The Tour covers a distance of almost 3,500 kilometres in 21 days and is regarded as the most physically demanding sporting event in the world.
It was an honour to gather at Redfern Town Hall in August with many South Sydney residents to remember Trevor Davies and speak at a forum on ethics and politics.

Before his death, Trevor had been working on the idea of such a forum. We gathered in his name to honour his integrity and generosity.

Thank you to Linda Scott for organising it, and to Jenny McAllister and Tanya Plibersek for taking part.

Trevor was my friend, a comrade in the ALP, a local journo always looking for a story, and a fellow Christian. But he was also someone with whom I didn’t always agree. Indeed, some days he drove me to downright despair with his idealism and his unwillingness to concede to any of my more pragmatic tendencies. But more often we found common ground, and his compassion and commitment to the poor and marginalised always inspired me.

Trevor never failed to assure me that he was praying for me and my family. One time I jokingly said, “What are you praying for? That I will leave the right wing of the ALP?” He said, “Well Kristina, we are Christians and we can ask for miracles. But I just want God’s blessings for you.”

Trevor, thank you for being a blessing in our lives. We miss you here, but I’ve no doubt you are with the legion of saints in heaven. May God bless your soul.

Kristina Keneally

It was an honour to gather at Redfern Town Hall in August with many South Sydney residents to remember Trevor Davies and speak at a forum on ethics and politics.

Before his death, Trevor had been working on the idea of such a forum. We gathered in his name to honour his integrity and generosity.

Thank you to Linda Scott for organising it, and to Jenny McAllister and Tanya Plibersek for taking part.

Trevor was my friend, a comrade in the ALP, a local journo always looking for a story, and a fellow Christian. But he was also someone with whom I didn’t always agree. Indeed, some days he drove me to downright despair with his idealism and his unwillingness to concede to any of my more pragmatic tendencies. But more often we found common ground, and his compassion and commitment to the poor and marginalised always inspired me.

Trevor never failed to assure me that he was praying for me and my family. One time I jokingly said, “What are you praying for? That I will leave the right wing of the ALP?” He said, “Well Kristina, we are Christians and we can ask for miracles. But I just want God’s blessings for you.”

Trevor, thank you for being a blessing in our lives. We miss you here, but I’ve no doubt you are with the legion of saints in heaven. May God bless your soul.

Kristina Keneally

The Women’s Reconciliation Network was launched in Sydney in 1996, and works to promote the process of reconciliation throughout our communities, workplaces, networks and organisations, raising awareness of protocols important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, fostering an acknowledgement and practice of inclusive history, building bridges of understanding, providing opportunities for healing, and creating partnerships for the future.

Regular meetings are held on the last Thursday of March, May, July, August, September, and November at the Redfern Community Centre.

Contact: Frennie, tel: 9909 9293, email: frennie@tpg.com.au

Most members of WRN are active in their local reconciliation groups. For Redfern Residents for Reconciliation, contact Lyn, tel: 9699 3105, email: lyn@turnbulls.au.com

Spirited women
On Monday August 1 the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, and City of Sydney Councillors, Meredith Burgmann, Irene Dunney and John McInerney, visited Darlington at the invitation of local community group, RAIDD (Residents Acting in Darlingington’s Defence). They came to see and hear the local residents’ concerns about the proposed developments by the University of Sydney which threaten to overwhelm this small community in the City of Villages.

A group of more than 30 local residents turned out to welcome the councillors. They met in the University’s proposed Sports Centre extension on Abercrombie Street. The councillors were shown the open space and trees which will be lost if the Sports Centre extension goes ahead in its current form. They were also told about the increased traffic that the development would bring into the area.

The tour continued along Abercrombie Street where the councillors were shown buildings that would be demolished to make way for the Abercrombie Precinct. These buildings included Mandelbaum House, the Shepherds Centre, and Boundary Lane Child Care Centre. They were all built within the last 20 years, are set back from the street, and harmonise well with the Victorian terraces opposite. They also showed the councillors artists’ impressions of the Abercrombie Precinct developments so that they could get a feeling of how these massive buildings would overwhelm the street and overshadow the adjacent Darlington Public School.

This development will also bring 7,000 international students on to one street in a small residential area every day. This huge increase in population will bring with it more traffic congestion and increased parking problems along with much noise and pollution.

The final part of the tour took the councillors around past the existing Business School and into Rose Street, which along with Boundary Lane will be wiped off the map forever when the Abercrombie Precinct is built over the top of these. These two streets are currently used by cyclists and families as safe transit routes through to City Road. Rose Street is also home to the historic Joinery building, one of the last remaining links to the origins of the area, which will be demolished to make way for the new development. The University bulldozed most of the historical buildings of Darlington throughout the 1970s as it expanded ever outward. The Lord Mayor commented on how the loss of this fine old building would be unfortunate and how sad it would be to see it go. The councillors were shown a small bundle of reference material to take away with them. The bundle included an analysis of the University's own Environmental Policy by one of the members of RAIDD which points out how the proposed developments run counter to this policy. The Council Committee meeting to consider the Sports Centre extension took place in Council Chambers at Sydney Town Hall at 6pm on August 15. After a short presentation by a Council planner, which included artists’ impressions of what the development would look like, four members of RAIDD had the opportunity to address Council directly: Colin Sharp, Mary Ellen McCue, Jennifer Sans, and Robyn Fortescue (speaking on behalf of John Berry). The residents raised a number of issues including that Vice-Chancellor Colin Spence himself had admitted on April 20, 2010: “One of the things that has come back again and again is that the University, quite frankly, is ashamed of not being very good neighbours ... And if we are going to talk about being an institution that has community roots then those community roots ought to begin with those communities around the campus.” The residents were critical that the plans for the Sports Centre extension show a glass fronted building housing a pool directly opposite the Greek Orthodox Church on Abercrombie Street. The University has not considered the fact that the almost naked bodies of those using the pool will be on display to the elderly people going to worship at the Church and to those people attending funerals. Also a glass fronted building will not fit in to the existing streetscape.

Other issues included the noise and pollution that would be generated by the Sports Centre extension; the lack of consultation with the community in regard to this development; that the University is in breach of its own Environmental Policy; that there would be increased pressure on resident parking; and especially that the University is in breach of its own Environmental Policy. The Councillors were very sympathetic to the residents. In particular, Meredith Burgmann, Irene Dunney and the Deputy Mayor, Marcel Hoff, were critical of the way the University had gone about the DA process with a complete lack of community consultation. The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, was sympathetic, too, saying that even though Council could not refuse the DA (as it is on Crown Land), she hoped the University would now listen to what the community had said and find some way to scale back both of these developments in order to lessen the impact on the local community.
From incarceration to education

Is prison obsolete? Five North American speakers at the 6th International conference of Sisters Inside held in Sydney in August think so. The conference examined the criminalisation and imprisonment of women. A panel discussion open to the general public was a good opportunity for a broader audience to hear some cutting-edge thinking.

MAGGIE ROCHE

- Erica Meiners is an activist and author in Chicago. She has produced a series of “zines” (do-it-yourself publications) about juvenile justice which can be downloaded from hullhousemuseum.org. Erica talked about the barriers for women post-release. For those who think of incarceration as the punishment, in the US the punishment doesn’t end when women are released. The impacts persist, which she likened to a social or civic death. She sketched out a “dramatic and depressing landscape” Transgender women face additional charges. Ms Meiners is critical of the justice system, particularly in California. Her work includes awareness raising, speakouts, zines, policy campaigns and regular employment claus.

- Cassandra Shayler is an attorney and activist in Oakland, California. She is a co-founder of Justice Now and Critical Resistance. She talked about the growing misuse of resources in the US and the convergence of criminality and immigration, becoming known as “criminalisation”, leading to the elevated racial profiling and prison issues. She questions that massive output that documents the failure of the prison system against the growing prison industrial complex. Why are prisons persisting and being enhanced in the face of so much dramatic evidence? Given that we often need to rely on the institutions being challenged to gather the stats, she recommended questioning the validity of the numbers, and the role of the numbers. By focusing on them, people haven’t addressed the many mechanisms for criminalisation.

- Gina Dent is a feminist and academic in California. Her work includes African American women and prison issues. She questions that spacious prison to criminals. Why are prisons persisting and being enhanced in the face of so much dramatic evidence? Given that we often need to rely on the institutions being challenged to gather the stats, she recommended questioning the validity of the numbers, and the role of the numbers. By focusing on them, people haven’t addressed the many mechanisms for criminalisation.

- Angela Davis, an activist, academic and author, talked about abolitionist activism in a time of global economic crisis. She highlighted some of the contradictions that develop. When budget crises are managed by cuts, there are cuts to education, at the same time that unemployment is precarious. Prisons are expanding, conditions are deteriorating. Cyms are turned into dorms, programs dismantled and basic supplies hardly rationed. In an attempt to cope with overcrowding there is a turn to “decarceration”, an important strategy for abolitionists which now conservatives have begun to support. However, far from being useful allies, their view is myopic, simply based on reducing the budget. Ms Davis believes that the larger context is about changing society, creating the kinds of institutions that will eventually make prisons obsolete, moving from incarceration to education. The challenge is to communicate that larger context, and be wary of those who use the language and strategies but are working to strengthen the system that relies on imprisonment.

NINA YOUNG

A clinical psychologist with over 20 years experience working in grief counselling, palliative care and community work, Kerrie believes creative arts are extremely important in palliative, ageing and end of life care. “Creative arts provide people with the opportunity to explore their emotions. It also allows them to be in control of the way in which they want to explore or express themselves. They can dip their toe in or they can dive in the deep end.”

The Groundswell Project has run a number of creative arts projects in Western Sydney including the Festival of Remembrance. The Festival brought together a group of young people with people affected by Motor Neurone Disease (MND). The aim of the project was to enable young people to develop meaningful connections with, and to create performances inspired by, real people and their unique and important stories, while raising awareness about living with MND.

“‘This project was special because as well as seeing the young people being inspired and taking something away from it, it also really had a great impact on the people living with the disease. It changed them, it helped them feel like they were contributing. We don’t often ask people coming to the end of their lives to contribute to society, and we should, it’s important that we ask.’ Kerrie hopes to see more palliative, aged and end of life care organisations incorporating creative arts into their programs as well as connecting with the young people in their communities.

As a Chaplain at Nunryan, a High Dependency unit (nursing home) in a Uniting Church facility at Peakhurst, the Rev. David Russell has come to recognise the “beauty” of the people with whom he works. “South Sydney Uniting Church’s creation of an artist-in-residence program has provided an opportunity for artist Johnny Bell to make time to draw the beauty that is present in the lovely older people I work with on a daily basis,” David says.

“I am delighted that in the next month Johnny will come to Nunryan to create some images of the residents of this facility. There will, no doubt, be benefits for the residents and for Johnny. Johnny’s images may well change the way we see the elderly and the way they see themselves.”

The resident said to me a few weeks ago, ‘I am 97, I am not an old person, I am just a person like anyone else.” Older people have experiences that are unique and meaningful. They are beautiful people who still have so much to offer.”

Many of the papers from the conference are available on the website: www.sistersinside.com.au

Time of dying as time of flourishing

The Groundswell Project is a not-for-profit arts and health organisation that uses creative arts to create healthier community attitudes about ageing, death, dying and bereavement. Kerrie Noonan is one of the founders of the project. She has been curious about death and bereavement since her grandmother passed away when she was young.

Erica Meiners produced a series of “zines” (do-it-yourself publications) about juvenile justice which can be downloaded from hullhousemuseum.org. Erica talked about the barriers for women post-release. For those who think of incarceration as the punishment, in the US the punishment doesn’t end when women are released. The impacts persist, which she likened to a social or civic death. She sketched out a “dramatic and depressing landscape” Transgender women face additional charges.

Erica Meiners worked to strengthen the system that relies on imprisonment...
EDITORIAL

Housing is a basic right

SSH

On a chilly Saturday in August Housing NSW staged a Housing Expo in Redfern Park to help introduce its Preliminary Masterplan. The Redfern Waterloo Authority (now the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority) was also involved in conjunction with the RedWater Markets.

Residents and tenants were invited to engage with redevelopment plans by way of various fun activities. Interactions aimed at identifying concerns relevant to living in Redfern-Waterloo, and included a “building block” exercise based on the BEP2 planning controls, a “hope tree” exercise with attachable “leaves” for ideas toward a “better future”, an “ideas box” and a street map to mark locations and regular movements within the neighbourhood.

This is positive in that it engages community interest in a complicated and long-term process. It gets people together, generates discussion and gathers input with regard to existing and emerging needs. Some things could have been more clearly presented. Little was available to explain the government’s BEP2 plans. Of the approximately 1,300 public tenancies labelled “walk-ups” and “mid-rises” earmarked for redevelopment 700 will be moved out of Redfern-Waterloo (to sites within the LGA) at dates yet to be determined. The figures refer to tenancies or units, not to tenants. There are also plans for 500-600 new units of “affordable” housing around the approximately 2,200 high rise units slated for upgrade and refurbishment in BEP2. The population is set to double over 25 years with 60 per cent private to 40 per cent public dwellings being the final goal on existing public housing land.

As with certain “reality” renovation programs on commercial TV, catering mainly to middle-class desires, there is a sense in which ex-pats and jargon-heavy consultations foster a developer’s mindset motivated by profit, as opposed to appreciation of the reality of tenants for whom Redfern-Waterloo is home. It may also mask the ever increasing need for public, supported and affordable housing throughout the city.

Housing, to put it plainly, is not a game. It is a basic human right. In saying this we acknowledge that Housing NSW has a bumpy daunting task while ever the health and welfare responsibilities of other government departments and agencies are abrogated – and relegated to Housing from a tenant involved in the consultations may well wonder: Is mine to be one of the 700 tenants who will be close to my neighbours and friends? Will I still have easy access to the support agencies I rely on? Are there things that Housing NSW could improve in order to build trust with tenants and to ease their anxieties, namely improvements to maintenance and management services. Leaky roofs, mould, poor disability access, electrical failures, damage to interiors and rubbish hazards are all too common. Tenants report intolerable delays with responses to maintenance requests. Tenants also report high frustration with regard to evictions, transfers and anti-social behaviour.

According to the Tenant Survey conducted by Housing NSW what tenants want most is improvement to service delivery. Any future developments must take this into account and will not function well unless maintenance and management are made priorities – in theory and in practice. If this could happen tenants might be more inclined to engage with government on issues broader than the generation of funding for shiny new buildings.

The SSH commends the initiatives and ongoing efforts of various such as REDWatch and Groundswell, as well as the Factory Community Centre in South Sydney and the Northcott Community Centre in Surry Hills, all of which offer access to information and support for engagement with government and other services. Contact one of the local Greenies for more information:

www.grundgelocalisfaction.org.au

Price on carbon, tax on pollution

The SSH caught up with Greens Councillor Irene Doutney to hear her views on the federal government’s carbon tax.

I want to share an idea regarding a memorial to our dear friend and community stalwart, Trevor Davies. Everywhere that Trevor went he always had his shopping trolley situated just outside the shops on Abercrombie Street with a small plaque explaining its significance. I believe that the University could raise its standing in the eyes of the local community by creating a memorial to this, and it could be a proper park and naming it the Trevor Davies Memorial Park. This would be a much better use of that piece of land than building the huge development which the University is proposing.

Colin Sharp
Darlington

Price on carbon, tax on pollution

The SSH caught up with Greens Councillor Irene Doutney to hear her views on the federal government’s carbon tax.

I am writing with a suggestion for a memorial to our dear friend and community stalwart, Trevor Davies. Everywhere that Trevor went he always had his shopping trolley situated just outside the shops on Abercrombie Street with a small plaque explaining its significance. I believe that the University could raise its standing in the eyes of the local community by creating a memorial to this, and it could be a proper park and naming it the Trevor Davies Memorial Park. This would be a much better use of that piece of land than building the huge development which the University is proposing.

Colin Sharp
Darlington

Do you think this package is the best the Greens could have achieved?

Absolutely, because look at the reaction to what is actually a very moderate proposal, 32 bus-kiosks of people going down with their awful signs and the hysteria generated by the shock jocks like Alan Jones. Instead of there being a bipartisan approach to what has been recognised as a problem, you’ve just got this terrible scare campaign going on.

People accuse Julia Gillard of not wanting to have a tax, and of only pushing one because the Greens want it, but it’s just not true. If we had that sort of power there wouldn’t be the Malaysia “solution”. It’s not like we’re controlling the government.

I think the carbon tax should be harder than it is, I think the targets aren’t high enough. I think they should be more aimed at the big polluters and should be called a polluters’ tax rather than a carbon tax. So people actually know what it’s meant to be doing, which is taxing the big polluters.

I think there should also be some way of controlling the polluters from passing that tax on to the general public. I don’t believe the government when it says it isn’t going to come down the line, but that’s not a good enough reason not to do it. There are other mechanisms that are more regulatory than the way this is going to be done, which will ultimately just throw it to the market and I don’t think the market is the right place to decide our environment future because the market is always driven by profit. And there isn’t a profit in this, it’s hard, and I think that the big problem, that people don’t want to pay a carbon tax, is people make any impact on what’s going to happen with climate change.

We are going to have to bite the bullet on these issues, because if we don’t do it now, it’s going to be much easier but just because it’s not easy doesn’t mean you don’t have to do it. Fust has to be considered, but perhaps it can be considered in a different timeline. We can’t do things in our way, and I think the carbon tax was a bit of a punishment industries, but we absolutely have to re-him in. We can do things to encourage transport companies to make their vehicles more environmentally friendly. Ultimately, everything has to be considered.

READER’S LETTERS

Trevor Davies Memorial

I am writing with a suggestion for a memorial to our dear friend and community stalwart, Trevor Davies. Everywhere that Trevor went he always had his shopping trolley situated just outside the shops on Abercrombie Street with a small plaque explaining its significance. I believe that the University could raise its standing in the eyes of the local community by creating a memorial to this, and it could be a proper park and naming it the Trevor Davies Memorial Park. This would be a much better use of that piece of land than building the huge development which the University is proposing.

Colin Sharp
Darlington

I want to share an idea regarding a memorial in Darlinghurst to Trevor Davies. What I have in mind is a bench in the Darlinghurst shops area. As a way of preserving Trevor’s capacity to connect and communicate and build relationships with this community, my suggestion is that there is a story attached to this bench. The story of Trevor’s life is the most important: it states that anyone who sits on the seat is compelled to do something for others. Being religious could be for us, like me at my age, it’ll be for younger people and their children. The University could raise the money to put it there is easy but just because it isn’t easy doesn’t mean you don’t have to do it. Fust has to be considered, but perhaps it can be considered in a different timeline. We can’t do things in our way, and I think the carbon tax was a bit of a punishment industries, but we absolutely have to re-him in. We can do things to encourage transport companies to make their vehicles more environmentally friendly. Ultimately, everything has to be considered.
Cities of the future

Christine Morrow

A watery metropolis made up of floating pods, a city featuring crop farming on an artificial canopy high above the CBD, and a network of urban settlements radiating out from the fringes of an enormous inland sea; these are a few of the models that architects have dreamed up for Australian cities of the future.

They form part of a Sydney exhibition first presented as Australia's submission to the Venice Biennale of Architecture last year. Titled Now and When: Australian Urbanism, it contrasts our current cities with futuristic urban structures that provide radical solutions to threats ranging from population explosion and traffic congestion to rising sea levels.

Exhibiting architecture can be tricky. Structural drawings and technical specifications have little visual appeal, while traditional scale models lack dynamism. The exhibition's Creative Director, John Gollings and Ivan Rijavec, sought to overcome these problems by holding an open competition for the "When" part of the exhibition and limiting submissions to three-dimensional animations that could be presented stereoscopically. The huge projected sequence requires viewers to don glasses and features all the special effects we've come to expect of 3D movies, including the mini-thrill of visual elements spiraling out into the space of the viewer.

These speculations on the future of urbanism in Australia are preceded by the "Now" sequence, showing the current state of Australia's city living. Aerial 3D photography contrasts the sprawling coastal cities of Sydney, Melbourne and the Gold Coast with enormous empty holes made by open-cut mining in remote Western Australia. There is something poetic and evocative in the counterbalance between frenetic cities and those silent, spent, city-sized voids that sustain them. But the repetitive sequence of back and forth shots between cities and mines lasts too long and labours the point.

A city is more than its mere appearance from above. Despite repeated claims that Australia is largely monocultural, the Gold Coast, Sydney and Melbourne all have a unique ethos, lifestyle and functionality. The differences are glossed over in an exhibition that places too much emphasis on a city as an aerial spectacle. An architect is to blame for this state of affairs. In 1783, some ten years after his architectural studies ceased, Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier joined his brother in launching the world's first manned hot air balloon flight. Their extraordinary invention would change forever the way we see the world. It ushered in a belief that the view from above is the definitive one when it comes to geographical space, and that even recently found its logical culmination in the Google Earth project. A symptom of the European Enlightenment, the hot air balloon emerged during an era in which literal visibility guaranteed symbolic openness and transparency.

During the Enlightenment, the "public sphere" flowered as a distinct entity and discussions about public and urban spaces began to occur in those very spaces. It is this context that makes possible a project like Now and When: Australian Urbanism. Enlightenment values underpin this exhibition, which even takes the theme of illumination as evidence of truthfulness; in the exhibition catalogue, Rijavec writes that the Australian cities were photographed at dusk because, "The light streams of traffic arteries, the street lamps, and building lights sketch the urban fabric with a veracity impossible in daylight photography." But a city also has meaning at ground level and exists as a lived space rather than merely an aerial spectacle.

If the exhibition's "Now" sequence reminds us that the biggest land use problem that Australian urbanism has to overcome is too much space, the "When" part argues that our current cities are unsustainable and require radical rethinking. Most of the "When" city models address the problem of urban sprawl by building up into the air or down underwater or underground. Water is a connecting theme across many of the works, with one of the most radical being a proposal to channel ocean water into Lake Eyre via Lake Torrens then build a ring of cities around this new, improved inland sea. Another project tackles the hypothetical problem of the submergence of swathes of Australia's coastline by rising tides; it proposes the use of od-riq technology to develop floating structures that extend deep underwater.

A surprising theme that emerges from several proposals is that of agriculture returning to urban space. In one vision for Sydney, green areas are no longer ornamental parks but reinvented as productive market gardens. In another quite fantastic project, the large-scale cultivation of mould will take place throughout cities, as a means of generating food, fuel and shelter. But whatever plans we may make, they may be subverted by natural forces. A collaborative reinterpretation of the city of Brisbane, by Bert Andresen and Mara Francis, is conceived as a series of post-apocalyptic snapshots of a constantly changing city that in the future will be flooded, shrouded in dust storms, collapsed into ruin and then reclaimed and overrun by emergent subtropical flora and fauna.

Yet much of the substance of these proposals is lost within the triumphalism of the stereoscopic presentation that appears as the real subject of the show Biennale exhibitions are so enormous that they lend themselves only to a certain type of display. Subtle and thoughtful works are easily overlooked while those that gain attention are often flashy and promiscuous in their visual effects. Here, the speculations and insights about urbanism are in danger of being eclipsed by the overlay of showmanship that is used to communicate them. As if providing further proof that the exhibition's creative directors do not trust the projects to speak for themselves, for its presentation at Object Gallery the walls and floors of the projection space have been inexplicably clad in brash-coloured patchwork carpet. The carpet dominates the entire exhibition, while remaining completely unrelated to its theme. But if you can get past that, and the gratuitous spectacle of stereoscopic wizardry, there are many fascinating predictions, solutions, insights and fantasies about Australian urbanism to be had.

Now and When: Australian Urbanism
Object Gallery
415 Bourke Street, Surry Hills
02 9361 4511; www.object.com.au
Tuesday to Friday 11am–5pm
Saturday to Sunday 10am–5pm
Until September 25
Free entry
The Reviews

**Film Reviews by Lindsay Cohen**

**Rise of the Planet of the Apes**

Director: Rupert Wyatt

Genre: Science fiction

**The Reviews**

*Apes* are solved and no questions answered how things came to be as they are found.

Director: Rupert Wyatt

**Merchandising**

*impatiently waited for (well, demanded)* stunts. The precedent set, the four-year-old between ads, trailers and shorts (the kids to the toilet, copious quantities of *Cars 2*). There are movies made for kids but are *any* kids made for movies? That's what I decided to find out when I took my four-year-old to see *Cars 2* for his first movie cinema experience.

The great fear of course is not your own kids but the hundred others you have do finally make the break for freedom, making their own way, the spirit of Boomalli. There are no people in ape suits or featuring people in masks who couldn’t move their mouths.

Over the two hours of *Cars 2* there was a steady stream of parents rushing their kids to the toilet, copious quantities of food wrappings and a steady stream from all around of whispered answers to stupid non-whispered questions.

For my kid, confusion at the difference between ads, trailers and shorts (the *Toy Story short* was my highlight of this “film”) led to sensory overload during an obviously James Bond inspired opening scene featuring speed, explosions and stunts. The precedent set, the four-year-old impatiently waited for (well, demanded) more “fire” and “crashes”.

After an hour, keeping him seated was the only way to catch gold fish with your hands. Eventually I gave up and let him stand up for the remainder of the film, then realised most of the kids in the cinema were doing likewise.

Sun, explaining the torture scene was a bit of a challenge (“they’re hurting the car because that’s what they’re taught”, but the reality is kids know that movies are not real. That said, seeing a car go to the toilet for an oil leak (goddam) seemed to be perfectly logical and hilarious to my son.

We were still there when the closing credits rolled. Mission accomplished. Rating: *Three-and-a-half* merchandising opportunities.

---

**Boommali stays the course**

**Chloe Pottin**

*The Boomalli Aboriginal Arts Cooperative* has secured a permanent home after two years of battling debt and eviction. On Saturday August 21 the cooperative celebrated the fact that they now own the building in Leichhardt and thanked all of their supporters.

Founding member and artist Bronwyn Bancroft said that while they have been fighting to secure a permanent facility they were more concerned about saving their history. “The importance of saving Boomalli was more important than the building itself. We were going to get slated or forgotten about. It’s just unfortunate that people would consider that we should give up our history and it’s always hard fought for. But we’re reasonably stubborn and we stayed the course.”

Wishing to dispel the narrow views surrounding “authentic” Aboriginal art and provide a distinct cultural voice for urban Aboriginal people Boomalli has been almost 25 years in Chippendale.

The volunteer-based group has produced some of the best and most well-known artists in the Australian art scene including Michael Riley, Tracey Moffatt, Breda Crewd and Eunice Bostock.

This week Boomalli took up the cooperative faced debt totalling $200,000 and were told by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts that they would be closed and that they then stood to lose their premises. But pro-bono lawyers Allen Arthur Robinson uncovered that the Indigenous Lands Council had the deeds to the building and assisted in the refinance of Boomalli.

Boomalli does not receive any government funding and strategies how to keep afloat through artistic programming and a small body of volunteers.

“While the Aboriginal art industry is a multi-million dollar industry and earning an increasing amount of tourism to Australia, the need for greater support and acknowledgement continues. "*The cultural and spiritual* art is paramount”, said Alison Whitaker, a young Aboriginal Arts student and activist.

“People are quick to dismiss Indigenous Arts as an issue which is not integral to the welfare of our community. In my opinion, it is at the core of what it means to be Indigenous today. If we don’t support culture, which includes dance, language, story and music, we’re losing fragments of identity. And once it’s gone, we can’t retrieve it.”

Although Boomalli’s future is less bleak and finances are now being correctly controlled the fight is not over yet. “It’s been pretty difficult to keep it going, there is no doubt about that. It won’t be easy in the next couple of years either but we’re determined – the spirit of Boomalli lies in communication and community,” Ms Bancroft said.

---

**Food at a funeral**

**Paul Sullivan**

What do people eat when they lose loved ones? Don’t *mean* “my relationship’s over”, I mean death. When someone dies and the family gather, what do they cook? On the day I’ve been to a funeral, the last thing I remember is the food.

People often define visiting a foreign country and a particular meal they had in a certain location. A good meal is a great memory to recall. It remains for further good times you had the end of a day when you lay in the sun and let your girlfriend sketch you whilst in Southern Italy. Good times. Bad times on the other hand? Well I don’t really remember anything about them food wise.

I recall a scene in *Eat Love Water* where the cook was crying tears into a soup or meal she was stirring. The food when served caused everyone to become emotional and cry. Isn’t that the time sticking around the other hand? I never did, and it’s been almost six months. I wonder if it is because it would bring up too many memories and eating something might make us sad? I have eaten lasagne since, but I don’t recall ever eating a lasagne and feeling sad afterwards no matter how bad they were.

Maybe there are some foods that can cross the sadness boundary. Lasagne because it’s easy for people to drop off. *Sushi*. I know I love chicken and sweet corn soup when I’m sick but I don’t recall my fondness for it at a wake. I stopped cooking at the beginning of the year during the hospital days and let me tell you that’s rare. Cooking calms me and makes me happy. So why didn’t I cook during the bad time? It really could have helped me. Maybe innately it’s because I felt there’s something that comes through in cooking and eating. I can still make that. That’s my only explanation for it.

I thought of all this on the way home from Trevor Davies’ funeral and I felt compelled to write this because he helped me get this column started. Although I never met him and only spoke to him once on the phone, I feel I will always be indebted to him. Eat well Trevor, wherever you are.
Mama Casey at the Basement

Casey Donovan performs in the Mama Cass Tribute Show at the Basement on September 28. The SSH has a double pass to give away to a lucky reader. Be the first to email us with a Mama Cass song title. Write to editor@ssh.com.au

Casey Donovan

Cass died nearly 40 years ago but if Casey Donovan has her way she will live forever. Casey who is starring as Mama Cass in the musical Flower Children in Melbourne this month is bringing Mama Cass to Sydney in late September in a tribute show at the Basement.

Casey sees many parallels between herself and Mama, and is inspired by her sense of freedom and passion. "She was like me in a way, a bigger girl, who didn’t let that get in her way and was just getting out and doing what she loves".

To get into the Mama Cass role was a challenge. With limited footage of Mama, Casey says she had to go "old school" to learn about her character. But what she discovered through her reading about her brought Casey so much closer to Mama Cass. "It’s such a shame she had to leave us so early. I feel there was so much more she could have offered this world."

Their career paths also seem to have some surprising intersections. Mama Cass made her way to the Mamas and Papas after starting out at a very young age (as Casey did with Idol) on stage in musicals. Casey’s career, on the other hand, at this stage seems to be going the other way. After captivating audiences in the effervescent Cynthia McKee in The Sapphires two years ago, Casey seems to have taken to the stage with what appears to be innate acting ability and a wonderful talent for comedic roles.

Casey says she has felt incredibly comfortable with Mama’s songs. The vocal range suits her well, the American accent perhaps the only challenge. She is looking forward to coming back home to Sydney after Flower Children finishes in Melbourne. Although born and bred in the Bankstown area she has strong connections to the Redfern area. "Lots of my family are from Redfern and I had Survival there and have done some work with Koori Radio." She’s excited about the changes in the area. "Lots more people are going to Redfern, it’s a great place to be."

Casey is very excited about the opportunity to perform as Mama Cass in Sydney. "I haven’t performed at the Basement for so long. It’s going to be a great show, her storyline, her songs – now I know who she is and how she lived and how to become her, I can’t wait."
**Around the galleries**

**Christine Morrow**

Performance art is one of the most marginalised art forms in Australia. Museums routinely ignore it, although its historical pedigree is no less sound than the video art that sometimes feels as if it is choking our public galleries. But an upcoming season at Chippendale’s artist-run Peloton Gallery aims to redress its low visibility by devoting the space to three art performances per week for most of the month of September. For the next few Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, viewers can expect to see everything from performance drawings, to music, monologues and many an action that will defy easy description.

As well as being hard to access, performance art is also widely misunderstood. Many people remain unsure about how it is distinct from theatre. One answer is provided by Marina Abramovic, a Serbian-born artist who has been performing since the early ‘70s and claims (justifiably) to be the grandmother of performance art. In the theatre, she claims, actors always play somebody else and the actions they perform are always fake. By contrast, in performance art, the artist is always her or himself and everything that occurs is real. Unlike theatre, performance art unfolds in real time and real space. Dennis Diderot’s concept of the “Fourth Wall”, that symbolic barrier that separates the audience from the stage, does not apply. While experimental theatre often breaks through the fourth wall, for performance art it has never existed; the artist and the audience are ensnared together in an action that unfolds within their shared space and implicates them both.

But all but one of the artists included in this performance season are still emerging and most currently study at Sydney College of the Arts or have recently graduated. Rosita Holmes will be producing drawings that respond to her time spent at Warnum in the East Kimberley during its recent evacuation and reconstruction after flash floods. Another kind of performed drawing will be produced by Leah McPherson.

She will urinate while standing over large sheets of paper and then add ink to the surface, allowing the random mingling of fluids to determine the image’s final form. René Koedgers is an alter ego of the performance artist Mark Shorter that is known to provide much hilarity. Shorter famously amused and perplexed students of the National Art School during his recent gig there as a model for a life drawing class. He showed up in full René Koedgers guise – it comprised a deep fake tan, a bushy grey wig and beard, a cowboy hat and boots. He was otherwise made up for an enormous prosthetic penis. It goes without saying that few of the poses he assumed have been seen before in the history of life drawing at the college. I’m not certain what Shorter has in store for his Peloton performance, but his artwork is certain to provoke and entertain.

A performance that promises to be quite compelling is that by Liam Garratt. He will engage in an action he first performed in 2007. Wearing a mirrored cube on his head, he sat for a caricaturist at Paddy’s Market. She was instructed to draw what she saw – which was, of course, her own face reflected in the mirrors, together with those of the passersby who had stopped to watch. Departing from the usual conventions of portraiture, the sketch artist produced an expressive drawing. Afterwards, she told Garratt that her mother had died only a week ago and made the extraordinary revelation that she had “drawn her mother in his veins”. Buying a caricature from a street vendor is a transaction that is ordinarily based on minor economic exploitation of one’s vanity, albeit in real time and real space. Denis Diderot’s concept of the “fourth wall”, that symbolic barrier that separates artist and audience, is always her or himself and everything that occurs is real. Unlike theatre, performance art unfolds in real time and real space. Dennis Diderot’s concept of the “Fourth Wall”, that symbolic barrier that separates the audience from the stage, does not apply. While experimental theatre often breaks through the fourth wall, for performance art it has never existed; the artist and the audience are ensnared together in an action that unfolds within their shared space and implicates them both.

But all but one of the artists included in this performance season are still emerging and most currently study at Sydney College of the Arts or have recently graduated. Rosita Holmes will be producing drawings that respond to her time spent at WARNUM in the East Kimberley during its recent evacuation and reconstruction after flash floods. Another kind of performed drawing will be produced by Leah McPherson.

She will urinate while standing over large sheets of paper and then add ink to the surface, allowing the random mingling of fluids to determine the image’s final form. René Koedgers is an alter ego of the performance artist Mark Shorter that is known to provide much hilarity. Shorter famously amused and perplexed students of the National Art School during his recent gig there as a model for a life drawing class. He showed up in full René Koedgers guise – it comprised a deep fake tan, a bushy grey wig and beard, a cowboy hat and boots. He was otherwise made up for an enormous prosthetic penis. It goes without saying that few of the poses he assumed have been seen before in the history of life drawing at the college. I’m not certain what Shorter has in store for his Peloton performance, but his artwork is certain to provoke and entertain.

A performance that promises to be quite compelling is that by Liam Garratt. He will engage in an action he first performed in 2007. Wearing a mirrored cube on his head, he sat for a caricaturist at Paddy’s Market. She was instructed to draw what she saw – which was, of course, her own face reflected in the mirrors, together with those of the passersby who had stopped to watch. Departing from the usual conventions of portraiture, the sketch artist produced an expressive drawing. Afterwards, she told Garratt that her mother had died only a week ago and made the extraordinary revelation that she had “drawn her mother in his veins”. Buying a caricature from a street vendor is a transaction that is ordinarily based on minor economic exploitation of one’s vanity, albeit in real time and real space. Denis Diderot’s concept of the “fourth wall”, that symbolic barrier that separates artist and audience, is always her or himself and everything that occurs is real. Unlike theatre, performance art unfolds in real time and real space. Dennis Diderot’s concept of the “Fourth Wall”, that symbolic barrier that separates the audience from the stage, does not apply. While experimental theatre often breaks through the fourth wall, for performance art it has never existed; the artist and the audience are ensnared together in an action that unfolds within their shared space and implicates them both.

But all but one of the artists included in this performance season are still emerging and most currently study at Sydney College of the Arts or have recently graduated. Rosita Holmes will be producing drawings that respond to her time spent at WARNUM in the East Kimberley during its recent evacuation and reconstruction after flash floods. Another kind of performed drawing will be produced by Leah McPherson.
SSH advertising works: “Since our ad has been in the SSH, it’s been phenomenal. It has really raised our profile in the community. Interest has increased ten-fold from the old way of letterbox dropping.” Wayne Bindeman, Food Distribution Network, Waterloo

**BABANA Aboriginal Men’s Group**

Next meeting Friday, September 30

12-2pm, PCYC, Redfern

Contact: Mark Spinks 9243 3546

**Food distribution network**

**home delivery of low-cost fresh fruit & vegetables**

The Food Distribution Network is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers boxes of fresh and inexpensive fruit and vegetables to older people, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and carers who live in the City of Sydney and need assistance living independently at home. For $9 you can have a box of 8-10kg of fruit and/or veggies delivered to your door each week or fortnight.

Please call 9899 1614 or e-mail enquiries@fdn.org.au for more information.

These services are funded by the Home and Community Care programme and the AIDS Trust of Australia.

**New support group for men**

The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service (GLCS) of NSW is announcing a new service to increase awareness and support for men who identify as gay, bisexual, queer, same-sex attracted or who may be questioning their sexuality.

“Tackling It” is a new men’s social network exploring issues and sexuality is an ongoing casual group meeting for men, based on peer facilitation and support. The group is aimed at men who are looking for support while coming to grips with issues such as coming out, safer sex, relationships, homophobia, families and finding happiness. The group is open to all men aged 18 years and older. The group runs every 1st and 3rd Thursday, Turtle Rocks, High St, Waterloo (lower car park).

Affordable facilities and financial aid.

Donations greatly appreciated (for produce or electrical goods).

Volunteer positions available (please contact 02 9576 0900)

GLCS also offers other support groups, such as SMART drug and alcohol recovery and the Women’s Coming Out Group and will be launching a social group later in the year.

Telephone counselling and information is also available 2.30pm-3.15pm every evening on 02 8304 9509 or 1800 104 127 (toll-free for regional NSW).

For more information on the work of GLCS see www.glcsnsw.org.au or call the office on (02) 8304 9596 or 1800 184 527

**What is happening in Redfern-Waterloo?**

Get the latest from www.redwatch.org.au

Graffiti & Lyn Turnbull

Ph: 02 9264 1490

Email: BWIG@farnbullo.com.au

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**South Sydney Uniting Church**

Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday

Rev Andrew Collins 8399 3410

**Worship**

12pm, Sunday 7 for 7.15pm

“Cobblestone” Avenue Intimate Cabaret Concerts Thu 8pm

Steph Gesling 9116 9413

**Leichhardt University Church**

3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt (near Norton St)

Worship 6.30pm Sunday

Rev Dr John Hett 0408 238 117

**Newtown Mission**

280 King St Newtown

Worship 9.30am & 6pm Sunday

Rev Ps Doug Clements 9619 9900

**Paddington Uniting Church**

395 Oxford St Paddington

Church Open 10am-2pm

1st and 3rd Saturdays Worshipping Sunday 7.30pm

Office 9331 2646

**Pitt Street Uniting Church**

284 Pitt St, Sydney

Worship 10am Sunday & 6pm (2nd and 4th Sundays)

Rev Ian Pearson 9007 3614

**Wayside Chapel**

29 Hughes St Potts Point

Worship 10am, Bible Study 5pm Sunday

Rev Graham Long 9358 6996

**YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS**

**Tanya Plibersek MP**

Federal Member for Sydney

150 Broadway, Broadway

NSW 2007

T: 02 9379 0700

F: 02 9379 0701

Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au

**Malcolm Turnbull MP**

Federal Member for Wentworth

Level 1/5a Bronte Rd, Bondi Junction NSW 2022

T: 02 9369 5225

F: 02 9369 5225

Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au

**Jamie Parker MP**

State Member for Balmain

112a Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037

T: 02 9660 6112

F: 02 9660 6112

Balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**Kristina Keneally MP**

State Member for Balmain

Shop 117, 747 Botany Rd, Rosebery

NSW 2018

T: 02 9699 8222

F: 02 9699 8222

Kristina.Keneally@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**Clove Moore MP**

State Member for Sydney

58 Oxford St, Paddington

NSW 2021

T: 02 9931 6963

F: 02 9931 6963

Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**Carmel Tebbutt MP**

State Member for Marrickville

244 Hawarre Rd, Marrickville

NSW 2204

T: 02 9358 9000

F: 02 9358 3653

Marrickville@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Ravens flock!

**PETER WHITEHEAD**

**WATERLOO:** Sydney Running Festival 2011 Marathon (and Half Marathon, Bridge and Family Fun Run) happens Sunday, September 18. Among the perspiring pavement pounders surging across the Harbour Bridge from the North to swirl around the CBD, the Pyrmont Peninsula and Centennial Park will be our own formidable Redfern-Waterloo roadrunners, the Ravens.

Recently it was my privilege to rise early and ride with the Ravens. At 7am Saturdays, SSH editor and New York marathon man, Rev. Andrew Collis, waits on the corner of Raglan Street and Botany Road for his flock. The core regulars are Simon Williams and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently moustachioed Adrian Spry. A friendly and founding member, the magnificently

"Rampaging" Roy Slaven and HG Nelson successfully hosted Australia’s largest for-profit autism-specific service provider’s ninth annual Comedy Night on August 31.

Roy was excited to hear about the Ravens running to raise the readiness for an organisation that’s worked “to overcome the isolation of autism” since 1966. There’s, he reckons, “a series of vital dynamics” essential to successful long-distance running – these being: (a) belief; (b) self-belief; (c) control of mind; (d) control of will; (e) trust in one’s feet. Fitness is the least important factor”.

Not a marathon man in the traditional sense, Rampaging did recall “training for a rugby league match in Lithgow in 1972, Stumper Stains and I got lost in a cross country run and headed north west for the best part of eight days running continuously until we were picked up by rescue services near Lightning Ridge. We were buggered, but proud of the last we had not stopped.”

The Ravens are inspired by Rampaging Roy. But this flock does not seek to shock and awe, they merely want to help. "Never miss an opportunity to talk down an opponent during a run. If possible on an incline, get them talking as much as possible by baiting them." When Roy says, “Training begins and ends with the mind. Imagine the course, imagine winning and leave it at that” there’s a sore temptation to believe. But the Ravens do appreciate the point of Slaven’s tip for the night before: “Limit yourself to just a few beers and load up on meat and baked vegetables. And don’t go too silly in the bedroom – try to ensure there are at least three hours of unbroken sleep.”

**ALEXANDRIA:** On a glorious sunny Sydney Saturday morning, the 14 boys from the Alexandria Rovers walked out onto Redfern Oval staring the delight of the 300-strong Rovers supporters. This team took with them a season record upon their shoulders against the number two ranked South Eastern team with 30 minutes standing between them and the perfect season. South Eastern started strongly and with the aid of some very puzzling decisions by the ref, they spent the first five minutes on our try line and the boys repelled wave after wave of attack until a dropped ball saw the opposition scoop it up and run away for a try. Our boys quickly regrouped and we scored a try and converted the goal much to the delight of the 300-string Rovers supporters. The second and third period saw the Alexandria Rovers now has won a premiership from open-aged teams all the way down to Under 6s – a remarkable effort from our great club, a record all Rovers players and supporters past and present can celebrate.

The club has both the Under 14s and A Reserves still to play their semi-finals and with an ounce of luck both these teams will emulate the feats of the mighty Under 6s. Good luck to both those teams in the next month.

For more information on the No. 1 Football Club in the inner city, log onto www.alexandriafootball.com.au your one stop shop for everything that is happening in and around your club.