

# the South Sydney Herald

VOLUME ONE NUMBER FIFTY-SIX NOVEMBER '07 CIRCULATION 22,000

ALEXANDRIA BEACONSFIELD CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON ERSKINEVILLE KINGS CROSS NEWTOWN PADDINGTON REDFERN SURRY HILLS WATERLOO WOOLLOOMOOLOO ZETLAND



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**AUSTRALIA VOTES**  
FEDERAL ELECTION '07  
★★★★★★★★★★  
The Information You Need To Know.  
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## Bye bye Barons, a Kings Cross icon



Annette Nevin ponders life after Café Pralinka Photo: Ali Blogg

**Simon Nichols**  
Iconic Kings Cross bar Barons will close its doors for about 12 months while the building is demolished and redeveloped. Despite the complaints of many local residents, the licensee Michael Cherote remains optimistic.

"I am hoping that this will work in our favour," says Cherote. "I lodged plans with the council two weeks ago. I want to offer something different to the Cross. I have applied for a live-theatre license so I can stay open from 6pm until 6am. Also, we want to serve small meals and have stage set up for live entertainment."

The renovations will also allow for

a smoking area balcony which should work in the bar's favour. Previously, patrons had to go one level down onto the street to smoke.

"The landlords have had a big battle on their hands," says Cherote. "The community didn't want it knocked down and there was a petition with 5000 signatures against it but I understand where they are coming from. It's just business. I signed a nine-year lease and I got four and a half years out of it but that's ok. I knew what I was doing when I signed it. It's been a great business and I've had a good time and I have no regrets."

Café Pralinka is also in the building and the owner Annette Nevin is not as accepting of the situation. "How many times do we have to have people come

into our community and tell us what to do? The owners bought the building in 2005 and they had a Development Application lodged with the council by December of that year. I have been here for five years. People come in here because they like the building and then they stay because they love the food."

Councillor John McInerney says that the Council is not entirely happy with the decision either. "The building itself had a number of different problems with it so we agreed with the proposal to redevelop it but we rejected the new design they submitted. We wanted to have a building that would fit in with the character, the cultural tradition and the look of the rest of the street. We did not like the straight up and

down architecture of the original proposal. They appealed our decision to the Land and Environment Court and the Council lost on appeal from the applicant."

It has been a fight that Andrew Woodhouse, president of the Potts Point & Kings Cross Heritage Society, has been involved in all the way. "It was a betrayal of public trust," says Woodhouse. "The City of Sydney knew that the issue wouldn't stand up in the Land and Environment Court. I lobbied, got extensive media coverage, left no stone unturned," laments Woodhouse. "But once the courts have given you approval, what can you do?"

The bulldozers start demolition on November 5.

## Healthy thinking, healthy living at Northcott

**Andrew Collis**

The Surry Hills Public Tenants Association co-ordinated a celebration for Mental Health Week 2007 with a Mental Health Day which included a community lunch, Tai Chi and art activities – all of which contribute to building relationships – the theme of this year's Mental Health Week in NSW ("Relationships in community").

The inaugural celebration was held on October 11 at the Northcott Community Centre. Those gathered included tenants, representatives of the Department of Housing, St Vincent's Mental Health Service, the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre and Centacare, Surry Hills Police and various NGOs.

The event, officially opened by City of Sydney Councillors Robyn Kemmis and Marcelle Hoff, was an occasion to reflect on some of the serious issues associated with mental health. One in five people has a mental illness – 20% of the population – so most of us are affected in some way, either personally or as friends or family. "Events like this are important," said one participant, "because mental well-being is important for everyone".

Relevant literature prepared by NSW Health encourages individuals, families and communities to maximise health potential, to enhance coping capacities and to increase mental health literacy.

Participants availed themselves of information on display at various stalls, viewed ceramic artworks created by tenants (with the help of tutors from the Pine Street Creative Arts Centre), and contributed to the making of a large hand-painted

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MPD

46-62 Maddox St, Alexandria 2015

**REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS**

Reem Al-Gharabally	Ellice Mol
Jessica Amos	Susannah Palk
Caitly Burridge	John Stapleton
Anna Christie	Claire Thompson
Candice Chung	Samantha Van
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norrie mAy-welby	Peter Whitehead
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**"We gratefully acknowledge the many volunteer contributors and distributors who make this publication possible."**

# News

## Aged care in Green Square

**Ellice Mol**

Anglican Retirement Villages has had its proposal approved for a retirement village in the heart of South Sydney. The State-owned corporation and development arm of the NSW Government, Landcom, and the City of Sydney have recently completed the master planning process for Green Square. Project Director of Landcom, Paul Andersen, says there has been considerable consultation over the years regarding the plan for the town centre.

Anglican Retirement Villages is the developer putting forward the plan for a vertical retirement village at Green Square - the first of its kind, providing accommodation for people over 65. "It is close to the city, close to transport, health care and other amenities," says Kristina Keneally, Minister for Ageing and Disability Services. The vertical village would help cater for the ageing population. Ms Keneally says the number of people over 65 is set to double in NSW over the next 25 years. "Housing that suits the needs of an ageing population in a town centre

close to transport and other services is a really important part of supporting people as they grow older."

Paul Andersen from Landcom says the only concerns are transport and general affordability, but so far the proposed development has met with little opposition. Ms Keneally says the location at Green Square means it is close to amenities. "There are several bus routes that run past, as well as the Green Square Station up the road, and it's part of the arterial road network."

The vertical village is a development strictly targeted at older people. Ms Keneally says services such as in-house support, or medical care are available to "support people to age in a community in which they are living".

The proposed village has been designed keeping in mind the specific needs of seniors. "Lifts of course are essential to any vertical apartment," says Ms Keneally. "There are other features of the apartment that might not be immediately recognisable that would certainly be in place to support people as they age - so, wider doorways, bathrooms and kitchens



Kristina Keneally and Frank Sartor with consult with seniors Photo: Labor Party

that are designed in such a way that they can be wheelchair accessible, light switches, and a whole range of features which are in fact easily adaptable to someone should they require a

walking frame or a wheelchair."

The project will be part of the Green Square town centre set to be developed on Botany Road in July 2008.



Cst Krystle Thompson, Douglas Holmes, Kate Melhopt, Brian King & Steve Suttie, Catherine Carr, Cst Amy Threfall; Charmaine Jones & Sandy Henderson, Jeanette Cudmore Photo: Ali Blogg

## Healthy thinking, healthy living at Northcott

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banner. Eclectic choristers the Swish Dudes contributed classical, barbershop and close-harmony jazz tunes to afternoon tea.

The serious part of the day was a formal discussion chaired by Douglas Holmes from St Vincent's. "We're not here to talk about eliminating stress," he said at the outset, "but learning to stress less".

Mr Holmes introduced a panel of mental health consumers as well as community and government representatives including the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer and Crime Prevention Officer from Surry Hills Police. Each panellist shared experiences around mental health issues, and hopes of providing better support

to those in need.

Just last year Northcott was awarded Safe Community Accreditation by the World Health Organisation, and as part of this accreditation developed the Northcott Estate Community Development Plan. All present for the discussion were then invited to comment on social and community

activities at Northcott, to debate priorities with regard to the Development Plan and to propose their own ideas for new programs. Suggestions were collated with the aim to pilot new projects in 2008.

**For further information contact the Northcott Community Centre on 9318 1618.**

## News



Food Distribution Network volunteers Photo: Ali Blogg

## Fresh fruit and vegies to the inner city

Ellice Mol

The Food Distribution Network (FDN) in Redfern is a not-for-profit organisation that has been delivering fresh fruit and vegetables to disadvantaged groups since 1984. At a cost of only nine dollars a box, clients of the FDN receive between six to eight kilos of fresh produce a week. "That's over 30 items," says Mark Ludbrooke, Coordinator of the FDN. "You'd probably spend 35 dollars at a supermarket for the same amount of produce."

Workers from the FDN take the truck to the markets twice a week. On a typical day, the truck meets at the Redfern centre at 6am. The FDN team spends the morning purchasing a variety of produce from Flemington Markets. "They buy as much variety of fresh produce as they can, in bulk," Mr Ludbrooke says. At 10am the truck returns to the Redfern centre to be unloaded by volunteers and staff. After lunch, which has been prepared by a volunteer, a team of staff begins the deliveries. "Those delivery runs take place within the city of Sydney," says Mr Ludbrooke. "Unfortunately we can't go any further afield."

Staff of the FDN play a key role in the community, offering extra support

to customers. "From time to time we assist the clients by putting the fruit in their fruit bowls and in their fridges. We have a chat to see how they're going, if everything's alright."

The organisation is granted funding from both the Home and Community Care Program and the AIDS Trust. "All money from clients gets spent on the produce," Mr Ludbrooke explains. "Other money covers the cost of wages and truck maintenance." The funding available ensures service to frail people, people with disabilities and their carers as well as people with HIV/AIDS. "It's a service to people experiencing some sort of disadvantage who are having trouble meeting their nutritional needs."

There are a variety of impediments which can qualify people to become customers of the FDN. "Before someone becomes a client of the network there is a brief assessment and, as part of that, we ask them about their capacity to get to the shops and manage their own money," says Mr Ludbrooke. "It's based on someone's capacity to access fresh fruit and vegies."

The areas covered by the service include the Rocks, Darlinghurst, Kings Cross, Erskineville, Alexandria, Chippendale, Redfern, Waterloo, Pyrmont, Ultimo and Forest Lodge.

## Developers gamble on re-zoning in Chippendale

Candice Chung

It was a case of "mysterious disappearance" when it came to the City of Sydney's latest round of development control proposals in the Chippendale and Darlington area. Property investors were shocked to find that the original results of an urban design study were scrapped, just days after a group of local residents was given the draft design plan, during a private community consultation meeting.

"About a week before the public showing of the study, it was shown to the resident groups," a local property owner said. "The proposal took months to formulate. It was for an urban renewal area around Regent, Abercrombie and Cleveland Streets."

The owner, who did not wish to be named, told the SSH that the plans were "wiped off" by the council shortly after the meeting. "You can't change a plan like this - that's our real gripe. Had the original plan gone public, it may not have been a good plan. But now we'll never know because we were not able to view it."

According to a letter of complaint submitted by the Coalition of Chippendale Community Groups, the proposal was for a large part of Chippendale to become an 'urban renewal area', with zoning of up to eight storeys and sections of the heritage conservation areas potentially revoked. But the proposal presented in subsequent public meetings showed planning controls that are largely similar to existing ones.

A number of speculators had bought properties in Chippendale with the expectation that the council may loosen development controls.

Local resident and community interest group member David Pocklington said investors should think twice about the potential risk before making their purchases.

"You'd think that smart property speculators would be aware of the gamble involved in relying on hearsay that an area may be ripe for redevelopment," Mr Pocklington said.

"There are so many instances in our municipal history where speculators decide to buy properties in seemingly run-down areas, then they apply all sorts of pressures on Councils to bend zoning to allow excessive development."

Mr Pocklington maintained that while residents are not anti-development, many are happy with the zoning as it's now recommended. "It's fair to say that the majority of residents would like to maintain the low-rise village nature of the suburb," he said.

City of Sydney Councillor John McInerney said the urban design review is ongoing and the council is awaiting the next round of results from government architects. "Maybe in a year's time, we might look at re-zoning ... it's a bit hard to say one way or the other at this stage," he said.

Cr McInerney admitted there have been heated debates between property owners and residents over development controls but concedes that any significant changes are unlikely. "Assuming that property owners bought under current controls then they're pretty optimistic to think that those controls would change."

"It's a bit like buying a Keno ticket isn't it? You always think and hope you'll win the prize."

Results of the urban design study will be reported to the Council in November or December this year.

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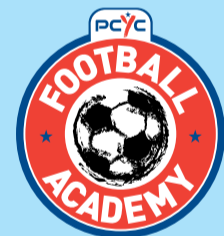
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# AUSTRALIA VOTES ~ FEDERAL ELECTION '07

## ~ CANDIDATES FOR WENTWORTH ~



**Malcolm Turnbull**  
**(LIBERAL)**

Turnbull is keen to emphasise his strong record of achievement on environmental issues. While the Government did not ratify the Kyoto agreement, the targets will either be met or only 1% off, which is similar to other countries. On a local level, there has been

**emphasis on funding for parks and many environmental grants.**

- ▶ Turnbull firmly believes that the Coalition is best placed to manage Australia's \$1.1 trillion dollar economy and to keep a strong and consistent level of growth. He says around 70% of Labor's front bench are union officials, who as professional apparatchiks, do not have the life experience to manage the economy in terms of professional workforce and investment experience.
- ▶ Education has also been well catered for locally, with \$1.7 million to Woollahra State School, \$3.1 million to Rose Bay Secondary College and green vouchers up to the value of \$50,000 to help teach

kids practically on environmental issues. Turnbull says the often quoted figures on reductions to education funding and the disparity in private/public funding figures are inaccurate because they combine State and Federal funding rather than just looking at Federal funding.

- ▶ In terms of the Tasmanian pulp mill, Turnbull emphasises that it has been approved according to strict conditions and with the best scientific advice available. There will be a site supervisor and independent experts to make sure that it is environmentally neutral. Turnbull says he is also committed to reducing discrimination for same-sex couples.

Profile by Ben Walker



**George Newhouse**  
**(LABOR)**

George Newhouse is the incumbent Mayor of Waverley Council and has served that Council for 12 years. He is also well known as a human rights lawyer, representing people in detention centres.

- ▶ Newhouse is concerned about housing affordability in Wentworth, which is topical because of the high costs of home ownership and rent.
- ▶ In terms of industrial relations, Newhouse says the balance of power has shifted toward employers and this particularly disadvantages young workers and working mothers.
- ▶ He says health care services are inadequate, and Labor

will address this with targeted policies such as a dental care scheme.

- ▶ On climate change, Newhouse says, "Turnbull is big on glossy brochures but small on real action."
- ▶ He is also keen to mention that a change in government would also be a change in style of leadership to one of greater fairness, decency and consultation.
- ▶ With the redistribution of Wentworth boundaries, Newhouse says that this electorate now has the highest gay population in Australia. In contrast to Turnbull, the Labor party has a specific policy to remove all 58 Federal laws discriminating against gay and lesbian people. While the policy currently stops short of the Greens policy of same-sex marriage, in time, the broader community and the Labor party may take this next step as well.
- ▶ On the pulp mill, Newhouse simply says, "The Labor Party has accepted his decision and I have accepted his decision."

Profile by Ben Walker

### Commonwealth Electoral Division of **WENTWORTH**



**Kingsford Smith**



**Susan Jarnason**  
**(GREENS)**

Susan Jarnason is a long-term community activist and Greens member and works as a community mental health nurse, particularly in the area of drug treatment.

- ▶ Jarnason is passionate about environmental issues generally, but the crucial focus of her campaign is overturning Turnbull's decision to approve the Tasmanian pulp mill.
- ▶ Jarnason says that the Chief Scientist Jim Peacock and others did not account for a number of other environmental issues in their recommendations, such as the impact on carbon emissions,

forestry, wildlife and dioxins into the Tamar Valley and Bass Strait.

- ▶ The other key issue for Jarnason is climate change. Overall, she and the Greens would like to constrain global warming to less than 2%. The Greens' target is to decrease greenhouse gases 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. She says that this policy contrasts starkly with the major parties who are using environmental language but have inadequate policies.
- ▶ Jarnason would also like to see funding to private schools frozen and more funding to public schools to ensure fair and equitable access to education for all. Both of her children attend public schools.
- ▶ On same-sex equality the Greens policy is not only to change legislation to approve same-sex marriage and adoption but to make sure appropriate funding for services is given to assist the gay and lesbian community in the area.

Profile by Ben Walker

# AUSTRALIA VOTES ~ FEDERAL ELECTION '07

## Another election, another race card

**Ben Spies-Butcher & Sylvie Ellsmore**

**Sydney Greens candidate, Jenny Leong, has identified Indigenous rights as a key election issue.**

Ms Leong joined with Indigenous leaders across the country to condemn "emergency" legislation that gives the Commonwealth control over Indigenous land, removes the independence of Indigenous organisations and abolishes thousands of jobs under Aboriginal employment schemes.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Mal Brough announced the intervention, with the support of Labor, as part of a "national emergency" in response to the Little Children are Sacred report.

The Howard Government has argued that the legislation is necessary to address issues of child safety and sexual abuse. Indigenous leaders have rejected this explanation at a forum hosted by the Greens which Ms Leong

held in Sydney on August 29.

Marcia Ella-Duncan, former Chair of the NSW Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault Taskforce and co-author of the NSW Breaking the Silence report, explained that none of the Government's actions were connected to the findings of the Northern Territory report.

The authors of both the NT and NSW reports have publicly opposed the Federal Government's response in the Northern Territory.

In many NSW communities, victims of sexual abuse had no access to counselling, and in some cases had to wait over 24 hours for medical examinations to obtain evidence because of a lack of resources. Despite this, communities were facing up to the problems, but lacked government support.

"I challenge the State and Federal governments to show the moral courage to sit down with communities to hear from the women who have the solutions," Ms Ella-Duncan said.

Larissa Behrendt, Professor of Law at the University of Technology, also addressed the forum, condemning the sensationalist way in which the Government has handled the issue. She argued that the Government had accused anyone who questioned the plan of being part of the problem and thus silenced dissent. "It was a strategy to silence those communities most affected."

Professor Behrendt described the move as a land grab by another name, and lamented the lack of opposition voices - "How much change can we expect under a Rudd Government?"

Greens Senator Kerry Nettle committed to repealing the legislation and to closing the gap in life expectancy for Indigenous Australians. The Greens are determined to implement the recommendations of a coalition of Indigenous organisations, supported by the Australian Council of Social Services and major churches in order to address issues of sexual abuse throughout the country. SSH

## SYDNEY SYNOPSIS

Last month Ben Walker presented profiles of candidates for the seat of Sydney: Jenny Leong (Greens), Tanya Plibersek (Labor) and Georgina Anderson (Liberal). See [www.southsydneyherald.com.au](http://www.southsydneyherald.com.au)

**Ben Walker**

Sydney used to be a hard-core working-class seat, which is why Labor has been so successful in the past. Over the last 40 years, the mean income and wealth of voters has risen exponentially, making Sydney one of the more wealthy electorates in Australia. Interestingly though, Labor has been able to retain it safely. Incumbent Labor MP Tanya Plibersek holds the seat by a very safe 17.3%.

The electorate is also one of the most educated, with a very high percentage of people having completed tertiary education

or currently studying. Greens candidate Jenny Leong's focus on repealing HECS and making education more accessible to all Australians may improve her vote. The explosion of interest in climate change and related environmental issues are also likely to help her.

Leong received 21.6% of the vote in 2004, the highest-ever record for a Greens candidate in the lower house. Nevertheless, there would have to be a massive unexpected swing for her to actually win the seat.

Recent polls indicate that, after preferences, the vote will approximate 66% Plibersek and 34% Anderson. SSH

## Labor thinks local

**Ben Walker**

**Labor talked local government in Surry Hills in October. Federal Sydney MP Tanya Plibersek, ACT Senator Kate Lundy and federal candidate for Wentworth George Newhouse were in attendance.**

Plibersek is currently the Shadow Minister for Human Services, Housing, Youth and Women and so, understandably, housing affordability is one of her key election issues. Plibersek says that the Howard Government has typically blamed the state and local governments regarding housing affordability rather than investing in communities.

In contrast, Plibersek says Labor will put half a billion dollars into housing, which will include getting rid of infrastructure charges and setting up a housing affordability fund and a national rental affordability scheme. Urban design also needs to be examined to create more affordable units and keep pace with immigration.

George Newhouse says that Howard has a Thatcher-like approach to society with an emphasis on households, rather than communities. He would like to see better consultation between federal, state and local governments and says that federal governments can learn from the example of local governments. Newhouse proposes a coordinated, cooperative approach between the three levels of government to provide services rather than a piecemeal strategy of funding.

Kate Lundy is Shadow Minister for Sport, Recreation and Health Promotion. Lundy says funding to local governments has declined, creating difficulties for local governments' investment in the community. She says local government spends double what the federal and state governments combined are spending on sports and recreation. Instead, she would like to see collaborative, cooperative federalism with local governments, with a structured approach to funding community and social activities. SSH

## The only poll that matters

**Ben Walker**

**There are several signs that Kevin Rudd is going to win the election in a landslide. The first one is that the two-party preferred polls are overwhelming, indicating a Labor victory - often by a margin of 10%, i.e. 55% Labor to 45% Coalition.**

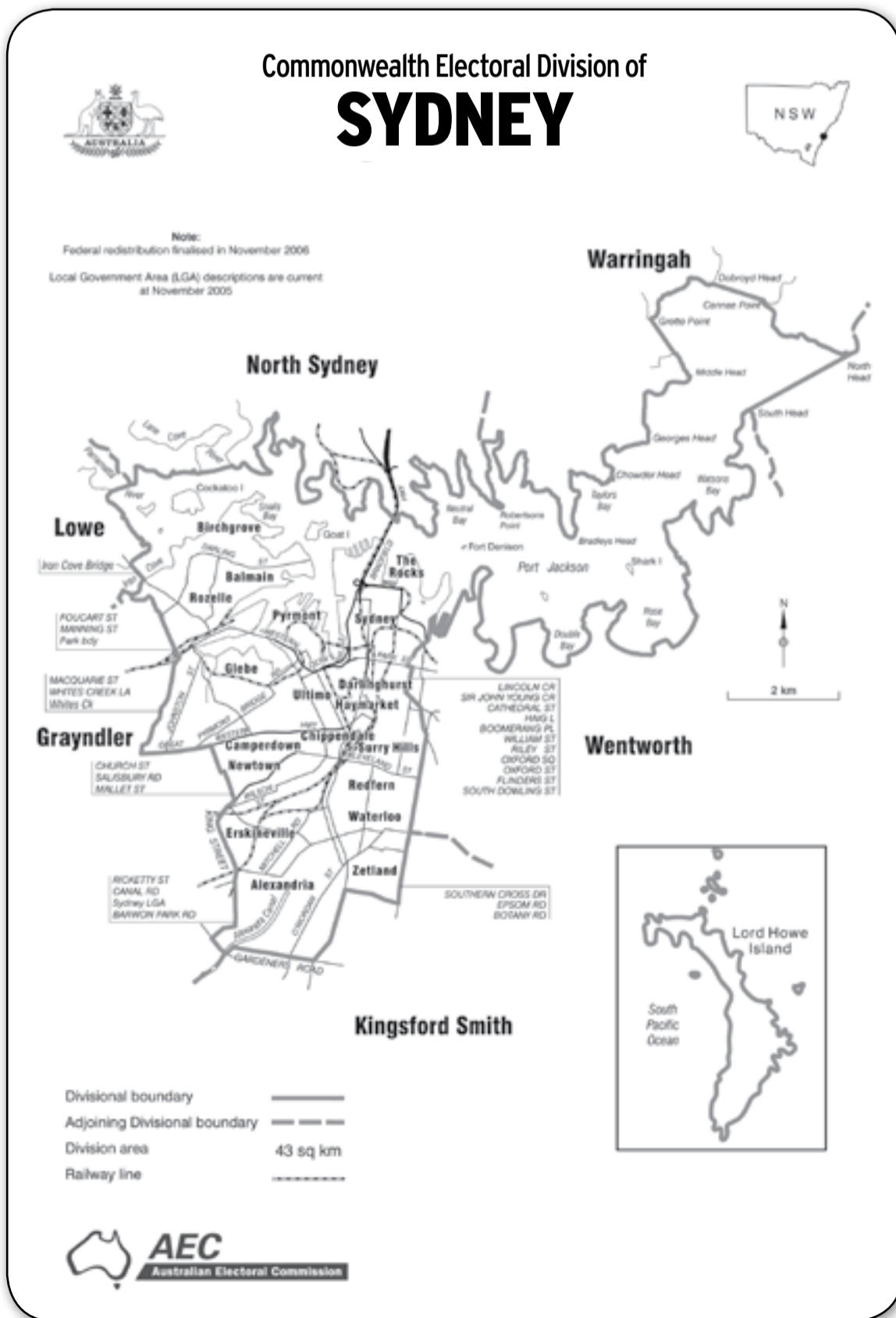
The second indicator, which in recent times is often a better predictor of election outcomes, is the betting markets. All five Australian bookies taking bets on the election in late October were giving the short odds for Labor winning the election. However, the Opposition is coming from 16 seats behind in a 150-seat parliament - so winning the necessary majority of 76 seats is often described

as "climbing Mount Everest".

There is no certainty in politics. Polls typically have an "Opposition bias" because people are willing to say to a market researcher that they are dissatisfied with the current government, only to get cold feet about change at the ballot box.

It is possible to have a re-occurrence of the 1998 election, where Beazley gained momentum from opposition to the GST and actually won the popular vote, i.e. the overall two-party preferred vote was 51% to Labor and 49% to the Coalition. Beazley still lost by 8 seats.

The Government believes in the poll-indicated swing toward Labor, but is still convinced that the Coalition can win the election through hard campaigning to hold the key marginals. SSH



## News



### HAVE YOU HEARD? **THE FAST NEWS** WITH TREVOR DAVIES

#### Dan Murphy's still not welcome in Alexandria

Gillian Trees and friends were involved in the struggle to block the opening of a big Liquor Barn in Alexandria. Unfortunately they lost the battle. Gillian told this column "While we are certainly not thrilled with the prospect of Dan Murphy's going ahead, we are at least relieved that the opening hours have been reduced from midnight to 9pm Monday to Saturday and until 6pm on Sundays. As next-door neighbours and concerned residents, we still have serious reservations about the need for a bulk alcohol supermarket to be operating at all, in what is a growing residential area."

#### The Luncheon Club in Waterloo supports an orphanage in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries on earth with the highest proportion of orphans and widows in the world. After decades of turmoil and conflict, the challenges remain formidable. Health statistics are harrowing; poverty and insecurity are deeply entrenched. Half the children in Afghanistan still do not go to school and the literacy rate today is one of the lowest among developing countries. Mahboba's Promise is an Australian not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping the women and children of Afghanistan. See website [www.mahbobaspromise.org](http://www.mahbobaspromise.org). There is currently a group of 21 women in Brisbane knitting various items for the children but they have run out of wool. Local HIV/AIDS Charity, the Luncheon Club, operating from the Gordon Ibbett Activity Centre Kellick Street Waterloo, would also like to start up a knitting group, but again, they too are in need of wool. If you have any wool or know of anyone who might be able to supply wool, please contact Carole Ann King (02) 8399 3220 or email [lunch1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lunch1@bigpond.net.au). They can also arrange pick up. Finished product would be a wonderful Christmas present for the children at Hope House Kabul.

#### Erskineville shops fighting for survival

As this paper has reported over the years, Erskineville has been the place of many campaigns for the saving of public housing and saving the post office and school. And now it seems that the next battle on the horizon is to stop a supermarket on the Hive site (the old Police Boys club site on Erko road). It seems that the possibility of a Coles or a Woolworths coming there has upset quite a few people. Spokesperson for the residents opposed to this new development Victoria Rati says, "The Foodworks supermarket on the corner of Newman & King Streets expanding and a Franklins on King Street - how many more do we need within a two-minute walk of each other? We believe a mixed-use development on the Hive site (21-23 Erskineville Road) that enhances the Village is entirely viable and possible for a developer and the village community alike. We strongly believe the community shares these sentiments and have been encouraged by the initial response rate. Over 30 shop-keepers have a copy of the petition and already 500+ individuals have signed. We do however need the whole community to get behind this and ask for their passionate support. We appeal to Clover Moore to help us save Erskineville Village." We will have a full report on this campaign next month.

#### Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (including Redfern-Waterloo)

From Geoff and Lyn Turnbull's REDWatch update comes this important information for Redfern and Waterloo residents: "A NSW inquiry has been called into 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage' with submissions closing on November 30, 2007. This is the first inquiry of the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues in the new Parliament. It will examine the policies and programs aimed at addressing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The Committee will conduct an audit of these policies and programs, and seek meaningful assessment of their effectiveness in closing that gap. In 2004 the same Standing Committee on Social Issues held an 'Inquiry into Issues Relating to Redfern and Waterloo' to which many local people and organizations made submissions and appeared before the Inquiry. The details of this Inquiry can be found at Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo on the Parliamentary website and many documents in text form can also be found on the REDWatch website at [www.redwatch.org.au/govt/nswparliament/rwinquiry](http://www.redwatch.org.au/govt/nswparliament/rwinquiry). While the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Inquiry will provide the opportunity to discuss the broad brush issues of Aboriginal disadvantage it also allows for the specific issue of what is happening in Redfern-Waterloo to come under the gaze of the Inquiry. Locals are encouraged to take the opportunity to make submissions on the issues of concern to them.

#### A sensible way to help teenagers curb excessive drinking

Erskineville resident and former teacher Mark McPherson published a teacher's guide to help teenagers curb excessive drinking and minimise alcohol-related death and injury. NSW had the highest alcohol-attributable death (147) and hospitalisation (1,203) rates for 14 to 17 years-olds in the ten years to 2002 a Curtin University study showed. Mark McPherson said the current education system does not adequately provide teenagers with the life skills they need to act in alcohol-affected environments. "Rather than laying down the law and telling these kids not to drink, we should be teaching these kids personal skills about keeping their alcohol consumption to moderate and manageable levels, which in some cases should be zero," he said. The new draft low-risk drinking guidelines issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council this month say that the safest option for adolescents aged 15-17 years is to not drink at all. "That's a responsible thing to do but it's hardly in line with reality," Mark said. "We should be teaching teenagers how to drink responsibly, still look cool and avoid high risk activities such as arguing, unsafe sex, and being a passenger with a drunk driver." Mark McPherson's new guide Party Without Pain offers teachers a ten-step guide to empower teenagers to develop personal and realistic strategies they can apply in real life situations. The guide prefers teenagers to start with diplomacy rather than jump straight to assertiveness, to embrace real-life edgy situations and to drink moderately without "losing face" in front of their friends. If you are interested in buying a copy of Mark's book give him a ring on 0403 914 835.

## On guard against racism

Nicholas McCallum

**In Sydney, the race card has been played more often than necessary in recent times. It was the cause of two of the three riots that have tarnished the city's reputation as a safe and laid-back place, giving the appearance of segregated towns, rather than a multicultural city.**

A recent incident involving the ARIA award-winning Indigenous artist, Christine Anu and some of Redfern Local Area Command's finest, was beat-up from non-event into a smorgasbord of rhetoric by online readers of the *Daily Telegraph's* society pages.

The story is that the loud speaker of a police car blasted the 13-year-old son of Dianne Nyoni, a friend

of Ms Anu, as he and another boy played with cap guns in Alexandria Park. The boys became petrified by the action of the police, raising fear in Ms Nyoni that the police may draw their weapons in response.

The reason the race card comes out is because the boy is of an African-American background. It goes further when Ms Anu's intervention into the incident led to the officer asking whether she and Ms Nyoni were partners. The assumption caused a reaction from the two to which a second officer replied, "It's the area that we live in."

And that area is South Sydney - an area with a high Indigenous population. So, drawing on the officer's comment, it would be wise to assume that police in South Sydney are under instruction to view all women in pairs as likely to be in same-sex relationships, or should this assumption only be applied to those with a dark complexion?

Another incident that involved local police unfairly targeting some young Aboriginal boys occurred outside Erskineville Oval earlier this year. It was alleged that two young Souths players were unfairly targeted by a police officer simply because of the colour of their skin.

In recent years, NSW Police have been making efforts to ensure better relations between Local Area Commands and their Indigenous populations, including a white paper on how this is being pursued, though in reality it would seem that little has changed since the days of the doco *Cop it Sweet*. And while the recent Aboriginal Strategic Direction affirms "communication and understanding between police and Aboriginal people" and an "environment free of racial discrimination and harassment" there may be further work to do.



Alexandria Park, the scene of alleged police racism Photo: Andrew Collis

## Easy Being Green no more

Carissa Simons

**Only a couple of months ago, Easy Being Green took part in a Labor Party forum on the environment, along with Peter Garrett and the State Environment Minister Phil Koperberg and Federal Member Tanya Plibersek.**

All the speakers saw Easy Being Green as a success story because of the State Government's "landmark carbon trading scheme". A few weeks after the forum, Easy Being Green was in receivership and all the staff unemployed.

Easy Being Green, the eco-friendly NSW company, found out that surviving is anything but easy. The company, once riding high on NSW's landmark carbon trading scheme, is now in voluntary administration.

So what went wrong?

NSW's carbon trading scheme, set up in 2003, was the first of its kind in Australia. Under the scheme, companies are required to meet emissions targets. If they exceed these targets, they must buy carbon certificates which are equivalent to one tonne of carbon from companies which have produced less emissions than their target, or from companies that actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Easy Being Green reduced greenhouse gas emissions

in NSW homes for free, and then sold carbon credits to big business. The certificates generated since 2003 were estimated to be worth about \$450 million.

However, a series of Federal and State Government announcements sent the price of carbon credits plummeting from \$12 to \$6 in just a few months, making business models such as Easy Being Green's untenable.

The State Government had always been accused of keeping the emissions targets in NSW too high, and generating too many carbon certificates. However, the NSW Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water, Phil Koperberg, places the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Federal Government, which announced plans to scrap the NSW and ACT carbon trading schemes and implement a Federal system in its place. This isn't a bad idea, but the details of the scheme have not been clarified and won't be for another few years. The system itself wouldn't be introduced until 2012. Nor has Labor, who also promised a national carbon scheme if elected, released any details of its proposed system.

A spokeswoman for the minister said, "Announcing that NSW's successful Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme would be scrapped if a national scheme is introduced, with-

out providing any of the detail, was extremely irresponsible of the Federal Government. This fall is a direct result of the uncertainty plaguing the usually stable NSW carbon market over the future of the Scheme under a national trading market."

With NSW businesses now uncertain of what their obligations are, there is little incentive to buy carbon credits. Before they went into voluntary administration, a spokesperson for Easy Being Green agreed with the State Government and told the SSH that the "catastrophic price drop started when the Federal Government announced plans for a national emissions trading scheme, and its intention to scrap all state schemes ... without any details of transition arrangements."

It is unlikely, with the Federal Government now in caretaker mode and both major political parties gearing up for a heated election campaign, that any details of a proposed national carbon trading scheme will be released before the Federal election. With the market shrouded in uncertainty, Easy Being Green was left with little choice but to go into voluntary administration. Other eco-friendly companies, such as Neco and Fieldforce, are still operating. But with little chance of action or clarification from the Federal Government, they too may be forced to go down the same path.

## WELCOMING PARK SIGNS

More inviting and informative signs for City parks are a step closer following Council support for a tender to manufacture and install the new signage. The new signs will replace a proliferation of outdated signs that clutter our parks. Rather than providing lists of rules and prohibitions, the new signs will be **welcoming, attractive and helpful**.

Old signage with heritage value will be retained and restored, with new signs also providing information on the park's history. Priority will be given to recently upgraded and new parks.

**CLOVER MOORE MP**  
LORD MAYOR

*Clover Moore*



Artist's impression of new signs in Alexandria Park

## CELEBRATING IN TURRUWUL PARK

In September hundreds of residents celebrated the start of upgrade works at Turruwul Park at Rosebery. As part of a **\$3.1 million City of Sydney upgrade** plan, improvements to the park will include new seating, barbecue facilities, trees, a **new children's playground** and environmental initiatives such as solar panels on buildings. The park provides more than 2.4 hectares of space for sport, leisure and entertainment.

Join in the festive fun on Sunday 2 December from 6.30pm, when children's entertainers Angela and Penny host **Turruwul Park's own Christmas Concert**. There will be Christmas decoration making for the kids, a sausage sizzle and special guest Santa. For more information visit [www.sydneychristmas.com.au](http://www.sydneychristmas.com.au)



Clover at Turruwul Park celebration

## CITY SUPPORTS FESTIVAL FEVER

On Sunday 21 October over 15,000 people enjoyed the food, entertainment and market stalls at the **Danks Street Festival in Waterloo**. This year the festival expanded into **Young Street** and included a market featuring work by local artists and fresh produce, two entertainment stages and stalls representing local community organisations and retailers.

Be entertained by live music on **Sunday 18 November** at the annual **Glebe Street Fair**.

The fair is expected to attract around 120,000 people, for details visit [www.glebestreetfair.com.au](http://www.glebestreetfair.com.au)

The **Newtown Festival** on **Sunday 11 November** offers street theatre, art spaces and over 250 market and food stalls. For festival details visit [www.newtowncentre.org/festival.html](http://www.newtowncentre.org/festival.html)



## NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE FOR REDFERN

The new **Redfern Neighbourhood Service Centre** at 158 Redfern Street, is due to open its doors late November. Until that time, Council services and information can be obtained at the **Erskineville Neighbourhood Service Centre** at Erskineville Town Hall, 104 Erskineville Road. At the centre you can obtain parking permits, view development applications or register for our Green Waste service. The Erskineville centre is open **Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm and Saturday 9.00am to 12 noon**. For more Council locations visit [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) or call 9265 9333.

## INCREASING CHILD SAFETY

**Plain clothes City Rangers** will be focusing on school zones across the CBD and inner city suburbs in a bid to increase child safety. To encourage safe driver behaviour, Rangers will focus on double and illegal

parking near schools. The City has also begun an education campaign warning parents about the risks, for more information call 9265 9333 or visit [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)



## WETLAND WORK COMPLETE

The City has completed wetland and landscape upgrades in the south eastern corner of Sydney Park. The upgrade is the **final step in the park's wetland and water management system** and included re-lining the wetland to prevent water loss, new trees and wetland plants, new artistic lighting, a **new boardwalk and enhanced pathways** around the wetland. Work will commence in January 2008 on the north western upgrade including work on the village green, an all-abilities playground, new paths and lighting. For more information visit [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) or call 9265 9333.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

The City's community forums provide an opportunity for residents to discuss local matters with councillors and City staff. Come and have your say at the next **City South** forum on **Monday 26 November** at the Green Square Community Facility, 3 Joynton Avenue, Zetland or come to the next **Inner South**

forum on **Wednesday 5 December** at Redfern Town Hall, 71 Pitt Street, Redfern.

Forums run from 6.00pm to 8.30pm, for details call 9265 9333 or visit [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/meetings](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/meetings)



## CONTACT THE CITY

Phone: 9265 9333

[www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

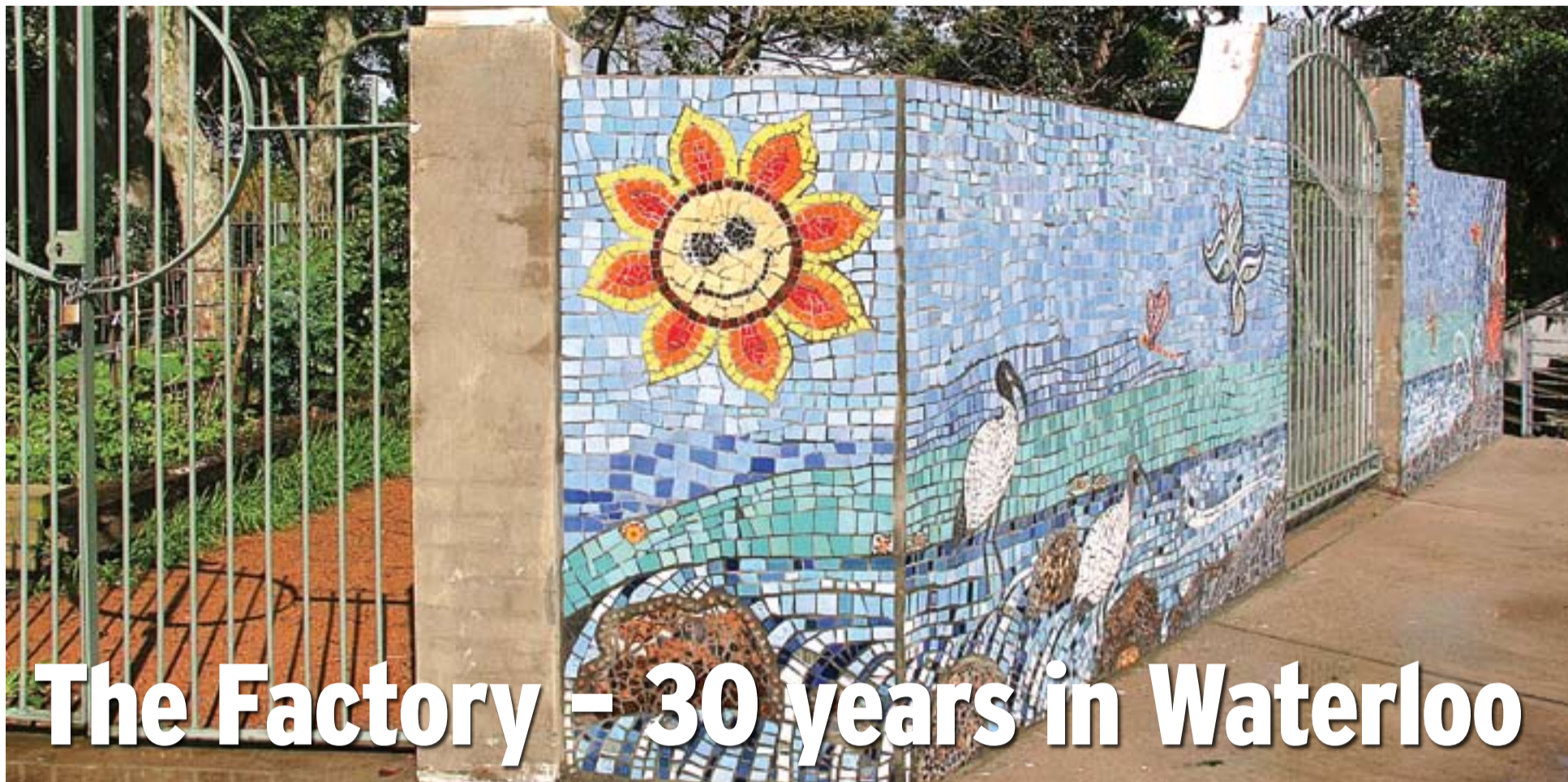
## NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICE CENTRE, ERSKINEVILLE

104 Erskineville Road, Erskineville NSW 2043

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Closed public holidays.

# News



## The Factory - 30 years in Waterloo

Mosaic wall at Marton Gardens compliments of The Factory Photo: All Blogg

### Samantha Van

On August 31, 1977 the Municipality of South Sydney recognised The Factory as a community centre. 30 years later 85 people celebrated the anniversary at a lunch held on the premises.

Among those were City of Sydney Councillor Marcelle Hoff, NSW Department of Housing Director General Mike Allen, the founding Chair of The Factory Community Centre Inc., The Ven. Dr Geoff Huard and Cathy Huard.

"My first reaction to Patrick's [Patrick Russell, Factory Coordinator] phone call was one of shock," Dr Huard said in a speech. "I could not believe The Factory was celebrating 30 years of existence.

"For me, it all started in late 1976 when I was wandering around the area trying to meet people in my new job."

Dr Huard came across The Factory, which is located at 67 Raglan St, Waterloo, and "wandered in to say hello". He spoke to a young girl there, who could not run several activities and programs.

Dr Huard decided to ask the Head

Office of the girl's organisation what was occurring.

In December 1977, the Anglican Parish of St Saviours in Waterloo accepted responsibility for managing The Factory. "The biggest challenges were staff and funding," Dr Huard said. "The existing staff left when they learned the church was taking over so we were really starting from the ground up.

"Over the next 14 years, we were blessed with outstanding Co-ordinators who contributed so much to creating the right atmosphere, having energy and ideas, gathering various programs and driving the place along."

He also named the ideas for programs The Factory runs for residents. Today these include Family & Community Support, Poet's Corner Pre-School and Waterloo Before & After School Care.

"There are lots of memories of good and tough times that I treasure."

Mr Russell said, "We're celebrating surviving in Waterloo. We're having other celebrations on December 7 - Waterloo's Summer on the Green." The all-day celebration will take place within the green area beside the Marton Gardens (weather permitting). SSM

### THE FACTORY PRESENTS Summer On The Green DECEMBER 7, 2007

11am - 2pm Older residents' picnic-themed event

3 - 5pm Young people's Christmas party

5 - 8pm The Factory Community Centre family entertainment party

Light music, stage performances, bouncing castles, BBQ, information stalls, face painting, sports activities, and guest appearances. Marking International Disability Day, and local community projects such as the Marton Gardens mosaic.

Photo Voices: Learn photography & Photoshop Photo exhibition.

Contact Irene 0416 410 374 or 9519 2597

### CAFE COMING SOON

## Yaama Dhiyaan restaurant • catering • cafe



Yaama Dhiyaan is a Cafe and Function Centre that specialises in modern Australian cuisine using Indigenous produce and flavours.



YAAMA DHIYAAN is an exciting new venture offering on site function services as well as off site catering.

It is located in the exciting new North Eveleigh precinct at 255 Wilson Street, Darlington.

YAAMA DHIYAAN is a truly unique opportunity for people to experience the friendly service and high standard of food offered by Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo, an Aboriginal elder, and an exciting young Aboriginal chef Mathew Cribb, who has over 10 years experience.



### menu

#### SOME OF THE CULINARY DELIGHTS ON OFFER

- Fried Crocodile Wontons with Finger Lime Sauce and Snowpea Shoots
- Peppered Kangaroo Fillet with Roasted Beetroot, Rocket Salad and Balsamic Reduction
- Macadamia Nut and Thyme Crusted Emu Fillet on Crushed Yam with Native Pepper Berry Jus
- Pan Fried Chicken Breast with Bush Tomato Ratatouille and Crispy Emu Prosciutto
- Steamed Lemon Myrtle and Poppy Seed Pudding with Vanilla Anglaise and Chocolate and Wattleseed Sauce

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Sunday, 8am to 10pm

INTERESTED IN BOOKING YAAMA DHIYAAN FOR YOUR NEXT FUNCTION OR CATERING EVENT? Call Event Services, Matt on 8399 0924 or email to mathew@yaama.com.au

More news on page 13...



# A perfect day for the Surry Hills Festival

ELLICE MOL

The Surry Hills Festival took place on Saturday October 13. The festival is in its eighth year and attracting more and more people each time. Beginning as a humble street fair, the festival now calls Prince Alfred Park its home.

Festival coordinator Cathy Wills says the turnout was significantly higher than last year with an estimated 90,000 strong crowd. She pointed out some highlights of this year, including the diverse range of music. "The bands are amazing on the Lilypad stage, the guys at the 3D world stage, the 2SER stage," she says. "Every stage here has acts of a really high calibre."

Entertainment on the main stage included local artists The Mares, Peabody, Ooh La La, The Shake Up and Krill. "We've got a whole lot of really funky DJs," says Wills, "and I've only mentioned half of the stages."

During the day, crowds of people swarmed around DJs such as Watussi, Blue Juice, and Nardo.

Cathy Wills says the festival's atmosphere is part of the attraction. "It's just iconic, it's got a great vibe," she says. "It's very diverse, it's very free, it's very Surry Hills. There is every kind of person here and at 21 degrees we've got a perfect festival day."

New to the festival this year were two different areas for artists. "One is called Art Alfresco and it's an opportunity for emerging artists to come and lay their artworks out in the park under the trees at no charge," says Wills. The other is Dramatic InTent, a space for actors. "We've been really grateful to Actors Centre, Australia, Carriageworks and the Belvoir Street Theatre," says Wills.



Photos: (above) Bob de Freitas (below) Ben Bontia

Wills is already busy planning for the next festival, which is only seven months away. It's been brought forward due to council renovations on Prince Alfred Park, and planned for May 2008.

Regular attendee and pub manager Sam Witham from Bronte says he'd like to see it return to the

street. "When they block off the street and make it a festival, it's a different feel, more of a personal thing," he says. "You feel like you're involved with people in the suburb. With the presence of the security checking bags for alcohol, it's gone from a casual street party to a very controlled environment."



# Kristin Hersh – wild like a star



KATE NASH

The evening began with a diatribe on how truly awful Australian Idol is, how the judges are unqualified to pass judgement on what constitutes cool, how pathetic it is to promote music that relies on tame aspirations to pop stardom, and how depressing a thought that that's all it takes to get the kiddies enthused.

As we idled our way down to the Basement on October 19, pondering the demise of cool, little did we know our faith in cool was about to be restored.

The Basement was comfortably filled with alt-rock aficionados. We were all waiting patiently (admittedly, the low-key set by theredsunband was quite excellent) for this roaring one-woman show.

And it was worth waiting for. Despite hawking the new album, *Learn to Sing Like a Star*, most songs in Hersh's hour-and-a-half acoustic set were from her back catalogue, showcasing a brilliant (and lengthy) career as a singer-songwriter.

Hersh formed the Throwing Muses with stepsister Tanya Donnelly in the early '90s. Since 1994 she has released seven solo albums, reunited the Muses for an album in 2003, and fronted a

hardcore punk power trio called 50 Foot Wave.

With humour and sincerity, a uniquely focused stage demeanour – feet planted firmly (except for pedal-stomping her acoustic guitar into overdrive), intense hands, face, eyes – and a vocal range from whispers to raspy screaming (sing like a star, indeed), Hersh had the audience captivated. We were treated to very fine versions of 'Your Dirty Answer', 'Spain', 'Like You', 'Home', '37 Hours', 'Your Ghost', 'Sugar Baby' and also 'Banks of the Ohio' from an album of Appalachian gothic folk covers, *Murder, Misery and Then Goodnight* (1998).

Surprisingly, for all her wild, hallucinatory and sometimes angry lyrics, Hersh the performer is quite the comedienne. She shared with the audience stories that have inspired some of her songs. Not loss or unrequited love as you might expect, but crazy ladies on buses bugging her time and again, or gun-toting neighbours with heads like "shrunken apples"!

And why not? Hersh makes of such raw experience and wry observation a cryptic, passionate and highly poetic art. Too wild for Australian Idol.

Photo: Dina Douglass



## The Torchsong Country Soul Band

The Torchsong Country Soul Band launched their debut EP at the Bald Faced Stag in Leichhardt on October 14. Contact [www.torchsong.moonfruit.com](http://www.torchsong.moonfruit.com)  
Photo by Caity Burrige



## Surry Hills Village Life

Surry Hills Village Life by Samantha Lord. Samantha Lord was one of the artists featured at the Danks Street Festival on October 21. Contact 0419 169 115 [www.samanthalord.com.au](http://www.samanthalord.com.au)

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Lisa Hogben's portrait of Indigenous artist Adam Hill was entered in the National Portrait Prize 2007. Sadly, the entry was rejected. Photo: Lisa Hogben



The Mission Australia Players: Adam, Marshall, Michael, Tom and John Photo: Elyse Patten



Jacob Logos receives his prize from Basil King Photo: Ali Blogg

## Milk Crate Theatre: Meeting needs and making art

ANDREW COLLIS

**How do we build trust in our community? Try to listen objectively to what people are saying. Get rid of Johnny Howard. More truth and honesty from everyone ...**

Milk Crate Theatre, established as a drama group for homeless and disadvantaged people in Sydney and aligned to the Darlinghurst Theatre Company, staged an interactive production called *Those Around Me* at the Edward Eagar Lodge on October 18.

The experimental show, part-performance part-audience participation, featured players from Edward Eagar Lodge, Mission Australia, the Wayside Chapel, Rough Edges, as well as professional actors.

A mock conference – Secret Society for the Study of Human Harmony (SSSHH!) 2007 – the production invited audience “delegates” to respond to discussion questions.

“Some of the responses were really wonderful,” says Artistic Director Beck Ronkson. “Celebrating people’s birthdays was one response to the question: What services are most important? On the streets

no-one knows when it’s your birthday.”

Ms Ronkson enjoys the challenges of Milk Crate Theatre. “I’m always learning. It’s about meeting needs, and making something with depth and artistic quality,” she says.

“We’ve been running workshops and classes and staging shows at Edward Eagar Lodge, but this year we started a Home Delivered Program which takes us out to various places like Wayside and Mercy Arms and Matthew Talbot.”

The Home Delivered workshops culminate in short five-minute productions followed by longer real-life stories. “Somebody’s real-life experience is the basis for the work,” Ms Ronkson explains. “And then there is opportunity for the audience to discuss a point of decision or crisis in the story presented. The audience gets to vote on an alternative decision or action, and the alternative is played out on stage.”

**Milk Crate Theatre’s next production will be staged on November 29 at Edward Eagar Lodge. No bookings. For information contact Katy Coote at Darlinghurst Theatre Company on 9331 3107.**

## Engaging art on Bourke Street

BEN FALKENMIRE

**The winner of the Arts on Bourke art prize didn’t even know she had won when she arrived after the presentation ceremony.**

Announcing Alicia Riley’s *Inner Soul Outer Truth* as the winner of the \$3,000 first prize in front of a feverish 100-plus crowd, AOB President Basil King was left standing with an unclaimed cheque.

The Berowra-based artist was at dinner at the time with a legitimate excuse. “I got engaged that night to my boyfriend,” the 20 year old said.

Alicia’s three-piece profile of friends’ faces was produced two years ago as part of her HSC. Winning was the last thing on the mind for the young artist who works in child care and real estate. “The \$3,000 is just about the cost of a wedding dress,” she laughed.

The \$1,500 second prize was snapped up by Jacob Logos for *The Last Water Hole*, with Deborah Marks earning \$500 for her impressionist piece titled *View*

from Foundation Park.

All 78 pieces judged “finalists” by a three-member panel were exhibited on the opening night, and the winners were displayed at the Surry Hills Festival the following day.

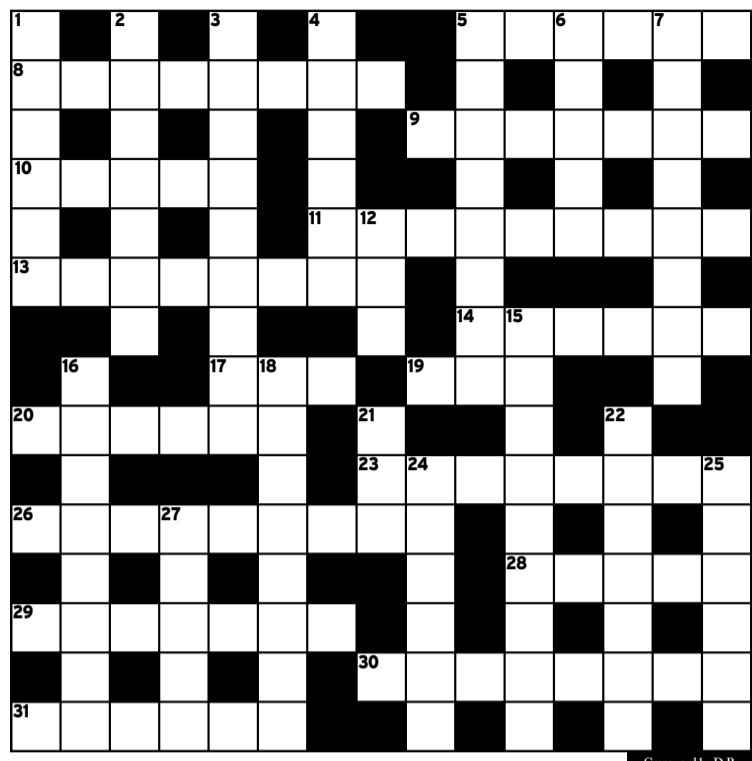
Describing the competition as “a learning experience for the club”, Basil King was pleased with the outcome. “There were a number of eclectic entries from a broad section of the community.”

Basil said the club was “struggling” and had spent more than \$15,000 on the arts prize to raise awareness of the club’s offering of permanent art space for less than \$500 per week with no gallery commission charged.

“We want to help struggling artists in the community to get a name for themselves and exhibit in a professional environment,” he explained. “Art takes you through life and sets you on another path.”

**For more information about Arts on Bourke head to [www.ssgac.com.au](http://www.ssgac.com.au) or call 9667 4321.**

# South Sydney Crossword



## ACROSS

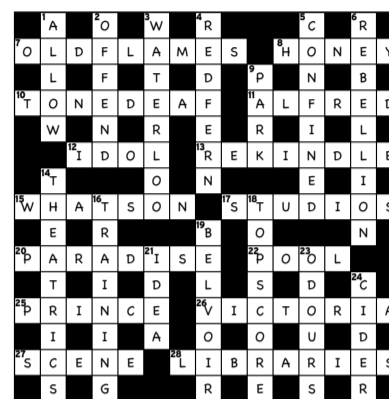
- 5,8 Sydney's catchphrase as a nexus of communities. (4,2,8)
- 9 Cover expressionless extraterrestrial. (7)
- 10 Masters of the art of stealth and camouflage lay hidden in Japan. (5)
- 11,26 Majestic native adorned with blazing red blooms. (8,5,4)
- 13 Charm one's way in. (8)
- 14 The vernal season gives bounce. (6)
- 17 . (3)
- 19 Wobbly blue thing mermaids live in. (3)
- 20 Patron saint of France takes the road to a Middle Eastern kingdom. (6)
- 23 Grey energy provides overgrowth of foliage. (8)
- 26 See 11 across
- 28 Budding achievement. (5)
- 29 Able bodied, single, delectable mollusk. (7)
- 30 Marine celebrity? But not like Nemo. (8)
- 31 Scabbard has the shakes. (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Tree lined street, a place to meet. (1,5)
- 2 An elite of heavenly bodies. Sorry Pluto. (7)
- 3 Blazingly blue blossomed tree. (9)
- 4 Post-imperial standard. (6)
- 5 Close pal precipitates cave-in. (8)
- 6 Tango dancing in the South Pacific! (5)
- 7 Rightfully beginning to get nervous about blow-outs. (8)

- 12 Support legitimate leaders. (3)
- 15 A variety of melaleuca almost appears in paperback. (9)
- 16 Shady tree under which to sing and watch and wait ..... (8)
- 18 0.1
- 21 Expression of the passage of time. (3)
- 22 Tuneful arrangement of old mice. (7)
- 24 Distant disintegrating meteor. (6)
- 25 Delicious tea? A Chinatown specialty. (3,3)
- 27 A glum outback variety of wattle. (5)

## Last month's solutions



# Live entertainment in Sydney

PETER WHITEHEAD

Until **November 18** at TAP Gallery **DEAD MONEY**. Join Sydney couple Michael and Wendy as they try it on in our no-size-fits-all society. Paul Gilchrist writes and directs Ali Davies, Brett Ellwood, Daniela Giorgi, John Maynard and David Tibbles. Pay what you can Wednesdays (\$10 min).

Until **November 24** **KING TIDE** by Katherine Thomson at the Stables Theatre. Griffin Theatre Company presents a surprising story about the possibilities for change. Kathryn Beck, Anita Hegh, Russell Kiefel, Toni Scanlan, Masa Yamaguchi are directed by Patrick Nolan.

**November 1** **LESSONS IN FLIGHT**, a new play by Maryanne Sam at Darlinghurst Theatre until November 24. Frederick Copperwaite directs Kylie Coolwell, Matt Edgerton and Kyas Sherriff. This project is produced with the view to forming a Sydney-based Indigenous company for all areas of theatre practice.

**November 5** **INDIGENOUS EVENTS** at Carriage Works until 18th. performancespace.com.au or 8571 9111 for details of a varied and fascinating program of film, stand-up, performance, music and dance.

**November 6** Sydney heat of **POETRY SLAM** at the Friend in Hand 58 Cowper Street Glebe 7.30pm. The Poetry Slam showcases the art of performance poetry, and all poets, hip-hop artists and wordsmiths are encouraged to perform at a series of regional heats. Contestants are given a microphone, a live audience and just two minutes to impress the judges with spoken word, poetry, hip-hop, monologue and stories.

**November 7** **ABOUT A WOMAN** exhibition at TAP Gallery, Palmer Street, Darlinghurst. Sculpture, painting, printmaking, photography, drawing, collage, digital, poetry & performance art by women only – of all ages & racial backgrounds from the mountains to the sea.

**November 8** **THE STIRRING** brings industrial and Indigenous histories of the Carriage Works to life. Tess de Quincey performs and directs Henrietta Baird, Peter Fraser, Alan Schacher and Oguri at CarriageWorks Thurs-Sat 7.30pm until 17th.

**November 10** opening night of **NIGHT JOURNEYS** by Bill Kokkari 8pm at Sidetrack Theatre Addison Rd Marrickville. Khristina Totos directs Natalie Alexopolous, Barbara Gouskas, Benni Silvester and Matty Halliday.

**November 12** **PARNASSUS' DEN** at the Old Fitzroy, Woolloomooloo – the rehearsed reading of *The Four-Tongued Beastie of Babel* by Larry Buttrose.

**November 15** **CLUB TAP**. Resident poet Robert Balas guides the evening.

**November 19** **PARNASSUS' DEN** – the rehearsed reading of *Ash* Wednesday by Greg Waters.

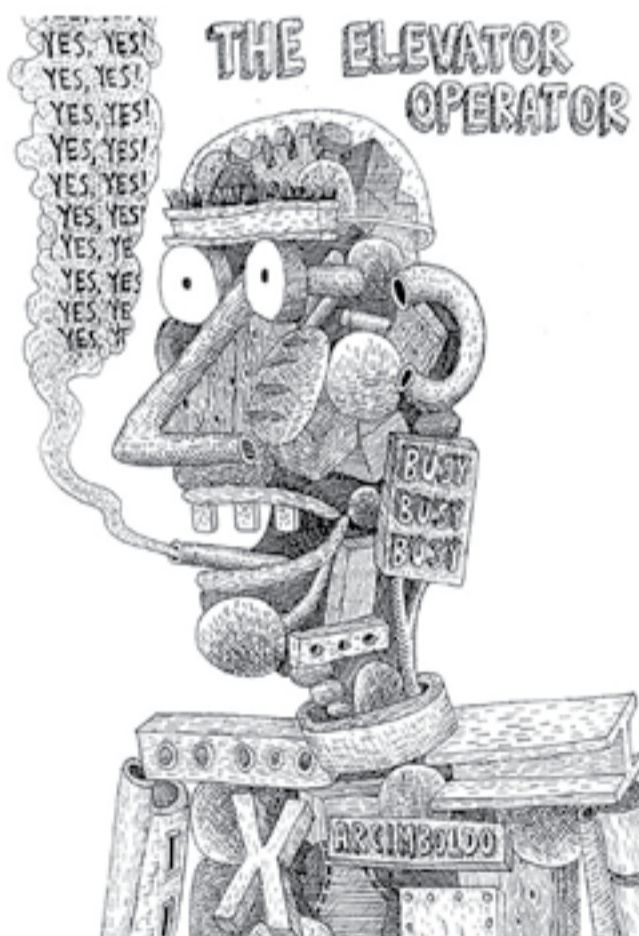
**November 22** **CLUB TAP**. Poetry, songs, readings and performance.

**November 27** **SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD**. Athol Fugard's Apartheid-era classic is directed by Peter Brook at The Playhouse, Sydney Opera House. Experience this essential work for \$10 off the full or concession price during the first week from November 27 to December 2. Call (02) 9250 7777 and quote *Adventurous* to receive the discount.

**November 30** **POETRY SLAM** State finals Mitchell Vestibule, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street \$15 book 02 9273 1770.

**December 7** **NATIONAL GRAND FINAL POETRY SLAM** State Library of New South Wales.

Until **December 8** **ONE LORE, TWO LAW, OUTLAW: DHAKIYARR VS THE KING**. An exhibition of recent bark and pole paintings by Mulkun Wirrpanda at The Cross Art Projects, 33 Roslyn Street, Kings Cross, Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm.



# Leigh Rigozzi

CATY BURRIDGE

I find myself looking sideways all too often, off centre, just past the canvas, screen, sheep-in-a-box, to the left, into another world where I can be confounded, shocked, amazed, seduced, scorched or

educated by a work of art. I try to focus but the work just isn't that compelling, be it at the MCA or Roslyn Oxley Galleries, it just doesn't hit the mark for the masses, enthusiasts, or even academics. Leigh Rigozzi is a comic zine artist and co-founder of

Workshop Show Room. I find myself involved, inspired and inquisitive before his illustrations.

Knowing Rigozzi and looking at his comics it seems as though he is illustrating another aspect of himself. Some of what's presented in his work I don't see in his every-day character. I get the feeling that he reveals himself through his comics that deal with ordinary life, love, religion and self-examination, far more than his shy and introverted personality would otherwise allow.

The D.I.Y. aesthetic and "just finished" quality in Rigozzi's work is a rarity these days. Most of the art I see has a ridiculous budget that doesn't improve on banal and disengaging concepts. Rigozzi's work is sweet and melancholy, even as he messes with our heads a little. His lines are detailed and academic at times, where we can clearly see his background as a printmaker, in his employing traditional etching line techniques.

When he's not fixing a leak in the roof at St Andrew's Cathedral or working on his comics and zines, he is working at his gallery. Workshop Show Room is intended to be a space where Rigozzi and co-founder Cecelia Huynh arrange shows of interesting work existing beyond the boundaries of commercial galleries. They don't charge the artists to exhibit and are open to a diverse range of events from performance and video to works on paper to philosophy nights. Workshop Show Room is located at 9 Edith Street in St Peters.

Image from *Busy, Busy, Busy* (2007)

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## News cont'd



Children's imaginations captured by stories of the old school Photo: Alison Gould

## Erskineville Public School brings history to life

**Judy Finnegan**

On Saturday October 20 the Erskineville Public School Parents and Citizens Association hosted a barbecue inviting ex-students of the school to a memory walk around the school to bring its history to life.

Approximately 60 people returned to the school, most of whom had attended there between 1942 and the late 1960s. Old school photographs and memorabilia were displayed for the visitors to peruse and to remember. The earliest class photo was from 1916.

Many rich and wonderful stories were shared and old friends reunited. The current students at the school in Years 4-6 interviewed ex-students and recorded stories of how life used to be. Many interviews with the visitors were captured on film.

Some interesting anecdotes were shared. For example, the students used to hide the teachers' canes in the holes in the floorboards. It was said that, when the school was renovated in the 1960s, 300 canes were found buried under the wooden floorboards! Current school children were particularly astounded by the story that the school dentist used to walk from desk to desk examining the children's teeth while the teacher taught the lessons.

The visit from former students was part of the Erskineville Public School History Project supported by a grant from the City of Sydney through the Local Community Grants program. The grant allowed for a local historian to assist in researching the history of the school through public records. The project has unearthed the history of its community along with stories, photos

and other fascinating documents. These are being shared with current students, the school community and the wider Erskineville community.

All the photos, stories, film and other treasures will be compiled into displays and a portfolio capturing the history of the school. These will be shared at community events and festivals, and provide a rich archive for ongoing generations of Erskineville PS children and serve as a reminder of their community's heritage.

The Erskineville Public School celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. The community is invited to share in the celebration by attending the Erskineville Public School Fair, "Erko Berzerko" on Saturday, November 3 in the school grounds, Swanson St. Erskineville, where much of the historical material will be on display. SSH

## Yaama caters to students with dreams



Salote Cook Photo: Benjamin Falkenmire

**Ben Falkenmire**

The fifth graduation ceremony for cooking graduates from the Yaama Dhiyaan course was held last month. More than 60 students have now graduated from the course, this being the fourth graduation ceremony this year.

Trainer and maternity symbol Auntie Beryl was almost in tears as she instructed the graduates ranging in ages from 16 to 44 to "follow your dreams".

"Half this mob have jobs already," she told the SSH. "[This course] is a stepping stone, it builds up their self esteem. I know they will have a better future."

After the formal receipt of awards the graduates, their family and friends and other attendees feasted on the cooking centre's offerings: drunk roo pies, smoked salmon tartlets with waligal (a native spinach from around Homebush Bay) and wattleseed and chocolate truffles. Corey Millich-Haley was the only male

graduate in the eight-week course. The 17 year old from out near Parramatta had recently left home and heard about the course through a friend's mother. Coming back next course to "firm up" some skills he will then look for full-time employment.

A mother of 11 kids Salote Cook knew how to cook native Tongan food but was more interested in Australian food. "I dream of running my own catering business," Salote said. "My son is attending the next course so he can [eventually] come and work for me." The 44 year old has secured a job with Compass and will apply for an apprenticeship in the future.

An initiative of the Redfern Waterloo Authority, Yaama Dhiyaan is open to Redfern and Waterloo residents, but is also attracting people from outside the area. This concerns Geoff Turnbull from REDWatch who said, "What the RWA is supposed to be doing is addressing the issues of the local Indigenous community and creating employment for them". Mr Turnbull argues a stronger focus should be made on local families with generational unemployment. SSH

If you are local get involved.  
To find out more call Yaama on  
**9202 9100**



**Tanya Plibersek MP**  
Member for Sydney

## EDUCATION: AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE

The Howard Government has spent the last eleven years ripping money from tertiary education and ignoring the growing skills crisis in our country.

Only Labor takes the education needs of our community seriously.

A Rudd Labor Government will:

- ✓ Inject \$450 million into early childhood education giving every 4 year old access to preschool;
- ✓ Introduce a National Curriculum in the core subjects of Maths, Science, English, History, Geography and Languages;
- ✓ Spend \$84 million to ensure all vocational education and trades training students get one day a week of on the job training for 20 weeks a year;
- ✓ Develop a Primary Health in Primary Schools Checklist to help parent check that their children are fit and ready to start school; and
- ✓ Invest \$2.5 billion to build new Trade Training Centres in high schools across the country.



Authorised by Tanya Plibersek MP  
Labor Member for Sydney  
422 Crown St, Surry Hills NSW 2010  
9357 6366 | [www.tanyaplibersek.com](http://www.tanyaplibersek.com)



## News



Rev. Andrew Collis blesses a mouse Photo: Ali Blogg

### Celebrating creation and supporting its creatures

**Dorothy McRae-McMahon**

Maybe when St Francis and St Clare of Assisi focused the church of their time on the creation and its creatures, they were actually enjoying themselves.

That's certainly what happened at South Sydney Uniting Church when it held a special service a few weeks ago to honour those saints and to celebrate creation.

Those in attendance included a significant selection of dogs, mice

running around on their spinning wheel, dragons looking bemused in a box, and photos of cats who preferred to be represented in their absence. Children brought their favourite animal toys and placed them among all sorts of colours and shapes in flowers and leaves.

There was a great sense of celebration in the singing, even as worshipers reflected on their grave responsibilities as people who could protect or destroy the creation and its vulnerable occupants.

Monika's Doggie Rescue representative Elizabeth Boag, who is well known for her newsagency in Waterloo, spoke about the work of the group in saving dogs who would otherwise have been put down, and some of the dogs present had been saved through the work of her group. They were certainly testimony to the life-saving activities of Doggie Rescue as they mingled with each other happily and greeted the people. The congregation gave donations for support of this good work.

After the service, everyone went into the community garden which has been created at the back of the church. The animals were blessed by Rev. Andrew Collis as all enjoyed Naomi Ward's especially-made decorated cakes and relaxed among the plants in the sun.

Maybe saints Francis and Clare would have been greenies had they lived in our age? They were certainly there in spirit and in truth on that day.

SSH



Tony Pooley outside Souths Leagues Club Photo: Caity Burridge

### Souths' ban on pokies to set a trend?

**Simon Nichols**

You would have to be living under a rock not to have heard about Peter Holmes a Court and Russell Crowe's decision to get the poker machines out of the South Sydney Leagues Club. The controversial choice made the major headlines of every newspaper and news program in NSW. The question is, does it have a chance of materialising?

"That's the challenge they (Holmes a Court and Crowe) face," says Bill Alexiou-Hucker, chairperson of the South Sydney Leagues Club. "They need to prove to the board that such a model can work and can work without too much of a financial risk to the club. The board is not against the idea but if you look at the Club NSW website, gaming addiction is not as big as alcohol addiction. Gaming

does not have as many negative effects on society as alcohol has."

"Still, I wouldn't put anything past Crowe and Holmes a Court. If it was Joe Bloggs and Joe Blow off the street, I'd say 'no' but these two are extremely media savvy. Look at the ideas they've implemented so far - the footballers in Armani suits, the non-attendance of players at the after-games events, and replacing cheerleaders with drummers. They are definitely trend-setters and full of confidence in their own ability."

"Right now we have 60 machines and they bring in about two million dollars a year. We have people to employ and we have to see if we have the resources to make it viable. The scheme has put us on the map though. We have been on the front cover of all the major papers as the lead story. You can't buy that kind of publicity. The uniqueness of this idea has been

immensely marketable for us. Right now we are relying on Russell and Peter 120%."

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Tony Pooley thinks that the concept is an attractive alternative. "It would be nice for clubs not to be dominated by pokies. Right now it can be hard to find a quiet part of a pub or club. The smoke-free laws have been a positive since they were introduced and I think this move could add to a more active friendly environment. If it is financially viable, it will demonstrate the opportunity to re-create a family environment."

The Souths Board met last Wednesday and the business of that meeting has not as yet been released to the general public. As to whether this ban on pokies goes ahead, we will just have to wait and see.

Peter Holmes a Court was not available for comment.

SSH

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**Kristina Keneally MP**

MEMBER FOR HEFFRON

**Tanya Plibersek and Kevin Rudd are committed to keeping Australia's economy strong and securing the future of local families through a fairer industrial relations system. A Rudd Labor Government will:**

- ▶ Scrap unfair industrial relations laws and replace them with a new and balanced system.
- ▶ Protect basic rights to penalty rates and overtime payments, as well as holiday and redundancy pay.
- ▶ Guarantee a fair minimum wage and implement a real safety net, with 10 legislated minimum conditions.
- ▶ Give both parents the right to separate periods of up to 12 months of unpaid leave and have the right to request flexible work arrangements until their child reaches school age.
- ▶ Reform Australia's unfair dismissal laws and establish a new, simpler system.

If the Liberals are re-elected, they will go even further in reducing the conditions and entitlements of working families. Big business and even Mr Howard's own Ministers, including his Finance Minister are pressuring the government to scrap the award safety net that contains these rights. In addition, Treasurer Peter Costello says that unfair dismissal protections should be scrapped all together.

The Liberals have made it very clear that they support unfair contracts that strip pay and conditions for employees like police, nurses and fire-fighters.

On Saturday, 24th of November 2007, it is up to you to make a choice between an extreme industrial relations system that cuts wages and working conditions OR under the Leadership of Kevin Rudd, a system that allows for not only a strong economy, but fairer working conditions for all Australians.

I know the choice I will be making.

**Only a vote for Tanya Plibersek and Kevin Rudd can protect the pay and conditions of working families.**

**Kristina Keneally MP**  
Member for Heffron

Shop 117, 747 Botany Road, Rosebery NSW 2018  
Phone: (02) 9699 8166 Fax: (02) 9699 8222  
Email: kristina.keneally@parliament.nsw.gov.au

# Comment & Opinion

## READERS' LETTERS

### Pemulwuy Project

I have been a resident on the edge of the Block for three years now and consider myself to have the necessary "local" credentials to comment on the proposals for the Pemulwuy Project. To date, I have not been convinced by any of the proposals, re-jigged or otherwise, put forward by the AHC and their architects. The concept from which the division of residential and commercial building uses on the site is derived is flawed. The outcome proposed will not create an area with character or "village like" aspects with a community feel. The centre of the village (red square) is flung to the southern boundary while the residential patch is stranded back in the north where it is rammed up against a future commercial zone and designed as a big block of flats initially, and now in the re-jigged version as a cluster of 1960s six-packs. Are we a city of villages? Or just a bunch of bogans in 1960s six-packs with balconies? The planning principles of the RWA Built Environment Plan for the Block and surrounding buildings are designed (believe it or not) to create a mixture of localized (read Indigenous) commercial activities at street level with upper floors of the buildings used for residences that act as sentinel guardians overlooking the streets below. Add to this possibility, an outcome that does not see the end of the AHC, but a vibrant future for it, as managing landlord of numerous sites. The decision by the City of Sydney to hastily throw in a bunch of land to ensure that the FSR calculations "appear" to balance with the RWA requirements is not helping things either. Am I the only one who can see this?

Grahame Rowe  
Chippendale

### Beyond Pokies

I had decided to join the South Sydney Leagues Club on the basis of the decisions jointly made by Peter Holmes a Court and Russell Crowe about poker machines. The poker machine culture is relatively old, however one has to be mindful that it provides many people with a sense of companionship. It's "something to do", a purpose, for creating comfort in a social setting. This apart from gambling, et al. In this light I'd love to see the Club develop the sort of atmosphere you see in traditional pubs and inns where people can play dominoes or cards, and the Club provides sets to encourage playing. Simple games fulfill that "something to do" for singles and can help develop new social connections. There are wonderful tradespeople, artists, writers, filmmakers and business people in the principle area served by South Sydney Leagues Club and I believe there are many great ideas out there that will make the Club a fabulous centre for enjoyment, education and celebration. Vive!

Dr Susan Plunkett  
Redfern

## THE INTEREST RAT SHUFFLE



## SOUTH SYDNEY ENVIRONMENT

# We don't all drink latte

Anna Christie



It's very insightful to have a look at the official newsletter of the Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union's (CFMEU) Forestry and Furnishing Products Division, Tasmania.

'The Woodstock Journal' makes it very clear that a deep social divide exists between timber workers and all of those outsiders, people from the north like us, café-latte-drinking wreckers who would have their forest livelihoods taken away.

Some talk betrays deep hostility towards city people like us. In their eyes, we represent a mythical society: the "café latte set". According to that social theory, you - yes YOU - have been labelled. "But I don't drink latte," you say. Too bad. Some Tasmanians regard forest policy as a State matter, not a national one, and think other Australians should not try to influence developments like the Gunns Pulp Mill.

It is as absurd as saying people in Tasmania can't have a say about illegal immigrants because they land in the Northern Territory, and don't land on Tasmanian shores. There's this thing called "national significance"! There's also another thing called "World Heritage"!

I don't blame Tasmanian timber workers for feeling under threat and insecure - it must feel awful to be part of an industry under siege. Neither major political party has helped the workers to migrate to other industries. Support for a Tasmanian value-added industry to do with timber, like furniture, has not been enough. Ever heard of Danish furniture? We import it to Australia, don't we? The word "der" comes to mind.

A story two years ago drummed home to me that the protection of Tasmania's forests (and please don't start that infernal quibbling about exactly what classification of forest it is) is not just a local

matter for timber workers and their immediate economies.

My companion and I were on the fast train to Athens from the Eleftherios Venizelos Airport, and we could see three people at the other end of the carriage having a very animated discussion in Greek. They didn't all know each other, but a vigorous exchange was underway. After a short while we were bursting with curiosity to know what they were talking about. We stopped talking and I listened carefully to get a snatch of their conversation.

"They're talking about forests," I translated to my friend, "something about forests at risk...". You don't expect average people to be so passionate about such topics, especially strangers on a train. Then came the punch line: "They're talking about Tasmanian forests!"

What?! On a random train in Athens, that I should eavesdrop on a conversation between strangers in another language about the Tasmanian forest policy... it didn't seem possible.

The story would just confirm all the fears of timber workers that the whole world is against them. And with good reason. They are exploited by employers. They have been neglected by both major parties. And sadly, they have been let down by the CFMEU.

Not enough energy has been devoted to finding new industries for timber workers. They need occupations that respect the value of forests in the long term, while protecting Tasmania's important tourism and primary industry.

The forests will not be safe until Tasmanian timber workers have viable employment alternatives. SSH

If you would like to suggest environmental issues in South Sydney that need investigation, please contact Anna Christie by email: [environment@annachristie.com.au](mailto:environment@annachristie.com.au)

## EDITORIAL

SSH

We hear a lot about tax cuts in the lead up to a federal election. On reflection, there are other more pressing and more interesting matters we can consider before casting our votes. The Uniting Church identifies and offers briefs on the following "hot issues": Indigenous health; work justice; climate change; multiculturalism; young people balancing work and study; welfare and unemployment;

poverty in Australia; Northern Territory Indigenous intervention; counter-terrorism and human rights; Australia in Iraq; fair taxation; charities law; and water.

The Growing a Nation of Hope resource material is non-partisan, and is available for download from the Uniting Church National Assembly website: [www.matrix.nsw.uca.org.au/assembly/resources/election\\_resources\\_2007](http://www.matrix.nsw.uca.org.au/assembly/resources/election_resources_2007)

## FAITH

# On being a Good Samaritan

Anita Monro

As we face the coming federal election, perhaps it's time to re-consider one of our care-taker Prime Minister's favourite parables: the Good Samaritan. It's an interesting choice for a politician and a lawyer!

In the Gospel of Luke, the parable of the Good Samaritan is told in response to a series of questions from a lawyer. The last question the lawyer asks is: "Who is my neighbour?" He receives the story in answer.

Now you'd expect that the story would point the lawyer towards those in need as his neighbours. After all, he's just been told to love his neighbours. The story certainly tells the tale of someone who is beaten up and left for dead. But the story concludes with a question to the lawyer: "Who was a neighbour to that person, to the injured victim?" And the lawyer replies, "The one who showed mercy." According to the story, the Good Samaritan is the neighbour. The one who shows hospitality to the beaten victim is the neighbour.

And that's interesting because the neighbour is the wrong ethnicity, the wrong religion and has no family or community ties to the victim or the lawyer. In fact, in the story, people just like the lawyer have passed by the beaten man avoiding any interaction. The Samaritan, as a neighbour, has acted not under obligation but in compassion, and there is no expectation of reciprocity.

I was sitting in Belmore Park at lunchtime on Tuesday 18 September pondering when the federal election might called and what John Howard's choice of parables might mean for public policy in Australia. The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Oxfam Australia were promoting the "Close the Gap" campaign in the park. This campaign seeks to address the differences in health outcomes and life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people die an average of 17 years younger than other Australians. Gracious women and men of Indigenous heritage welcomed the gathered crowd to country and to the cause of addressing the plight of the appalling state of the health of Indigenous people. We were welcomed, we were gathered up into the action, we were fed and we were invited to belong. Who is my neighbour?

As an "Anglo" of mixed European heritage, I am continually amazed at the gracious hospitality of the first peoples of this land. Despite the refusal of the national government to apologise for the significant dispossession and abuses of the past, Indigenous people persist in pursuing reconciliation. Despite the refusal of the national government to sign the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous people persist in contributing to Australian society in many and varied forms, including respectfully calling the government to account for the failure of public policy in relation to Indigenous issues. Despite the significant gap in life expectancy and health outcomes for Indigenous people compared with other Australians, Indigenous people continue to work towards a better Australia and not just for themselves, for all of us. Who is my neighbour?

The parable of the Good Samaritan ends with an imperative: "Go and do likewise." Go and be hospitable even when there is no obligation. Go and be gracious for absolutely no other reason than that is what is good and right to do.

Christian people believe that that is how God has behaved towards humans - with hospitality, compassion, mercy and grace. That action inspires human action to be neighbourly to God and to other people. But you don't have to be Christian to believe that if we spent less time trying to sort out who are our neighbours and more time being neighbourly, the world just might be a better place.

Now, just how do all the promises we're hearing from our politicians pre-election stand up to this test of neighbourliness?

Anita Monro is a Minister of the Word in The Uniting Church in Australia and Lecturer in Liturgy and Theology at United Theological College, part of the School of Theology of Charles Sturt University.

# Features



## Inside the whale Meeting Mark Willacy

Mark Willacy in Baghdad, April 2003 Photo: Supplied

**Former ABC Middle East correspondent Mark Willacy doesn't just take you into the news, or even behind the news. He takes you under the news – and I for one wanted to scream. Not at Willacy, but at the leaders of this world...**

**Neil Whitfield**

Mark Willacy will be at Politics in the Pub on Friday 23 November from 6-7.45 PM at the Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills (across from Chalmers St exit and Devonshire St tunnel at Central Station). Parking is usually available in side streets. Afterwards you may have dinner at the Royal Exhibition Hotel across the road.

Imagine this. "The 17-year-old was

just a torso and a head. His legs had been blown away, and his stomach had been peeled open. He looked like the android from the movie *Aliens* after the alien queen has torn him in two with her stabbing, serrated tail."

This was a suicide bomber. It is the first scene to confront Mark Willacy as he takes up his appointment as ABC correspondent in Jerusalem in 2002. It is the first paragraph in his recently published *The View from the Valley of Hell: Four Years in the*

*Middle East* (Macmillan Australia 2007 \$35rrp).

He was to see worse, in Gaza, in Israel, in Iraq.

And yet he is able to say, speaking to SBS: "I'm optimistic. I'm pessimistic about the political classes. But I'm optimistic about the human condition of the ordinary citizen. I met people over there who showed boundless compassion to other people who were supposed to be their enemy, and I saw other

people do amazing things that they didn't have to do on behalf of people they didn't really know."

He told *The South Sydney Herald* that the thing to remember about Israel, Palestine, Iraq – indeed the whole Middle East – is that not everyone is a terrorist, a fanatic, or a military or political power tripper. On all sides there are wonderful people quite capable of getting on with one another. But we have been witnessing tragedies that will resonate

probably for generations to come. No one side has a monopoly either on violence or hypocrisy – or virtue.

Asked what someone attending Politics in the Pub might take away with them, Mark Willacy said: "I hope they might be sceptical about what the media and politicians say, especially about the Middle East, and be prepared to do some digging of their own. I hope they leave my talk with renewed interest in the subject."

In 2003 veteran journalist Philip Knightley wrote: "...the age of the war correspondent as hero appears to be over. Whether war correspondents would wish to continue as propagandists and myth-makers, plying their craft subservient to those who wage wars, is a decision they will need to make for themselves."

What Mark Willacy's decision was is obvious from *The View from the Valley of Hell*.

Not unexpectedly that has led to some seeing him as a propagandist. In our age true impartiality is not valued. It is indeed suspect.

I imagine Mark Willacy is too modest, or too realistic, to wear the "hero" tag comfortably, but I don't think he would mind my borrowing *Inside the Whale* from George Orwell to head this story. Honesty is clearly one of this reporter's values.

There is also a depth of humour and compassion that comes through his book and speaking to Mark Willacy confirms this.

Today he lives a quiet family life and after a period working for the ABC's rural program *Landline* he now is with *The 7.30 Report*. What he saw in the Middle East during those four years has led him to treasure his family above all else.

But there is still plenty of fire in the belly. There are those for whom *The View from the Valley of Hell* will be uncomfortable reading. Buy or borrow the book. Read the 'Epilogue' several times. All the hypocrisy, humanity, complexity and tragedy are summed up there.

On election eve you can hear him for yourself at the Gaelic Club. I am looking forward to it.

If you feel like screaming afterwards, carry your anger to the ballot box.

SSN

## Former user tells: "My neighbours were like tarantulas"

*"I was 19 and at a party. I was asked if I had tried Shabu. I'd never heard of it before... I had no idea what it was, and what it would do."*

**Susannah Palk**

What 23-year-old Sarah (not her real name) is describing is her first encounter with the drug known as Ice. "I felt superhuman, invincible. The euphoria. It feels so good, you feel like a million dollars." After the first hit, Sarah wanted more, "It's just so addictive... I had it on tap from the supplier for about two weeks. After I was hooked I had to pay for it."

And so began Sarah's four-year battle with a drug addiction. At her peak, Sarah was smoking three grams of Ice a day, three times the average amount. One hit would last her around three days. "I could go for six days straight without sleeping, then sleep for one, then do it all again."

But, with an extreme high, also comes an extreme low.

Sarah recalls vividly what it was like to be coming down from the drug, where episodes of psychosis and symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia start to take hold.

"I was suicidal. I had psychosis so many times. The paranoia and the voices, you don't know where they are coming from. You think that people are always trying to find you, are trying to kill you."

This abuse has taken its toll on Sarah's mind and body. Apart from being tired all the time, she has suffered brain damage, the extent of which is not fully known. She is on medication for the paranoid voices she hears, and cannot have children.

"I still get the shakes sometimes. I've had to have a few teeth pulled. One day I put my finger in my mouth because my tooth was feeling odd and the whole tooth just crumbled out... I just feel so old."

And it's not just taken a toll on her

body. Sarah has lost her friends and half her family due to her addiction. "Your whole world becomes people who are users. I'm completely isolated now. Normal people can't associate with you, because you're violent, you're unpredictable."

Cutting ties with the "straight" world, Sarah moved into an apartment block, most of it was filled with other Ice addicts. "My neighbours were like tarantulas, because they were all druggies. They would sit on their balconies and wait for me to leave so they could attack me and steal my drugs. I woke up one time with people in my house. They were robbing me while I was asleep."

But five years on and having been clean for over six months, Sarah is starting to pick up her life again. Helping her to do so is the support from her mother and a return to her faith. "This is the

longest I've been off the drugs... I don't get the cravings that often anymore. I think because of my faith, God heals you so quickly."

She attends counselling once a week and with help from the staff at St Vincent's Hospital has learnt to "surf the urge".

"There are specific techniques to overcome the urges. I go for a walk to the church or I paint, something constructive, to take my mind off it."

"Sometimes there is the temptation to go back, but when pay day comes, I buy myself food and I actually pay my bills, no drugs, no more."

While getting her life back on track, Sarah wants to warn others about the dangers of the drug with its long-term and life-changing effects. "If anyone offers you anything, just please, don't touch it. You might feel great for a little bit, but it will destroy your life. It destroyed mine."

SSN



Finding strength in faith Photo: Ali Blogg



## Features

# Lennox Street's living art gallery

Ellen McArthur

In what was originally a three-storey primary school in Lennox Street Newtown, a colony of 36 artists from Australia and abroad is at work. The old St Joseph's Catholic Boys School at 111 Lennox Street, is a living art gallery, draped in all kinds of materials – tiles, glass, bronze, plastic, tree bits and recycled industrial junk. Sculptures, paintings, and mosaics, cover every surface.

The Lennox Street artists' colony, established in 1994 by Malcolm Poole, is a magnet for artists and has been compared to the famous Yellow House, which was set up in Kings Cross in the 1970s by artist Martin Sharp. The Yellow House was a mecca for artists and visiting celebrities, including the legendary Pink Floyd.

Malcolm Poole, in contrast, started his life as a butcher, and spent most of his early career surrounded by sirloins, sausages and sweetmeats.

Born in Marrickville in 1945, Malcolm was two years old when his father died. As one of five children, he left school at 13 to become an apprentice butcher at Betta Meats butcher shop in Newtown. A few decades on he was butchering to

the rich and famous in Woollahra, including Thelma Clune, a famous patron of the Sydney Arts scene and its fledgling gallery system.

In 1990, having endured the death of his long-term partner, Malcolm had a mid-life crisis. He looked at life differently, reviewed his priorities, and decided to go to Art School full-time, using a \$10,000 inheritance from his partner to fund his studies.

"I was working two days a week at a sausage factory and studying the rest of the time and loving it," Malcolm said.

After graduating in 1994, he decided to set up an artists' colony to immerse himself in this creative culture. He took out a lease on the old Catholic Boys School in Lennox Street, and 13 years later the place is a thriving community of 36 artists from as far afield as France, Canada, and the UK.

They work in all media from painting, prints, and sculpture to installations and mosaics, and they range in age from early 30s to the eldest who is 70. The average age is around 50, however, and – just like Malcolm – most of them have had other careers. They include a chartered accountant, a children's clothing manufacturer, a farmer, a nurse and social worker, an interior designer, and many others.

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Lennox Street artists Malcolm Poole and Michael Fairweather Photo: Jenny Pry



Redfern landscape made of archive books Photo: Zanny Begg

## Artist-activist documents change in Redfern

Artist and activist Zanny Begg brings together her two favourite "spheres" in her latest project entitled 2016: Archive Project.

Ben Falkenmire

Undertaken with Keg De Souza, a regular project partner for Zanny, 2016: Archive Project is socio-political artwork at its most relevant.

Troubled by the gradual evaporation of artists and artist spaces from Redfern and the "gentrification" of the area pioneered by the Redfern Waterloo Authority, the Marrickville-based Begg decided to document the transformation. "I have always lived in Redfern. It's my favourite suburb in Sydney," Zanny said. "When the colourful pamphlets started rolling into the letterbox I began to wonder about the future of the place, and the lost voices."

Both Begg and De Souza have begun building an archive of Redfern's gentrification that includes interviews with long term residents and their offspring, impressionist sketches, commentarial cartoon images, and photographs. "It's a subjective archive through the artist's sense of place, not a bird's-eye view or a city town planner's view."

The Redfern project has already

been exhibited in Moori Gallery (January) and ArtSpace (August) where Begg and De Souza created an exhibition that destructs in the hands of its audience. Redfern urban landscapes made of little archive books and a cut-up image of the Twin Towers were offered to exhibit goes – a symbol of the transformation taking place in Redfern.

"In a way [the audience] gets to take away little pieces of Redfern but at the same time they are contributing to its destruction," Zanny explained.

The project will continue up until the year 2016. "We hope to contribute to the documentation and understanding of the process of change and allow voices of people who are being affected by this change to be heard."

Keep an eye out in 2008 for Zanny and Keg's *There Goes the Neighbourhood* project which will feature 2016: Archive Project alongside international artists.

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To find our more go to  
[www.ifyouseesomethingsaysomething.net](http://www.ifyouseesomethingsaysomething.net)

## Features



Dan Ilic at FBI Photo: Andrew Collis

# Funny film-maker on the radio

**Ellice Mol**

**F**or Dan Ilic, community radio has played a role in shaping a viable career in film and comedy. In this, our second feature in a series, Dan speaks with Ellice Mol about his start in the community radio sector.

Dan Ilic has loved radio since he was a little tacker. In fact it's safe to say he is mildly obsessed. His fascination began with Stan Zemanek. "There was something about the way Stan was happy to berate his listeners, spout opinion, and plug the local car dealership in one breath that was mesmerizing," says Dan. "Stan also taught me great words to use at school like 'dickhead', 'dronko', and 'low life'."

At the age of seven Dan remembers listening in bed to a radio he got for his birthday. "I occasionally flipped through the channels, and marveled at the world that was there," he says. "I can recall being enthralled with a conversation on Triple R about model railways and thinking: 'Wow, there's a place for anyone with an interest in anything.' After that profound thought I found what I was looking for, the Top 30 Countdown with 'Ugly' Phil and Jackie O."

2SER was the first community radio station to become locked into Dan's radio presets during his later years of high school. He became a subscriber to 2SER when he studied at Macquarie University. "Up till that point in high school way back in the late 90s it was just the sounds of Caroline Tran, Robbie Buck and Richard Kingsmill on Triple J. It's good that place hasn't changed."

Dan made his radio debut reciting poetry on Triple J's Super Request. "I became known as the Super Request Super Poet performing the naff, demented rhymes of a teenager. You have to remember even though the internet had been

around for a couple of years there was no MySpace to unleash my quality literary works."

During his university studies he completed a course in radio in which he produced a package on youth media. "Namely a now defunct video broadband website called musiclive.com.au and inthemix," he says. To his surprise 2SER ran the story on Undercurrents, which was the national current affairs program at the time. "I was thrilled, and by this stage well and truly addicted to the sound of my own voice."

In 2002 Dan got involved with guest spots on Bondi FM. A couple of his good friends Scott Bushell, and Rohan Gupta did an arts program and invited Dan to participate. "When they stopped doing it I just did it on my own. It was a great place to make mistakes and have some fun."

Dan says Bondi FM was (and probably still is) a room at the top of a hotel put together by gaff tape, and paper clips. During his experience at Bondi FM he heard that FBI, aka Free Broadcasting Incorporation, was about to launch. "My good friend Jules dragged me along to broadcaster training where we learnt the ins and outs of broadcasting before the launch of the station back in September 2003."

Along with another friend from University, Julia Hobbs, Dan was chosen to do the mid-dawn shift, "which with the help of Monopoly, V and Malteasers, we smashed!" Dan recalls. "After a couple of years of broadcasting in odd spots across the schedule, the opportunity came for me to host Up For It! FBI's breakfast shift. It was the most awesome thing that I'd ever been asked to do at the station."

Dan says FBI and 2SER now make up his community radio quota, and for many years he has been a financial supporter of both.

With comedic skill flowing through his veins, it was inevitable that Dan would find himself performing in front of large crowds

at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He has just returned from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. In the last five years Dan says FBI has supplemented his lucrative comedy career.

With his film-making skills and penchant for humour he now has a viable career in producing videos. "After years of making funny video just for the web, people actually pay me to do

it professionally now, which I like."

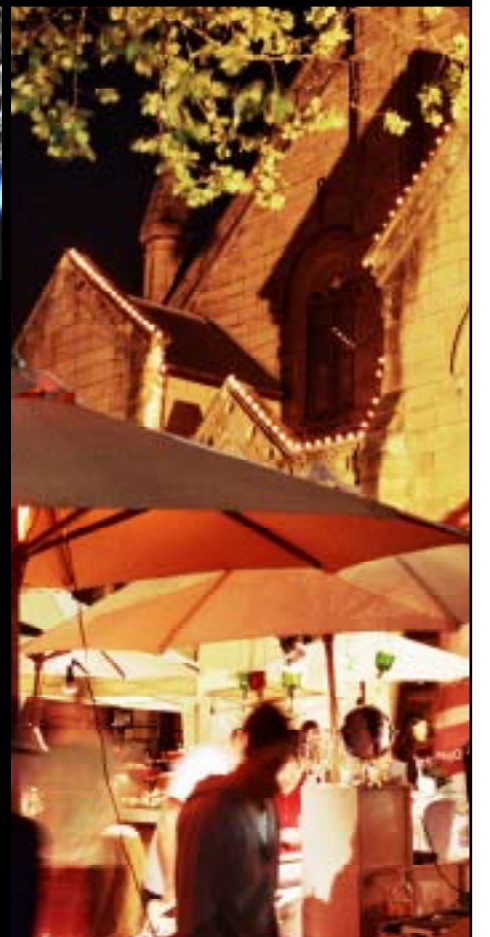
Dan Ilic says community radio is essential. "Call up your favourite community radio station and start volunteering," he says. "You could be on air in no time." **SSM**



## PADDINGTON MARKETS

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# Community Notices & Advertising

**The Factory Community Centre,** an established community-based centre and provider of After School & Vacation Care, **is looking for a Child Care Assistant with:**

- Appropriate qualifications, experience with KinCare database and CCB, knowledge of policies and procedures appropriate to Nationals Standards accreditation, current First Aid certificate, knowledge of OH&S, an LR drivers licence, or willingness to obtain
- Experience with working with children aged 5-12, including those with special needs
- Team member with ability to supervise staff, and program activities.
- Awareness of the local socio-economic area and its needs

**Salary:** Above award wage based on experience and qualifications.  
**Hours:** Negotiable.

Further details may be obtained by phoning **9698 9569**.

Applications in writing should be made to **The Chair, The Factory Community Centre, 67 Raglan Street, Waterloo NSW 2017**

## South Sydney Uniting Church

56a Raglan St Waterloo  
Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday  
Bible Study / Discussion 7pm:  
08/11, 13/12

Rev Andrew Collis 8399 3410  
Welcoming people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual preferences. Peace with justice, integrity of creation.

**Tongan Uniting Church**  
South Sydney  
Worship 1pm Sunday  
Mid-week service Fri 7-8pm  
Pastor Sione Hau 0431 144 247



## The Settlement Community Centre

2 Youth Workers F/T: Sacs Grades 3-4 depending on qualifications and experience.

**Youth Project:** We need an energetic team player to run and create programs for local young people.

**Muralappi Program:** We need a creative Aboriginal person to deliver innovative health programs and cultural camps for young Aboriginal people at risk. Class C car licence or LR licence required.

**Admin Assistant:** 15hrs per week.

**Cleaner:** 10hrs per week  
Award rates and conditions.

Enquiries to Michael Gravener at The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre for job pack:  
(02) 9698 3087 or [thesettlement@settlement.net.au](mailto:thesettlement@settlement.net.au)

Applications close 16th November



The Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA) is pleased to invite local seniors to a luncheon Christmas Party at the Australian Technology Park on Tuesday 20 November at 12 noon

The luncheon is a free event with free return transport available from central collection/drop-off points in Redfern and Waterloo. For those considering driving, please note that there is a fee for parking at the ATP.  
To reserve your seating, contact reception at the RWA between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday on 9202 9100. If you require transport, please book it when reserving your seat. The luncheon party will be held in the Dining Room, Australian Technology Park Conference Centre, Bay 4, Locomotive Street, (entrance off Garden Street) Eveleigh.  
We would love to see you. Come and enjoy good food, good company, entertainment and prizes.

## A new vision for Paddington Markets

Paddington Markets is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Sydney, attracting more than 600,000 visitors each year. Every Saturday, 250 stalls showcase the very best of Australian contemporary art, craft and fashion, directly by the artists and craft makers themselves.

Please join **Christoph Fischer (General Manager)** for drinks and check out what's new at Paddington Markets:

Wednesday, November 7, 2007, Paddington Uniting Church  
395 Oxford Street Paddington, 6pm for 6.30pm

Contact Lara Baxter 0404 583 813

## Australian music industry lines up for climate action

The Cat Empire, Blue King Brown and John Butler have all signed on as ambassadors for Australia's biggest climate change action.

**Walk Against Warming - Sunday November 11**

[www.walkagainstawarming.org](http://www.walkagainstawarming.org)

## Writing Support for Busy Executives

Highly qualified and experienced professional tutor available for research/writing support, research proposals, guidance, proofreading et al.

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## BABANA

Aboriginal Men's Group  
New members welcome!

"A year ago there was nothing like Babana in Redfern-Waterloo. Babana has already done a lot in its first year. I hope there are more Babana partnerships with Federal and NSW Government departments and private sponsors which benefit Aboriginal men, their families and this community."  
Honorary Babana Elder, Eric Robinson.

BABANA was formed by local Aboriginal men in early 2006 to provide Aboriginal men with opportunities to network, discuss issues affecting local men, meet other Aboriginal men's groups and do projects which benefit the Redfern-Waterloo community.

Community members are helping to develop a Babana website: [www.treocom.net/babana](http://www.treocom.net/babana)

Contact: Mark Spinks  
9243 3546

## REDWatch Community Forum on Housing

Meet your local candidates

Monday November 12

Redfern Town Hall 6.30pm

Contact Irene 0416 410 374

or 9519 2597



## Clover Moore MP State Member for Sydney

I represent the residents of the Sydney electorate in the NSW Parliament which covers Surry Hills, Centennial Park, Chippendale, Ultimo, Pyrmont, Miller's Point, The Rocks/Dawes Point, The CBD, East Sydney, Darlinghurst, Woolloomooloo, Kings Cross, Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay, Rushcutters Bay, Paddington, small parts of Woollahra and Edgecliff west of Ocean Street and a small part of Kensington bounded by Anzac Parade and Abbotford Street.

I work with my constituents to make government and bureaucracies accountable, empower the community, ensure social justice for individuals, and protect the urban and natural environments.

Contact my office to talk about your ideas or concerns or if you need help with NSW Government matters.

Tel **9360 3053**, drop in to 58 Oxford Street, Paddington, fax 9331 6963, or email [sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Subscribe to my free weekly **Clover's eNews**, an email bulletin to inform the community about important issues, events and campaigns. Check my website for more information: [www.clovermoore.com](http://www.clovermoore.com)

# THEOLOGY IS CHANGING GET READY

Thanks to an agreement with United Theological College in Parramatta, Charles Sturt University's School of Theology offers a range of courses in Sydney and via distance education in the following areas:

- Counselling
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- Ministry
- Pastoral Care
- Public Theology
- Theology
- Youth Ministry

For more information call 1800 334 733 or visit:

[www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/theology/courses](http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/theology/courses)



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## Expression of Interest Local Actions Plans Matching Grants Program



The City of Sydney is calling for expressions of interest from community based organisations, committees and groups for applications for funding from the City's Local Action Plans Matching Grants Program.

The Matching Grants Program provides support for grass roots community projects by matching with City Resources what is raised by the community in-cash or in-kind. The program has been established in response to the outcomes of the Local Action Plan Strategy.

For details and an application form for the Matching Grants Program please visit [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Development/LocalActionPlans](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Development/LocalActionPlans) or contact

Greg Ironfield on (02) 9246 7899 or at [gironfield@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gironfield@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**Submissions close Friday 14 December 2007.**

*city of villages*

## Seniors Xmas Concert

Hosted by the Crystal Set Choir

Redfern Town Hall

Friday November 30, 1-3pm

Cost \$4 (includes refreshments)

# Sport



The England Cricket Club Saigon (in the rain) Photo: Courtesy of Peter Whitehead

## Beavers set for first win of season

**Peter Whitehead**

**The Beavers Cricket Club has limped into the new season, without a win as we go to print, and without much support from you, dear readers.**

Seriously, the club needs players and invites you to contact Hammo at the Roxbury Hotel in Glebe. Don't sit at home on sunny weekends wondering if you have played your last game of cricket.

Nick Miller made his debut for the Beavers in the season opener at Boronia Park against the doughty Hunters Hill outfit. He opened the bowling and first ball induced an edge to Hammo who hasn't kept for a while and did well to knock it to the ground.

The next delivery was edged and

caught but signalled no ball by the umpire. (Almost as unlucky a start to the season as poor Will Somers, a Beaver debutant last century who was run out first ball of the season for a diamond duck when he slipped turning for the third.) Struggling at 3/32 after 12 overs the home side recovered to 178 from their 32 overs.

After the early loss of Hammo for a globe, club stalwart, Duncan Peacocke, peppered the carpark with some lusty blows and another debutant, Nick Miller, joined him in a quick scoring partnership.

Then the middle order collapsed. Witnesses have reported that the Hunters Hill umpire took the hat-trick but that would be a very unlikely event, even at Boronia Park. Suffice it to say that Miller batted on brightly to bring up his half century but the

run chase fell a few dozen short as evening fell.

The Beavers got closer to victory in the second game against Sydney Uni Vets at the Varsity's #2 Oval. Daniel Cheever returned from his world travels with a blazing 105 that helped the Beavers to 6/201, a boundary and a bit short of the opposition's 6/205 - which is enough said about our bowling effort.

A win must be imminent. In November the fixtures are against St Aloysius OB at North Willoughby Oval, Paddington at Waterloo Oval, Cricketers Club of NSW at Camperdown and, on election day, Nondescripts out in Concord.

In late breaking news the Beavers can announce that the club has gone international, twinning with the England Cricket Club Saigon. Cricket in

## \$30,000,000 Indigenous sports centre gets the nod

**Ben Falkenmire**

**Minister for Planning Frank Sartor has approved the Indigenous Land Corporation's proposal to build a new sports, education and community centre at Redfern.**

The National Indigenous Development Centre, to be located at the former Redfern Public School site, will be three storeys high and include a 25-metre swimming pool, gymnasium, child care centre and football field and will cost around \$30.6 million to build.

The Minister attached a number of conditions including the need to appoint "an experienced conservation architect", archaeologists and limit

heritage disruption.

Mr Sartor said via press release: "This centre has the potential to deliver significant benefits to the Redfern-Waterloo community."

NIDC will house national and local Indigenous sport bodies. The Exodus Foundation will run literary and numeracy training for students aged 10 to 14.

The Department of Planning is yet to post the details of the approval on their website raising transparency concerns among some community members.

In particular the Minister has not disclosed whether the ILC, a federal body investing a total of \$45 million in the area, will be exempt from the Redfern Waterloo Authority's development and affordable housing levies.

SSH

Vietnam is arranged on national lines with India, Sri Lanka and Australia also fielding teams who defy sweltering heat to play 25-over games on an artificial pitch in the grounds of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Ho Chi Minh City campus south of the Saigon River. It was there that your correspondent saw an Irish

wicketkeeper beneath a swirling high ball throw his gloves off to better effect the catch. From this time forth any Beavers CC player who finds himself in HCMC during its cricket season (stretching languorously from October to July) can put his hand up for selection. And may well find himself invited to wicket-keep!

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Think your local team deserves a plug in the South Sydney Herald? Put your journo skills to task and contact our editor ([editor@ssh.com.au](mailto:editor@ssh.com.au)) to publish a monthly report right here on this page. Let the locals know about your local team!

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Australian Government  
Indigenous Land Corporation

### LEASING OPPORTUNITY - OLD BLACK THEATRE SITE, REDFERN

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is seeking expressions of interest from Indigenous incorporated bodies and businesses in leasing office and retail space in a new building situated on the historic site of the old 'Black Theatre', Redfern. The ILC has a strong preference for businesses and organisations in the following areas:

- THE ARTS
- MULTIMEDIA
- RETAIL / HOSPITALITY

The redevelopment of the site is currently underway and due for completion by mid 2008.

An information kit about this exciting leasing opportunity can be obtained by contacting Ms Kate Alderton at the ILC Sydney Office on telephone (02) 8255 7603 or by visiting the ILC website at: [www.ilc.gov.au](http://www.ilc.gov.au)

Expressions of interest close Friday 23 November 2007.