



## Nathan Rees talks shop

Exclusive interview with the NSW Premier  
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# the South Sydney Herald

NUMBER SEVENTY-SIX OCTOBER '09 CIRCULATION 22,000 ALEXANDRIA BEACONSFIELD CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON ERSKINEVILLE GLEBE KINGS CROSS NEWTOWN REDFERN SURRY HILLS WATERLOO WOOLLOOMOOLOO ZETLAND

## Service workers ask government to pay up

LAURA BANNISTER

The pay gap between public and private sector community service workers in NSW is of increasing concern to the Australian Services Union (ASU), following revelations that public servants are receiving up to 30 per cent more for the same job.

Last month, over 1,500 community service workers marched through Sydney's CBD to NSW Parliament House, protesting the fact that many are underpaid by as much as \$20,000 per year. Representatives were present from locales across the State, including Newcastle, Wollongong and Goulburn.

According to Sonja Freeman, Union Organiser at the ASU, the community sector is significantly underfunded, with the August rally serving as an explicit indicator that ASU workers are really feeling the pinch.

"The global financial crisis has meant a greater strain on resources and services our workers provide, but no added financial incentives for workers ... It is really hard for [private sector employees] to work alongside public sector workers who are earning so much more," she said.

Ms Freeman remains positive that both the State and Federal governments will back the ASU's launch of an equal pay case, which will strive to ensure massive pay increases for workers across the sector.

"Governments have chosen to outsource [many community services] for a number of reasons, some good, some bad. A good reason includes having the service delivery closer to the community, a bad reason is to reduce costs," she said. "Yet the economic crisis has led to increased usage for many of the [private] sectors' programs and [these] workers deserve decent wages and conditions."

The Queensland Government made the decision to close the pay gap between public and private sector community service workers last July.

In a release published on the ASU



Protesters on their way to Parliament House Photo: Supplied

website last month, Union Secretary Sally McManus described the precarious financial situation that unequal pay rates have put NSW private business in. "Employers can't keep staff, people can't stay [at organisations] because people can't pay their rent," she said.

Ms McManus insisted that well-qualified workers must be paid well in order to increase general productivity.

Jhan Leach of South Sydney Community Aid, commented: "The recent increases to the SACS award in Queensland of 18 per cent truly

reflects the financial disadvantage that we working in the community welfare sector in NSW have been suffering for the past 20 years. While the recent historic decision by the Queensland Industrial Commission reflects fairness and equity, the current lack of parity of

wages in NSW is a disgrace and needs to be redressed as a matter of urgency by the NSW State Government."

Community services workers provide services addressing homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, disabilities, rape crisis and community legalities. **SSH**



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Council says no to spy network

DOUG DINGWALL

Sydney City Council has defied pressure from the NSW Police Force to allow its street Closed Circuit TV cameras to be used for anti-terrorist intelligence gathering.

At a meeting last month, Council objected to a proposal to expand the uses of its CCTV cameras, saying it would violate civil liberties and privacy.

CCTV cameras are used by Council security staff to alert police to thefts, assaults, robberies and property damage taking place in the City. Police can request to view Council's camera footage to help track down people who have committed crimes.

But under the proposed changes, police would use Council's CCTV cameras to monitor people they suspect are planning to commit any crime or terrorist act.

Shayne Mallard, Liberal Councillor, said the Police Force has not explained to Council why its CCTV cameras should be used to detect terrorist activity. "The changes are being proposed on a 'trust me' basis. But I think we need to look at the reasons they're being made."

Chris Harris, Greens Councillor, said the proposed changes would turn Council's CCTV cameras into a spy network. "The proposal allows a broad



CCTV in Oxford Street Photo: Ali Blogg

range of authorities to gather information for their own unstated purposes," he said.

National law enforcement agencies, including the Australian Federal Police, would be allowed to use Council's street cameras for intelligence gathering under the proposed changes. A committee of civil liberties experts and police will review the proposal before it is returned

to Council for further debate.

The NSW Police Force has defended the use of CCTV cameras for intelligence gathering, saying they play a major role in preventing crime.

Catherine Burn, assistant commissioner of the NSW Police Force, said: "The gathering of intelligence is a fundamental part of the role police play

in both preventing and solving crime."

Lesley Lynch, assistant secretary of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties, said the proposal has forced Council to realise its street cameras are being used in ways that threaten civil liberties. "Council has to sit down and have a face-to-face with how these programs are being pushed for use," she said.

Street CCTV cameras transmit footage to screens monitored 24 hours a day by Council security staff. There are 81 cameras distributed around Sydney City, including 19 on George Street. A person strolling from Town Hall to Martin Place will be photographed five times by Council CCTV cameras.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore told Councillors: "[Street surveillance] is one of those issues the City has taken on when it's not its core work. We do have a very active relationship with the police and that's about creating a safer community. But this is going one step further and I think we need to consider very seriously these issues."

Council agreed at last month's meeting that the purpose of the street surveillance program needs to be clarified.

Cr Harris said: "Sydney City Council is not an arm of ASIO or police intelligence. We could be put in positions we'd be embarrassed about, and we could be forced to make political decisions we wouldn't be willing to make." SSH

Here a truck, there a cluck – a city farm?

ALEX FLEMING

Can you imagine a farm in the middle of the city? Can you imagine cars and cows, hustle and herbs living together in harmony? City of Sydney Councillor, Meredith Burgmann, can.

With the renowned Harold Park Paceway set to shut its gates as the races move out west, discussions have begun about what to do with the historic venue.

Meredith Burgmann has put forward a proposal to create a new City Farm at the Harold Park location, providing the Sydney community with a rural retreat hidden amidst the concrete jungle. If the project is approved, Harold Park could become a convenient and easy-to-access site for the growing of organic fruits and vegetables.

Celebrity chef, Kylie Kwong, has thrown her support behind the idea, suggesting that the initiative could help remedy Sydney's food waste dilemma. Waste from inner-city hotels and restaurants is becoming a growing concern in Sydney, and the development of this site could establish an effective recyclable compost system.

Beyond this, the City Farm would serve as an interesting attraction for schools and other community groups, offering Sydney a selection of exhibitions and performances. "Any City Farm site needs to be undercover, and the old tram sheds at Harold Park make the position ideal," Cr Burgmann said. "There is a tram station just up the road as well, which makes the location easily accessible for schools and the whole Sydney community."

The initiative would follow the model of urban farm sites already established across the country, such as the Fairfield City Farm in Sydney's West.

First opened in 1984, the farm offers visitors 580 acres occupied by farmhands, orchards and animals as well as gardens and a picnic area. But the venue doesn't just exhibit your regular farm animals. It also displays a plethora of creatures from snakes to alpacas.

How an attraction such as this would work in a suburb such as Glebe remains to be seen, but the locals are



Meredith Burgmann feeds a city chook Photo: Ali Blogg

definitely interested.

Josh Stewart, manager of the iconic Harold Park Hotel and resident of adjoining Wigram Road, was intrigued by the proposal and what it would mean for the residents of the area.

"As manager of the Harold Park Hotel

I'm thrilled by what this could mean for business, giving us new exposure to a potentially huge group of people.

"But as a resident, I'm really curious to see how a farm would integrate into the area. It would be pretty cool to be sharing the neighbourhood with cows

and horses and farm dogs.

At the same time though, I'd be a little worried about the noise and the smell – that might be a little less enjoyable." SSH

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# Death highlights safety concerns for skaters

ROBERT MORRISON

**On August 2 this year, young skater and filmmaker, Anthony Fricker, died after he crashed during a free-riding session on the Gold Coast. Fricker had been on a national tour, documenting the exploits of extreme downhill skateboarders all over the country.**

Police reports stated that although Fricker had been wearing safety gear, he had suffered severe head injuries after skating down a steep section of the Tweed Valley Way Highway at speeds reaching 70km/h and colliding with a fellow rider at the bottom of the run. At the time he had only been travelling at 25km/h. In hospital Fricker's life support was turned off a few days later by his family.

Fricker was a member of the Australian Skateboard Racing Association, and after the crash tributes flooded in for the young 22-year-old.

On the ASRA website, Jeremy Rogers wrote: "Your smiling face touched our skateboarding community in so many ways and will continue to do so ... you will live on for many generations of skaters to see your work and find out what a wonderful person you were."

For many, the tragic accident was a solemn reminder of the dangers and risks of skateboarding, for all extreme, street and recreational skaters.

Executive director of the ASRA committee, friend of Fricker and local Darlington resident, David Robertson, knows all too well how important skateboard safety is and has been on a personal endeavour to promote skateboard safety in Australia.

"I have been skating for most of my life and like any sport have had my share of injuries," says Robertson. "I skate street, vert and now downhill and have spent long hours in medical centres waiting for friends to get patched up after suffering preventable injuries. These sorts of things stop me being able to skate and drain the public health system of resources. With the enormous growth in participation of skateboarding particularly by young people it is paramount that [the ASRA] make ourselves relevant and encourage what is essentially a very healthy sport."

A report released by the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit found that 80 per cent of all wheel-recreational-devices (WRDs) user injuries are caused to male skateboarders. The report also found that skateboarders represent 44 per cent of all WRDs user injuries that see riders in a hospital emergency ward. That is more than any other WRD. Of all skateboard injuries 37 per cent are fractures and 26 per cent are sprains or strains.

Following such findings, the Queensland government enacted a skateboard safety awareness campaign called, "Stay pretty, wear a helmet". The aim of the campaign is to encourage young riders and their parents to acknowledge the risks of skateboarding and to wear helmets and safety gear to reduce the chances of serious injury. The campaign includes a TV advertisement highlighting what could happen if you do not wear a helmet.

While the Queensland government is addressing skateboard safety, David Robinson believes that the NSW government is a long way behind its northern counterpart.



Local skater, David Robinson, demonstrates appropriate safety gear Photo: Ali Blogg

"While we commend State and local government for directing funds at local facilities, there is very little being done with regard to educating young skateboarders about minimising injury," continues Robertson. "By restricting the use of skateboards to skate parks the government removes their ability to properly regulate their safe use as a recreation and transportation device. To young people a skateboard is not a toy, it is how they get to work, it is their healthy and creative activity. Governments should focus more on increasing required safety measures rather than using skate parks

and skate facilities to try to herd young people out of the public space."

There is currently no required safety-rating for a skateboard helmet and by law skaters do not have to wear a helmet. David Robertson and the ASRA are currently working to persuade mainstream skating brands to develop guidelines for the way they market to young people about wearing helmets and safety gear. However, the required research, development and certification of helmets for skateboarding is expensive and the ASRA currently receives no government assistance. David Robertson would like to

see the NSW government doing more for skateboard safety.

"Skateboarding is one of those sports that was developed out of a lifestyle, so individual skateboarders are a difficult bunch to get across to and governments don't like giving funds to sports they may unreasonably perceive as unorganised recreation ... We would encourage the NSW government to look more holistically at skateboarding as a sport, and a method of transportation that young people utilise everyday and regulate for that purpose. It's not just a social annoyance that more skate parks will fix." SSH

## Living for the city

NAOMI CRAIN

**While living in the Central Business District of a large city like Sydney isn't for everyone, those who've chosen it as their home can be very content to trade a quiet suburban life for the convenience of the city. But that convenience can bring with it some unwanted issues.**

Paul O'Shea has lived at the Circular Quay end of the city for close to 10 years, and as a high school teacher he is appalled at the lack of responsibility shown by local pubs and clubs toward patrons, particularly teenagers. "The Council began to crack down on establishments that breach the responsible service of alcohol laws, by shutting them down for 24-48 hours when found to be irresponsibly serving alcohol, and this has been fantastic," Mr O'Shea says, "but the response of the clubs has been to hire bouncers who remove unruly guests. Once on the street, they're a problem for the police, not the club".

Mr O'Shea hopes that laws banning 24-hour drinking establishments are supported by councils, because with nowhere to continue drinking, troublemakers inevitably go home. The frustration he feels from visitors to the city isn't limited to those enjoying a big night out. Walking out of his front door he commonly finds smokers dropping cigarette butts on his front step, as if the exterior of the property was not important to residents.

And it isn't just those outside the building causing problems.

Edward Mandla, who lives on Elizabeth Street in the CBD, believes the Executive Committees of CBD strata buildings are the biggest problem of all. "Constant increases in strata fees, wear and tear on the building from chronic overcrowding, builder defects and irresponsible Executive Committees," Mr Mandla says, "all make life for the city resident very difficult".

Add to this a lack of individual water metering, meaning residents pay for



Edward Mandla in the city Photo: Ali Blogg

wastage, and tradespeople charging far higher rates than they would for other work in areas of Sydney, and CBD living can begin to look stressful and unappealing. "This is the inherent financial inefficiency built into strata," Mr Mandla says. "There is no one to help you. There are no benchmarks. Council doesn't care. You're on your own."

Strata living also involves a constant growth in by-laws, often involving backflips on issues such as pet ownership or the use of car spaces. Mr Mandla says it can "feel like you're living in an environment with a perpetual noose around your neck ... It's near impossible to fight the small-minded people with all the time in the world to influence building decision making".

For those willing to accept the troubles of high-density housing and disrespectful visitors, issues can then extend to public recreation spaces.

Leighna Carmichael, who lives overlooking Hyde Park with her husband and 3-month-old son, has been a resident of the CBD for three years, after moving here from New York. Her concerns about living in the city have changed since

having a child. "You have to look around for parks with children's facilities - it's a shame Hyde Park and the Domain have no children's play areas," she says.

Another issue on Ms Carmichael's mind is safety. "While we ourselves have never experienced any violence or crime," she says, "you have to worry when you hear of stabbings, drive-by shootings and other acts of violence on your door step".

Despite the problems, those who choose CBD living generally find little to complain about. Zara Barrett has lived on George Street for over five years, and has only praise for the lifestyle it has afforded her. "As more residential buildings get built around this area, it's becoming a better and better place to live," Ms Barrett says.

She's noticed the demographic of residents changing slowly, with more and more international students moving into the China Town vicinity, and adding to the flavour of the area. "I would definitely say there seem to be more homeless people around than there used to be. I don't know why that is," she says. "I've been aware of building break-ins and drug sellers in my building, but I haven't personally been affected." SSH

## How many homeless?

KELLY LANE

**About 400 people are sleeping rough in the inner city each night - far too many, according to Liz Giles, Manager of the Homelessness Unit of the City of Sydney Council.**

Volunteers recently conducted a bi-annual street count across two-thirds of the Council's local government area. They found 399 people sleeping in overnight temporary shelters, parks, streets, trains and train stations - an increase of 12.7 per cent on the numbers counted at the same time last year.

Ms Giles said the figures did not necessarily indicate an increase in the numbers of people living on the streets, as variables such as weather needed to be considered. "I think what's really important to focus on, in terms of the results of this street count, is that 399 people is just too many," she said.

But the figures came just weeks after the City's Homeless Persons Information Centre released its 2008/09 data, reporting a total of 66,610 calls in a 12-month period, over 13,000 more calls than the previous year.

"Under our homelessness strategy ... the City is committed to a goal of reducing overall homelessness and ending chronic homelessness in the inner city by 2017. So the aim of the count is to collect accurate and up-to-date information about the numbers of people sleeping rough and in overnight shelters and in homelessness hostels across the City of Sydney, so that we can develop incremental targets for reaching that goal," Ms Giles said.

The count was conducted between 1.00am and 3.00am on August 18 by 167 volunteers, which included a group of advisors that are currently or formerly homeless. The advisors helped to direct volunteers on the night of the count and also provided information to

people on the streets about the count and why it was happening.

Surry Hills resident, Simon Mirvich, who has lived on the streets, was one of the advisors on the night of the count. "People who've sort of been in that situation, or had association with that situation, they tend to know where to look," Mr Mirvich said. "When you're going out there in the counting, you've got to picture yourself: imagine you were homeless and you had to find somewhere to sleep."

Ms Giles said the count was also a way to increase community awareness, as a number of the volunteers were local residents. "Homelessness is not a lifestyle that people choose. It's initiatives such as this and opportunities to get involved, when you're walking around in the middle of the city and the freezing cold, [which help you] to understand that this is not a lifestyle people choose."

Cana Communities, a charity that provides crisis accommodation, opened the doors of its community cafe in Redfern on the morning of the count. The cafe coordinator, Julie Sneddon, said: "We have an ongoing connection with Liz and a number of our volunteers offered to count. We decided to open the cafe for [breakfast] to say thank you, and that we all appreciate the time they have given. We had about 150 people through between 1.00am and 6.00am."

Ms Giles said that Council is reconfiguring its homelessness strategy to align its targets with State and Federal targets, as well as working more closely with other homelessness services. "I think this is what will finally achieve a reduction of numbers in the inner city - this move away from individualised approaches to joined-up efforts," Ms Giles said.

But she said there needed to be a greater availability of long-term housing options where people could exit homelessness. SSH



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NSW Premier Nathan Rees Photo: Ali Blogg

## “You want a place that's vibrant, you want a place that's safe”

*An interview with NSW Premier Nathan Rees (Part 1)*

KELLY LANE AND  
NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

**Having spent just one tumultuous year in office, NSW Premier Nathan Rees seems to be focused on achieving tomorrow's goals rather than giving long-winded explanations about his government's performance. Mr Rees sat down with the SSH on the top floor of the former TNT Tower. Despite a couple of grueling months in the press, he was happy to speak candidly about the future of South Sydney.**

“It's got everything going for it,” said Mr Rees, looking over the city from the office of the Redfern Waterloo Authority. “For a long while it lacked a cohesive vision ... we're not there yet but we've made a solid start.”

As part of the impending redevelopment in and around Redfern, the Premier said he would like to see more diversity in the local economy that would result in the creation of more jobs. “You want a place that's vibrant, you want a place that's safe. You want a place that people enjoy coming to and enjoy living in,” he said, acknowledging that not all these qualities are easily measured.

Having studied at the University of Sydney in the early 90s, Mr Rees observed that the Redfern area hadn't changed much since then, but was not denying its future potential.

“It's got a railway station on its doorstep ... it's got an extraordinary cultural fabric, whether it's the restaurant

scene or the local Aboriginal community, there's a great sense of community here.”

It's that same community that previous governments had struggled to form any lasting relations with. In July this year, the State government gave concept plan approval for the Pemulwuy Project. For over a decade prior to this, the government and the Aboriginal Housing Company had failed to find a workable solution for the redevelopment of the Block. Mr Rees said that while the plan has been “ticked off” by the Department of Planning, it will continue to be the responsibility of the AHC in terms of finding funds to make the project a reality.

“It's an iconic site,” Mr Rees said about the Block. “There's no question around that, and because of that everyone has a great deal of respect for it. We have a lot of respect for the processes that are going to be followed and the community's involvement in it, the local Aboriginal community's involvement in it.”

Also on the table is the future of the North Eveleigh site. Approval has been given for a plan that will provide more than 1,250 residential units and over six hectares of commercial space. Although Sydney University is rumoured to be the only potential buyer for the site, Mr Rees doesn't see the need to move quickly, despite agreeing it will be a significant windfall for South Sydney.

“I'd rather take a little bit longer and get something right than rush it and do something that's not what the community expects or shortchanges the

taxpayer,” he said. “So if it takes a little bit longer to get it right then that's what we'll do.”

Despite the Premier erring on the side of caution, some locals are still awaiting promised upgrades to Redfern Station. As covered previously in the SSH, the \$12 billion in funding for the redevelopment has been tied to the sale of North Eveleigh. Many feel that an upgrade should be the first step in revitalising the greater Redfern area.

As the Premier of Australia's largest state, Mr Rees accepts that any attempt to please everyone is simply not possible. And rather than attempting to play populist politics, the Premier simply wants to get things right.

“With any large development you're going to get competing views,” he said. “The job for government is to make sure that the decision-making process is as transparent from the start through to the finish. So that even if someone's view isn't necessarily accepted in the end, the rationale for going a different path is there for them to examine and access, and that's what we seek to do. You're not going to please everybody all the time, but ultimately you've got to make decisions about the nature and scale and dimensions of any proposal. But you do it, despite what some people say, you do it with the best interests of the broader community at the very core of your decision-making.”

SSH

Read part 2 of our interview with the Premier in next month's issue.



# Plot for community garden in Erskineville

KELLY LANE

**Community gardens are in bloom all over the city, but a group of Erskineville residents is still waiting to sow seeds.**

The group has sought approval to use a small block of Council owned land on Erskineville Road for a garden, and remain dissatisfied with Council's response that the land is not suitable.

Erskineville resident, Julie Moffat, said: "We all live around the site that has been vacant for probably about 40 years, and it has not been used because it's been fenced and locked. So the site has just sort of sat there on the main road, but it's a site that we've seen and would like to make use of."

Ms Moffat made the submission to Council for use of the site as a community garden, which would have been a joint venture between local residents and the hospitality training college Yaama Dhiyaan, with support from the Redfern Waterloo Authority.

Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo, said that Yaama Dhiyaan joined the cause for the opportunity to plant native foods that could be used at the college. "We never really thought about it until Julie approached us and we said yes we can do that," she said. "Anything to do with the community and the kids that's educational for us, then we'll come on board and support."

Council investigated the use of the land, but rejected the submission on the basis of noise, poor sunlight and the quality of soil. Ms Moffat said residents were not concerned with traffic and noise because



they lived around the site and had grown accustomed to it, and that most of the plants and vegetables could be grown in raised planters.

"There are a lot of people who are older and didn't want a site that was fully in the sun," she said. "Council did show us a few other sites that were actively open spaces,

green spaces that we would possibly look at converting, but that wasn't really what we were looking to do, and being in the full sun doesn't appeal to a lot of people either," she said. The alternative sites were Solander Park, which is about a 10-minute walk from the land on Erskineville Road, and a small park on the corner of Baldwin

and Albert Streets.

A City of Sydney spokesperson said: "The feedback from the group of residents was that Solander Park was too far away and that the site on the corner of Baldwin and Albert was too heavily used and close to a private residence. The City has not investigated either site

further, as there does not appear to be much interest from the resident group in pursuing any alternative sites."


Lin Cooper is the coordinator of a nearby youth refuge and agrees that Erskineville Road is the best option for the garden. "It just looks derelict, it looks uncared for and it could be lovely. There's no value to the community as it is. It's just fenced off, it's not even an open space," she said. "We would really love it to happen as part of plugging our kids into the community. They might learn that carrots come out of the ground rather than from the supermarket." But Ms Cooper said that the kids at the refuge would only be inspired to get involved if the garden were close by. "I think Council is a reasonable council," she said. "Unless they have a really good plan for the site ... I don't know why they are saying no."

A City of Sydney spokesperson said she was unable to comment on future plans for the site.

Ms Moffat believes the land will be rezoned and sold for development. "We would like Council to allow us to use the site for community purposes, not to rezone it and sell it to a developer, or to see it developed. The application that we made, to make use of it as a community garden, filled the brief for their community garden grants - to enliven parts of the community that weren't really used and make active use of it and make it a community space."

There are currently 13 community gardens across the City of Sydney. Council is also supporting new groups in Surry Hills, Ultimo, Glebe and East Sydney to find suitable sites.

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Pets and vets at Northcott Photo: Ali Blogg

## Inner-city pets meet volunteer vets

FELICITY REYNOLDS

**On Saturday August 29, pet owners in Surry Hills, Redfern, Darlinghurst and Waterloo had the opportunity to take their pets along for a free pet health check at the Pets at Northcott event. It was held in Ward Park, next door to the Northcott Community Centre, Belvoir Street, Surry Hills.**

It was a fun and fabulous day, with more than 100 dogs, about 20 cats and a few birds turning up with their human companions. The mixture of dogs and cats, puppies and kittens, adults and children made for a lively day in the park.

This is the second time this special day has been held, the first was in 2008.

As well as free veterinary advice, free microchipping and giveaway bags, the day had lots more animal action! Pet Resorts Australia agility dogs performed and there were native animals and reptiles from Australian Wildlife Displays.

A very enthusiastic team of 25 veterinary students from Sydney University volunteered their time to give free pet health advice, with three volunteer vets on hand to assist, and veterinary companies such as Merial, Advance Pet Foods and Bayer Australia donated the giveaways. Special thanks must go to the vet students who turned up to volunteer – even though they had exams to sit the following Monday!

Charmaine Jones from the Surry Hills Public Tenants Association is hoping

Pets at Northcott will become an annual event: “It was such a wonderful day, with cats, dogs, bats, birds, snakes and people all getting along. I have had so many people come up to me over the last few days saying how much they enjoyed the day and the gratitude they had for the students and vets who checked over their beloved pets.”

The event was a joint project of the City of Sydney, Surry Hills Public Tenants Association, Sydney University Faculty of Veterinary Science, Crookwell Veterinary Hospital and Housing NSW. It was a great opportunity for public housing residents and other pet-owning members of the local community to ask plenty of questions about keeping their pets fit and healthy.

SSH

## Bourke Street controversy rolls on

NAOMI CRAIN

**As the first section of construction of the controversial Bourke Street Cycleway has begun, the traffic and safety issues of the street have been hit with another blow as Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, steps up plans for a light rail to travel along the south end of Bourke Street, to Green Square.**

Having adopted the Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017 in April 2007, the City of Sydney Council approved the Bourke Street Cycleway December 2008, after a consultation period with local residents, businesses, cyclists and community groups.

However, according to the website of Friends of Bourke Street, a local community action group, the consultations were poorly run, with an array of concerns raised by residents and users of Bourke Street, many of which were not satisfactorily addressed by Council.

Of greatest concern is the safety of cyclists and pedestrians when using the separated cycleways, particularly at intersections. “The City of Sydney Council’s misleadingly-named ‘safe cycleway’ program is currently causing much local concern,” the Friends of Bourke Street website states. “The destructive design ... has been totally discredited in Europe and North America, but Council’s large ratepayer-funded marketing team continues to promote it and to suppress all consideration of

safer alternatives.”

Friends of Bourke Street point to the original cycling plan of South Sydney Council, adopted in 1997, which aimed to make cycling in the inner-city area attractive while adopting strategies based on proven systems from other cities with far greater cycling rates.

Construction of the cycleway is due for completion in mid 2010, at a total cost of about \$240 million.

The recent request from the Lord Mayor for federal funding to construct a light railway on part of Bourke Street is set to exacerbate the problem.

Councillor John McInerney has only the highest praise for the light rail plans, and is confident residents and locals to Bourke Street will be in favour of it. He believes the convenience of reliable public transport will outweigh any drawbacks experienced by traffic congestion and safety issues, and the light rail will ultimately increase housing value.

However, his positive views are not shared by all councillors.

Irene Doughty, Councillor and Greens member, is in favour of public transportation and measures to increase the use of bicycles in the city, but feels deeply for the problems both the cycleway and the light rail will cause residents in the area. “Council would say that people living that close to the city need to stop being so reliant on cars,” she says. “That’s a fairly heavy message to give to people.”

Cr Doughty is concerned that if cars

become more environmentally friendly, and the stigma of driving them is gone, the congestion and safety issues of Bourke Street will become a huge problem.

“We’re locked into a vision of filthy, dirty polluting cars. Get them off the road and into public transport. And that’s a good thing. But when cars aren’t polluting any more, such as electric cars powered via renewable energy ... the message is unsustainable ... I don’t think anybody has been talking about that potential.”

Cr Doughty raised questions to Council at its meeting on August 31 regarding the pressures that the Lord Mayor’s proposed light rail would put on Bourke Street.

Cr Moore answered these questions by stating that Bourke Street was identified as a “green corridor” by Council in the Sustainable Sydney 2030 report, and having already undergone closures to calm traffic down on Bourke Street, it’s the obvious choice.

However, Cr Moore summed up her comments by stating: “It is really a line on a map that fits in with the long-term planning done by the City, done by the South Sydney Council and done by various planners.”

Funding for the proposed light rail is still under request, therefore no timelines for its construction have been finalised.

Whether Council will undertake further community consultation on this project is unknown. In the meantime, the residents and visitors to Bourke Street will soon have access to the new cycleway, whether or not they choose to use it.

SSH



Have You Heard?

## THE FAST NEWS

WITH TREVOR DAVIES

### Erko supermarket – it’s happening

Last month the City Council approved the DA for a supermarket in Erskineville, the development which had been the subject of a long campaign by residents concerned by the effect that a large supermarket would have on the small village shopping centre. The argument in favour of the approval was a 60 per cent reduction on the previous DA, so it’s now a “small corner store”. Greens Councillor Chris Harris pointed out that the developer is predicting a massive \$9 million profit so if the applicant claims it’s more of a small corner store than a supermarket it’s one heck of a small corner store! The \$9 million profit would probably be at the expense of other shops on Erskineville Road. One of the Councillors who voted in favour said he walked up and down the shopping strip and spoke to people about the supermarket, couldn’t find one person in favour, but he was going to vote in favour. Perhaps the strongest argument those councillors made who

voted in favour was the developer would appeal to The Land and Environment Court and would win. However, the problem for Clover’s team is that local people are fuming and seem to feel let down. In a statement to the SSH, the Friends of Erskineville said: “At our community meeting on May 13, chaired by Councillor John McInerney and attended by Greens Councillor Irene Doughty and Independent Councillor Di Tornai, at the packed Erskineville Town Hall, Friends of Erskineville asked City of Sydney to undertake an independent assessment, forwarding this request to the Lord Mayor. In our 29-page submission to the City, we again requested Council to undertake this independent assessment. This supermarket will probably open within 12-18 months of the next election and the impact on the retail heart of Erskineville will start to be felt at around election time. Expect the Erskineville community to respond accordingly.” We will have a full report next month.

### At last we speak to a Labor Premier

Over the years the SSH has spoken to two Opposition Leaders including Barry O’Farrell but never have we spoken to a Labor Party Premier – both Carr and Iemma chose not to make themselves available for an interview. Despite what some of our readers have said about this paper’s Labor party connections, Nick McCallum and Kelly Lane sat with the Premier and canvassed a wide range of issues. We invite your comments on the interview.

### Souths and those pokies – Why not a cinema instead?

Last month at the same council meeting where the Erskineville supermarket was approved, the DA for the Souths club house was discussed. ABC News Online

reported: “Sydney’s Lord Mayor Clover Moore says the application was only approved on the condition that no poker machines would be sited in the club. She says that is because people from low-income families could gamble away their food money. ‘I’m really disappointed, council has expressed great alarm about this,’ she said. Greens Councillor Chris Harris says it is not a good idea to put a supermarket and poker machines together. ‘There’s a lot of social problems in this area, a lot of issues with substance addiction, lots of people with mental health issues in the area,’ he said. ‘The last thing we need is for the people going to do their shopping and popping upstairs to the club to have a flutter on the pokies on the way home.’” However, one City councillor said to Fast News that the area may need a cinema more than pokies or even another supermarket. So if the club can’t have a supermarket and pokies it could have a cinema and pokies?

### Save our garbos

The Daily Telegraph last month reported that Marrickville Council has been concerned about its garbos and is working through some safety issues with the union. There are some problems at this stage. The Council seems to be doing the right thing, but believe it or not, the workers are not happy. However, one issue that doesn’t seem to have been under consideration by Marrickville and the City Council is garbos hanging from the back of trucks with no head gear, no arm pads. Fast News understands that over the years there have been some very serious accidents. One retired garbo told us that he was dragged along the road and was quite badly hurt. If you’re a garbo, either retired or still working, and would like to comment, please email us: [fastnews@ssh.com.au](mailto:fastnews@ssh.com.au) Remember, the next time you see a garbo hanging from the back of a truck it could be the next Premier of our great State!

### What next for Harold Park?

Harold Park’s future is being decided by the people and the City Council. Everyone has an idea. Labor Councillor Meredith Burgmann got a motion through a Council meeting last month calling for a city farm. Read our report from Alex Fleming, and more information is available on the City’s Harold Park webpage at: [www.haroldparkfuture.com.au](http://www.haroldparkfuture.com.au)

### Thank you!

Last month I took part in a run from Milson’s Point to the Opera House. I got over half-way. I gave it a try. Thank you for all the encouragement and to those people who gave to our cause (the Pemuwuy housing project). You will find a full report on the sports page. I’ll do it again next year, and next time I’ll train!





Gathering at Parliament House in Canberra Photo: Supplied

## Woolloomooloo local leads Voices for Justice

MIRIAM PEPPER

On Monday September 14 and Tuesday September 15, grassroots supporters of the Micah Challenge campaign to end global poverty converged on Parliament House Canberra for the annual Voices for Justice gathering. The 270 participants ranged in age from 13 to 71 years and had traveled from all over Australia for meetings with politicians, forums, a fifth birthday party, rickshaw rides, and more.

Micah Challenge is a global movement of Christians who advocate for and with the poor, encouraging the governments of the world to fulfill their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015. At Voices for Justice, Micah Challenge supporters were calling upon the Australian Government to increase Overseas Development Assistance to 0.7 per cent of the Gross National Income or just 70 cents in every hundred dollars by 2015, and to take strong action to address climate change.

The participants, many of whom had never lobbied their Member of Parliament before, had 129 private meetings with politicians including the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Federal Member for Sydney, Malcolm Turnbull MP, Federal Member for

Wentworth, was also involved in Voices for Justice. Along with the Prime Minister, he breakfasted with and addressed Micah Challenge supporters at the launch of a new edition of the Bible, in which the thousands of verses that address poverty and justice are highlighted. Ms Plibersek and Mr Turnbull were also among the 95 parliamentarians who signed a giant fifth birthday card to the Prime Minister, in support of reducing the mortality rates of children under five.

But in spite of the words of support from politicians, much more needs to be done. "Up to 90 million extra people are living in extreme poverty because of the global economic crisis, and over 300 thousand more children are likely to die each year if it continues," said Carlyn Chen, Voices for Justice Coordinator, and a resident of Woolloomooloo. "The world's governments agreed to the 0.7 per cent target for aid almost 40 years ago, and Australia has reaffirmed it on multiple occasions since. Now more than ever, the Government needs to go beyond aspiration to a firm timetabled commitment."

At the same time, climate change threatens to undo progress on the Millennium Development Goals. "Climate change impacts most severely on the poor, on their food and water security, and on their health and safety. People in places

like Bangladesh and the low lying atolls of the Pacific are already experiencing more severe disasters like floods, storms and droughts. Already there are about 150,000 extra deaths each year because of climate change, most of them children," said Ms Chen.

"Far from making poverty history, climate change will make poverty permanent. That's why we are calling upon the Australian Government to play its part in achieving an international climate treaty that will keep global warming below two degrees and that will support communities who are affected by climate change. Australia is one of the highest per capita greenhouse gas emitters and the world's largest coal exporters, so we have a particular responsibility to act."

For every person who attended Voices for Justice, there are many more supporters at home. Almost 6,000 personal, handwritten letters were delivered to the Prime Minister carried to Parliament House by rickshaw, from Christians who believe that justice is an essential expression of their faith. They will continue to challenge the Government on its response to global poverty in the lead-up to the next election, including by holding Survive Past Five fifth birthday parties to advocate for the 8.8 million children who die before their fifth birthday annually. SSH

## A fair go for overseas students

NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

There's much ado over the plight of international students in Australia. Indian students, apparently, have been targeted within Australia's largest cities. What are colloquially known as "curry bashings" have drawn the attention of the media from around the world, and Australia's relaxed and tolerant attitude has been sullied once again.

The recent attacks on foreign students have become such a thorn in the nation's side that both State and Federal governments have gone into crisis mode. The Premier of Victoria, John Brumby, has even embarked upon a peace-making mission to India in an attempt to smooth things over. And although the spotlight shines darkly on Melbourne, the NSW government is not absolved of blame, according to National Union of Students President David Barrows.

On Wednesday September 2 both local and international students marched in solidarity from Sydney University, UNSW and UTS on the State's Parliament House. Although student turnout was lower than expected, Mr Barrows was pleased that an estimated seven million people around the world watched on, hearing their cries for justice.

Students raised their voices against the discrimination that is perpetrated by governments across the country. And the NUS, as the representative body of all students in Australia, is calling for immediate action from both State and Federal governments.

"If governments don't act quickly and with substance, not just spin, parents [of international students] will send their children elsewhere," Mr Barrows stated.

This is a possibility that has been considered by the Federal and Victorian governments. As well as Premier Brumby's diplomatic efforts in India, the Federal Education Minister, Julia Gillard, hosted a roundtable with 31 international student reps in an effort to address some of their concerns. But as for actual results, students and the NUS are still waiting.

"The roundtable produced some results, but this government has been slow," Mr Barrows said. "They must act quicker."

The NUS President, however, had few positive things to say about NSW. "The NSW government has not acted," he declared.

As education is Australia's third largest export it's any wonder why governments are dragging their heels on the issue. Whilst the media has been focusing on the violent attacks that have been carried out on international students, Mr Barrows

asserts that of the plethora of problems international students face, some of them are easily remedied, such as granting concession cards and allowing longer working hours.

"International students are not treated as local students," he said. "They pay tax and they pay higher tuition fees. But because they pay in blocks, many are living hand to mouth."

Whilst there have been attacks on overseas students in Sydney's western suburbs, the city has thus far not experienced the problems to the same extent as Melbourne. And although the two cities host between 50 and 80 per cent of all foreign students, there are protracted forms of discrimination experienced by students across Australia, such as exploitation from employers, landlords and private colleges.

"These issues are not new," Mr Barrows said. "They just weren't talked about till now."

The tragedy is that it has taken acts of violence in the nation's major cities for anyone to take notice of the plight of foreign students. And considering the cash cow that is education, surely it's time that these students received a little veneration from Australian governments by ending these deplorable acts of violence and exploitation. SSH

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**Kristina Keneally MP**  
MEMBER  
FOR HEFFRON

Across NSW over 190,000 households with low or moderate incomes are paying more than 30% of their income on rent. In these troubled economic times, the NSW Government has delivered its promise to make it easier to build affordable housing – cheaper rental properties, granny flats and specialised social housing.

I recently joined the Premier to promote the Government's Affordable Rental Housing State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). This new policy provides incentives and streamlined approval processes for:

Granny flats, can now be approved within ten days under the NSW Housing Code in all residential zones if they meet the criteria set out in the code.

Boarding houses, can receive approval in residential areas and some business zones with incentives will encourage construction of boarding houses. New standards will allow rooms in boarding houses to include kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Counselling and other support services working with groups such as the homeless can now be delivered without having to go through council development application processes.

Affordable housing developments closer to transport hubs will receive a streamlined assessment as well as incentives to make it more attractive to invest in affordable housing projects.

These new rules will provide an incentive for developments across the state to include cheaper rental dwellings.

Home owners will also be able to build 'granny' flats more easily, which will provide a low rent solution for many students, older family members and other people on low incomes.

Further information regarding these changes is available at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

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# RTA says no to go-slow zones

FLINT DUXFIELD

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority has rejected calls from the City of Sydney to reduce speed limits in the Sydney CBD to 40 kilometres per hour.

The City of Sydney proposed the speed reduction at a State Parliamentary inquiry into pedestrian safety last month, alongside a recommendation that councils be allowed to set local speed limits.

But RTA spokesperson, Mark Henderson, told the SSH that the RTA has already decided to refuse the Council's request, before the inquiry has even returned its findings. "The RTA has given serious consideration to the proposal to reduce speed limits in the inner city and ... we have rejected the Council's proposal," he said.

Mr Henderson refused to comment on why local councils should not be allowed to set local speed limits, despite the RTA stating on its website that councils are the most effective bodies for dealing with "a range of traffic related matters, particularly those which arise on local roads".

"There are already local traffic committees, of which the RTA, police and councils are part, which sufficiently address local concerns," he said.

The number of pedestrians killed or injured in the City of Sydney rose to 376 in 2007 against a downward trend in pedestrian accidents since 1999. The City of Sydney says the RTA's refusal to grant local traffic committees the authority to set speed limits is putting pedestrians at risk of cars traveling at



Photo: All Blogg

dangerous speeds.

"The City believes local councils have the greatest knowledge about local roads," said City of Sydney spokesperson, Leanne Lincoln. "If the City was granted authority to change speed limits through the Traffic Committee, it would greatly help us roll out our pedestrian, cycling and traffic calming plans," she said.

The City is conducting public consultations for its Traffic Calming Plan, which seeks to reduce speed limits on local streets in Newtown, Darlington and Camperdown to 40 km/h.

But the NRMA says lowering speed limits will not necessarily improve pedestrian safety. "It might not be the speed of a vehicle that's a factor, it could be poor lighting conditions or intoxicated pedestrians which are causing the problems," said NRMA Senior policy advisor for road safety, Anne Morphet.

Ms Morphet says the RTA is withholding data on the location and causes of pedestrian accidents that is vital in determining whether speed reductions are needed. "We've requested the RTA to provide the data. We know

for a fact that they have the 2008 data, but it's not being made public."

"Speed limit reductions should be based on solid evidence. If there's a particular area which demonstrates the need for the speed to change to 40km/h, then it should be changed, but it shouldn't be 24/7. There are hardly any areas in the city where that is warranted," she said.

But local residents are in favour of the speed reductions. A resident from Albert Street, Erskineville, who attended a public consultation meeting on the Council's Traffic Calming Plan, said lower speed limits would be welcomed on local roads. "A 40km limit would be great for Erskineville, especially in Albert Street which tends to be used as a short cut. A 40km/h speed limit or even a 30km/h limit would make our precinct safer," she said.

Anthony Kable from Erskineville told the Herald "I would support any reduction in the speed limit if it was policed effectively. Considering the amount of pedestrians, bicycles and narrow residential streets, many drivers travel way too fast. Somehow the quiet roads around our houses and schools need to be shielded from the impatience, stress and frustration and of King Street and Erskineville Road drivers."

Brisbane City Council reduced CBD speed limits to 40km/h earlier this year. A spokesperson for the Council said the speed reduction has been a success and has been very well received by the public.

The findings of the parliamentary inquiry into pedestrian safety are expected to be released at the end of the year. SSH

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Hon. Michael Kirby, Ryan McGlaughlin, Atari Metcalf, Assoc. Prof. Anne Mitchell and Dr Michael Dudley Photo: Justin Farrell

# The hidden despair

Suicide and self-harm among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

The Honourable Michael Kirby recently launched a new Position Statement and research document by Suicide Prevention Australia at the Inspire Foundation. This work drew attention to the level of youth suicide and self-harm among the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities and called for improved responses.

Dr Michael Dudley, the SPA Chairperson and a leading psychiatrist, believes that suicide among this group of people is a neglected issue in many societies and pointed out that the Australian research is confirmed by further research in New Zealand and Canada. He sees this as a consequence of discrimination and exclusions which

are especially prevalent within certain religions, rural communities and the military, and called for people to take a stand for social inclusion of GLBT people.

He said: "We know that same sex attracted individuals attempt suicide at a rate of 13.5 to 14 times those of their heterosexual peers and that one in five transgender people report current suicidal feelings." He also suspects that, due to hiddenness of many GLBT people in the community, suicides in that group often go unreported. He believes that "these alarming statistics show us that we must work harder as a community to value all people and their quality of life".

Associate Professor Anne Mitchell, who is the Director of Gay and Lesbian Research at Latrobe University and who co-chaired the Reference Group to develop the Position Statement, said that

the report made "chastening reading" and its information was an "indictment of our society". She believes that the huge human toll in suicide, self-harm, addictions and homelessness in response to the abuse which some GLBT people experience, must be faced by us all. She sees the Position Statement as a key document in taking the issues to another level.

In launching the research, Michael Kirby remembered his own life. He remembers a society in which the White Australia Policy was a sign of a society which believed that "everybody must be the same". He asked, "How do we change that?" and reflected that the way forward is to meet and recognise each other as human beings together. He then pointed out "the uncomfortable truth" that, in spite of science and research,

institutional religion of all sorts often holds to a view which basically says that "we can't help it because it's in the Book". He called for people to grow up and move away from "infantile disordered" thinking.

He marvelled at the media attention given to things like swine flu but it giving no attention to at least 1,800 suicides a year due to issues around sexuality, probably more like 3,000, given the hidden cases. (Later in the meeting, it was pointed out that although all mainstream media had been invited to attend the launch, the only response came from the *The South Sydney Herald*.) Kirby drew attention to the evidence of the alarming extent of bullying in schools, usually determined by the attitude of the Principal, and cyber-bullying. He challenged the

Australian community to "get real and recognise and face the truth, to face reality together". Until we do that, he believes there will be continuing violence and suicide. He sees the new Position Statement as "a book of the truth" which we should all read and respond to, so that lives will be saved and the diversity of humankind recognised and celebrated.

Everyone present congratulated Atari Metcalf, ActNow Project Manager at Inspire Foundation who played a key role in preparing the Statement and chaired the meeting as well as Ryan McGlaughlin, Suicide Prevention Australia's Executive officer. SSH

You can access the Position Statement on the SPA Website:  
[www.suicidepreventionaustralia.org/PositionStatements.aspx](http://www.suicidepreventionaustralia.org/PositionStatements.aspx)

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# Carol McDonald – a remarkable survivor

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

**We walked through Carol McDonald's immaculate little house in Darlington and sat looking out into her beautiful garden on the rising land at the back. The dogs around our feet greeted us enthusiastically and the sun shone. Then I asked her about her beginnings in life. What a contrast!**

She was born in Eastlakes and given away at 2 years of age, to be cared for by her grandparents. Carol remembers hunting for leeches which would be used to diminish the bruises on her body. Her parents took her back a while later. Her mother died at 42, drinking methylated spirits. Her father was a violent sociopath, who was eventually imprisoned.

In 1951, at the age of 12, she became a Ward of the State and lived her next years being moved into various Girls' Homes, two of which were in Glebe. The descriptions of her life in these institutions sound like something out of a Charles Dickens book. By 6am they were scrubbing floors, followed by the laundry – endless sheet washing in cold water, followed by the boiling copper and mangles. Then there was the cooking, with requirements to find any weevils. There were severe punishments for minor breaches of the strict rules. It was a miserable and anxious life, for children who felt lost and lonely with no families of their own. There was little schooling for Carol, who had no shoes, books or uniform. She worked in a factory to try

to raise some money.

She now shows us her invitation to attend the Government apology to people who, like herself, were another form of "stolen generation". The love and parenting and care they were due in their young lives was, in effect, stolen from them. She is not sure what that apology will mean for her, if anything.

In spite of her deprived and abused beginnings, Carol McDonald got on with her life. From the age of 16, she worked, originally at the GPO in Martin Place. She married at 19 and had two children, a son and a daughter. The decision to end the marriage was hers and she simply moved on, taking nothing with her, and set herself up again in another home. She, of course, always carries with her the love for her children and now grandchildren.

In more recent years, she was working for a TAB Agency, in various roles. However, after dealing with six robberies, with her behind the counter in two different locations, she felt it was time to retire from that job! Most of the robberies were committed by armed men and we sat, amazed, and listened to the way she casually told us how she had tried to outwit them all by herself! However, the last one involved a whole gang of violent men and she suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. It was at this stage that she retired.

In 2007, she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, Leiomyosarcoma, for which there is no known cure. It is very aggressive and attacks many parts of the body at once. To try to delay its progress

she had to decide whether to have some chemotherapy treatments alongside various trial operations. She felt it was worth doing that, partly for her own sake and partly in order to contribute to future information about cancer treatment for others. In spite of all efforts, her body quickly resumes its battle with the cancer and the symptoms return.

Her hair comes and goes – friends and neighbours recognise the scarf as the sign of it going. She laughs to herself as she describes her fingernails and toenails falling off after one treatment and her needing to cancel the manicure and pedicure which she had previously arranged. She remembers being given apricot kernels to eat by one of her family because they had been told this would help – and then finding that, quite apart from tasting terrible, they were quite toxic for her! She has nothing but gratitude and respect for the fine care she has been receiving, especially from the Royal Women's Hospital and the various doctors and nurses who have been treating her.

What lies ahead? Hard decisions about whether to go on with any more treatment. Facing that this may be her last Christmas. Thinking about a will and any wishes she may have for what happens after she dies. She agrees that she still has thinking to do and much to face.

One thing is for sure. Carol McDonald is a survivor in the most profound sense. Her traumatic, and in many ways tragic life, has not defeated her spirit – her capacity for love and laughter and her gentle heart.



Carol McDonald with her four-legged friends Photo: Ali Blogg

# Four easy ways to wreck your terrace

JOHN BERRY

**Victorian era houses such as those found in Darlington and Chippendale were built from relatively porous materials compared to modern building materials.**

The bricks, mortar and render of Victorian houses absorb small amounts of moisture which then evaporates into the atmosphere. In other words the house "breathes". Many renovators and builders mistakenly believe that when restoring a terrace, the best thing to do is to replace the old porous

building materials, particularly the old lime based mortar and render, with modern cement based materials. This is in fact disastrous for the house because modern cement based mortar and render is not porous and does not breathe. Moisture still makes its way into the bricks but can become trapped by the modern mortar and render. The trapped moisture can then cause the bricks to decay. Very costly repairs down the track are the result, or if the damage is severe the building will have to be demolished. Help protect your Victorian house and preserve what is left of the architectural heritage of our suburbs.

- 1** Do not use modern cement based mortars and renders to make repairs. Use traditional lime based mortar and render, which "breathes". Also, if there is any movement in the walls, modern cement based mortar is inflexible and will cause the brickwork to crack.
- 2** Do not replace a timber floor structure (which allows the building to "breathe") with a concrete slab. Concrete slabs trap moisture and forces it up into walls and causes decay in brickwork, mortar and sandstone. These slabs also force moisture up into the common walls, thereby causing dampness in your neighbour's house.
- 3** Do not repair or cover sandstone foundations and walls with modern mortar or render, which will trap moisture and salt that rises from the ground, causing decay of the sandstone. A "sacrificial" layer of soft lime based mortar should always be used for repairs, which will absorb the moisture and salts and eventually decay, thus sparing the sandstone. The sacrificial layer can then be replaced.
- 4** Do not use modern plastic paints. They are not permeable and do not allow the walls to breathe. If possible, old-style permeable lime-wash paints should be used. If sourcing lime paint is difficult or cost prohibitive, modern flat acrylic paints can be used providing the old paint is removed and only two layers of acrylic paint are applied.

A recipe for lime mortar can be found at the link below, but caution should be taken in making the mixture. It is recommended that you seek the advice of an architect or builder who specialises in the restoration of old

buildings before a restoration project. [www.heritage.tas.gov.au/caring.html#12](http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au/caring.html#12)  
[www.natrust.com.au/conservation/useful\\_documents](http://www.natrust.com.au/conservation/useful_documents)  
 then follow the link to Twelve tips on caring for old buildings.



Writer outside his terrace in Darlington Photo: Andrew Collis





## COMMENT

## Good news on global warming

BARRIE MCMAHON

**The passage of the 20%-by-2020 renewables bill has to be good news – a first step in a long journey towards climate stability. LNG also hit the headlines with a massive sale to China, despite strained relations. This is also good news, as we shall qualify below. But let's start with something much more local.**

While we were looking, vainly at the time, for some climate change progress in Canberra, NSW Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally (and local member for Heffron) quietly approved a gas-powered electrical power station for Campbelltown.

Such a station was suggested by another local Member (and Lord Mayor), Clover Moore, as a cure for CBD electricity blackouts, a few months ago. Our comment at the time was that natural gas is only half as dirty (twice as clean!) as coal. Gas power stations (like hybrid cars) are a step in the right direction (of a long journey). We also said they would go better in an industrial area, and that, wherever they went, there would be NIMBY opposition.

The bad news is that the Australian government couldn't get anyone else to vote for its ETS (CPRS) in the Senate. We had already agonised over Senator Fielding's skepticism. He was joined *en masse* by the Nats. Senator Xenophon joined with Malcolm Turnbull, for a better (greener, cheaper, smarter!) Frontier Economics ETS. The Greens naturally found any mainstream party scheme was too compromised.

Ross Gittins has prophesied (with no joy) that such good ideas enjoying popular support (like a republic and a carbon emission trading scheme) can be defeated by a disparate (but united) opposition. It is unfortunate that Malcolm was a player in both cases. In the event, the renewables part of the bill has been detached and agreed between Liberal and Labor – enough for its passage – but leaving the ETS part stalled.

It is not that helpful to attribute blame for the lack on progress on an ETS. Penny Wong has an unenviable task of getting us through the minefield of both climate change AND water. Any progress is commendable. But, the defeat of the ETS bill in the Senate is not progress by any count. Penny Wong must know that agreement with the Liberals is better than with the fringes. The mantra of pointing out opposition disunity and

lack of leadership has worn out. She can trust us to punish Turnbull for Utegate whenever.

She has quickly redeemed herself by getting the 20%-renewable-energy-by-2020 bill through the Senate – in whatever form it took to attract majority support. The government's linking of renewable energy growth to an ETS vote was not that smart in the first place. Its pulling the plug on the rooftop solar installations subsidy before an alternative was in place was downright stupid. There must be many transitions from one energy to another before we stabilise carbon-induced temperature

### *There must be many transitions from one energy to another before we stabilise carbon-induced temperature rise*

rise. The dislocation of the rooftop renewable energy industry was not a good start. Penny demurely allowed Peter Garrett to announce the stopping of the subsidy. He appeared to sincerely believe the dropping of the subsidy could be justified by its success – the take-up exceeded the government's expectations.

Penny Wong has the greater task of getting some consensus on an ETS bill which can pass into law ASAP. The three months for an early election trigger are irrelevant. Leadership will be required by many. If a passable bill is achieved, it might even require the greater leadership of Malcolm Turnbull – to which the government should

### *Australia has the added burden of convincing the rest of the world that we are dinkum on global warming while being a major coal exporter*

graciously accede in the public interest.

Any local ETS must be limited pending global consensus. The goal must be to demonstrate our preparedness to act (at cost to ourselves). Any scheme should be judged by how equitably the cost is shared – by including those who naively imagine their right to some kind of exemption.

Carbon trading schemes are complex. The simple truth is that our under-costing of carbon energy for a century or so has led to our over-consumption (and climate change). Any scheme must increase the cost of carbon which will

push us towards non-carbon energy (with reduced consumption as a bonus). It is hard for punters to get across the subtle differences in trading schemes – and I suspect politicians are not better placed. The leadership will come from economists to whom we give our trust – like Garnaut and Gittings.

Australia has the added burden of convincing the rest of the world that we are dinkum on global warming while being a major coal exporter. Our current infrastructure spending on increasing coal exports from the Hunter Valley does not help. An initial step must be to cap coal exports. We need

to wean our economy off coal exports – by reducing our imports (of finished products) made with energy from our coal. The dependence of other countries on our fuel for their electricity can be met (in the short term again) with (half clean) LNG exports – as has just been announced.

This, then, is the leadership role for the public. We have already led our politicians into an awareness of global warming – and the need to do something about it. While they sort out a trading scheme, and renewables, we reduce our energy consumption, and reduce our discretionary spending on imported cars, plasma TVs, air travel – you get the idea.

The promotion of LNG for electricity, wherever – even Campbelltown, is a temporary good (i.e., progress) only if it is coupled with coal capping, on the way to eventual reduction, if not extinction.

One final thought. The parliamentary leader in the matter of agriculture is Bill Heffernan. Like the rest of us, he has his foibles, but he knows the land, and water, and farming, and the food rage component of future (and present) climate change. Trading schemes and other climate change action must include agriculture. But I can't imagine Bill and Penny sitting at the same negotiating table. I hope I am wrong.

## EDITORIAL

We refer to a story published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26-27/9/09, and to various and impassioned letters to the editor that followed. Why on earth (or in heaven) would the Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools be opposed to the teaching of ethics to children who do not attend Scripture classes, or any children, for that matter? The ethics centre in question, the St James Ethics Centre, is a highly respected institution with long experience. It would benefit all of us, at some stage or other, to reflect on what we understand ethical life to be like and how it is formed. Certainly to explore with students the nature of ethics – including the historical connections between ethics, philosophy and religion, and ways of working towards ethical choices – is to be applauded. If, as some people are saying, ethics should be taught to all children, including those who attend Scripture classes, then, yes, an ethical component should feature within Religious Education anyway. A religious education without critical reference to ethics – a blind faith or fideism – is definitely to be avoided. The SSH is glad that the trial for the ethics program is to be held at Darlinghurst School.

## FAITH

## Could God speak in new ways in our time?

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

**Obviously, in the traditions of all the great faiths, the foundations of their beliefs were established many hundreds, or sometimes thousands of years ago. While we may have recent interpretations of what was written then, the bases for what Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity hold to be true have long been established.**

This is understandable, given that most ancient tribes and peoples seem to have some sense of a God beyond themselves and shared their stories and the gradual formation of convictions around their experiences of life and what they understood to be their God or Gods. Of course, there may well have been sceptics from the earliest days, just as there are today.

As I think of this reality, and learn more about faiths other than my own, I ask myself why we would believe that the people of, say, two thousand or more years ago had a monopoly on the knowing of who God is and what we must believe and do in response? Why would God give the truth to one group of people in a particular era and set that in stone?

Perhaps it is that, in the learning about other faiths, I found myself seeing how integrated some ideas were with the prevailing cultures from which they arose. That challenged me to look even harder at the foundations of my own Christian faith and to see the same reality there.

Let's face it, we would not accept that information about anything else was set forever in any one period, would we? Imagine if we claimed that all science, or medicine was established and ended a thousand years ago! No-one would believe that for one moment. Imagine

if the relationships between classes and races were established forever two thousand years ago. We would have slavery, feudalism, all manner of torture and cruelty and terrible inequities which could not be challenged.

In all this, I am suggesting that religious belief should be placed in the same category. It does not mean that we do not respectfully take into account what was said and written when the sacred writings of each great faith were established, nor that they do not give us profound truths and building stones for our lives and understandings in this day.

However, surely we should ask why we would not expect a living God to go on expanding and deepening our perceptions of truth, just as happens in so many other parts of our lives. Why should this make us anxious? Obviously, just as with any other discipline, we do not create our own ideas and beliefs without testing them out with others and gradually moving towards some measure of consensus.

Having said that, of course there is always a risk that we are wrong. However, why would that not be so with the people of the past? They were not, in themselves, God. They were those who were influenced by time and culture, by their own agendas and frailties. The powerful thing about the ancient religious writings is that they are all, in the end, the fruits of many generations of a scholarly gathering together of what people had experienced and believed. That must be respected.

Christians are told that they must worship their God with all their hearts, with all their minds and all their strength. Maybe, in our time, we have the sacred task of building on what the people of old believed, searching out even grander truths and insights in the faith that the living God might also inspire us and shine a new light on our future.

## READERS' LETTERS

### Duty and power of local newspaper

I am writing to congratulate and to thank you for your fine newspaper. I find its coverage to be revealing, challenging and uplifting. I appreciate the wide variety of reporting, ranging from news and sport to matters of community, both historical and current, through to the arts. It is refreshing to read ... of all the

constructive aspects of life in Redfern, a counterpoint to the sometimes limited, negative focus of the mainstream media. I am a granddaughter of the founding editor of the *Quirindi Advocate*, the *Murrumbidgee Times* and the *Werris Creek Express*, Ashley Pountney, and I believe in the duty and power of the local newspaper – to investigate, inform and provide cohesion and dignity to its community.

Caroline Jones  
Presenter  
Australian Story  
ABC TV





Emily Maguire Photo: Supplied

# Clearing the air

## An interview with Emily Maguire

ANDREW COLLIS

Sydney writer, Emily Maguire, is the author of two highly acclaimed (and internationally acclaimed) novels – *Taming The Beast* and *The Gospel According To Luke* – and more recently, the non-fiction work, *Princesses & Pornstars*.

In 2007, the Women's Electoral Lobby awarded her the Edna Ryan Award (Media Category) for her writing about women's issues, and her articles and essays on sex, religion and culture have been published in numerous newspapers and journals. Maguire's new novel, *Smoke In The Room*, is set for release this month. It's an impressive work, dealing in grief and depression, as well as life's big questions: Why are we here? What is love? What constitutes betrayal? Three characters share a flat off Broadway in Sydney: grieving American Adam, weary activist Graeme, and wild, misunderstood Katie. Will Graeme's belief in social justice cocoon him from the world and his own demons? Can Adam move forward with his life and find what it is he's looking for? And, as Katie's world spins faster and faster, does she dare to live without a "filter"?

**As a novelist you take on big ideas – paedophilia, consuming desire, fundamentalism, abortion – and in this new book, mental illness and suicide. I really like that. Such ambitious themes can risk overshadowing the characters and their lives, but I find that I do empathise with your characters – more so the more I get into the stories.** I've always loved fiction that engages with the social/political world. Graham Greene,

Nadine Gordimer, JM Coetzee, Christos Tsiolkas and Zadie Smith are favourites.

**Smoke In The Room is particularly successful in this regard. Each of the three main characters is vividly drawn, mysterious. Having them all in that one, hot house is dramatic. So much madness and sadness – each different from the others, each more than sadness or madness. There's humour, genuine care and bewilderment. Can you share something about the writing process? Did you begin with one character in mind?** Yes, all of my novels have started with a single character. Sarah in *Taming The Beast*, Luke in *The Gospel According To Luke*, and Graeme in *Smoke In The Room*. I try to write their stories as simply and quickly as possible. As I write, lots of questions and possibilities occur, which I note in a separate place. Once I've got down the skeleton of the story, I go back and deal with all my notes, adding stuff in, writing on tangents, doing whatever research seems necessary, just fleshing the thing out. Usually during this process other characters suggest themselves and then questions and ideas about *those* characters occur and get noted down and then I go through again and again like this. It's a messy, absorbing process of going over the same ground, putting layers on layers, stripping off half of them, then putting new layers down until the world of the book feels real and complete. **I like the restlessness. In Katie it's palpable – puppy-like, "peppery". She likes the open-endedness of magazine stories, and ends up working in a shoe store – which is a nice link to Adam who lies about working in a shoe store. He's come a long way, and has further to go. Graeme occupies a closing space,**

**a resignation. His despair is such a quiet despair. Until that very harrowing scene – a powerful piece of writing. Even as we're prepared for it, there's no preparing for it.** Katie's an optimistic person. She knows the wheel keeps turning and bad times don't last forever. Her empathy is important to her survival, too – as long as she keeps connected to people she'll probably be okay. Graeme has lost those qualities – if he ever had them. There's nothing worth doing, no one with whom he connects. There's nothing tethering him to the world. It's like the sci-fi stories of the last man on earth. What's the point if you're just trudging through the ruins with no one to talk to or hold or make things better for? That's how I imagine despair feels.

**The book explores distinctions between responsibility (friendship/care) and self-absorption; activism and despair; "rosy cloud" and "poison" dispositions; grief and depression. The characters weigh the possibilities, seek to balance them or draw life from the creative tension between the poles. Katie lives in that tension, endures that tension.** Illness aside, Katie is a well-adjusted person, I reckon. She isn't in denial about the world. She knows it often sucks, but she also knows there are lovely things and loveable people. **Is it madness to love intensely, completely?** Probably, but it's not like you can choose it. I wonder how many love-struck people have said to themselves, "This is madness", right before they've destroyed their families, careers, lives? **Is it madness to believe in life/love unseen?** Belief is like love. You feel it or you don't. It's not a choice.

**The conversations between Jenny (the psychologist) and Katie ring true – often brilliant insights and the weight of feeling things so personally. Is depression life without a filter? Is life so raw and intolerable that we cannot face it in reality, cannot face it and live? The filters save us. Religiously, the mediations save us. Distractions, poetry, sex, routines, rituals – botherings – save us. "Bothering was what people did. When you stopped bothering, you stopped altogether."** We know we are going to die. We know that everyone we love is going to die. But allowing this understanding to be front of our minds at all times is a recipe for madness. I don't see how it's possible to get through life – to fall in love, to raise a family, to write a book, to make all those decisions minor and major that make up a life – if one is constantly thinking, well, it's all going to end up as nothing. The only thing to do is get on with things. Don't worry about how it's going to end. **Katie says that every person she's ever known has had "an unbearably sad story to tell". Is there hope in the telling (despair in not telling)? Is there hope in counselling, in writing?**

Connection is everything. We read fiction to feel what it is to be someone else, but also for that intense, rare moment when we recognise our inner self on a page and feel understood, feel *known*? That's why we share secrets with people we love. It's why we're always asking, "Do you know what I mean?" and wanting to hear, "I know how you feel". If you've spent any time with the lonely and isolated – people in old-aged homes and homeless shelters, or new immigrants who have no family or community – you quickly see what not being able to share the experience of being alive does to people. People become ghosts when their experiences aren't being affirmed and recognised by other people. If you sit and listen, acknowledge, connect, you see ghosts become flesh again.

**Are there stories – or other expressions/artforms – that have been especially life-giving for you?**

*Jane Eyre* was the most important book in my world for a good decade. Virginia Woolf's *Room Of One's Own* and *To The Lighthouse* are touchstones, as is the poetry of Edna St Vincent Millay. A couple of recent-ish films have rocked my thinking in the best possible way: Mike Leigh's *Happy Go Lucky* and the French film, *The Beat My Heart Skipped*. In April I saw the William Kentridge exhibition at the San Francisco MoMA and felt I'd been skinned alive. I haven't stopped thinking about it since.

The SSH has five signed copies of *Smoke In The Room* to give away. Send email to: [editor@ssh.com.au](mailto:editor@ssh.com.au) Book launch at Better Read Than Dead, 265 King Street Newtown, 7pm on Tuesday October 13





# The Reviews

## Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



**The Girlfriend Experience**  
Director: Steven Soderbergh  
Starring: A porn star  
Genre: Not porn

Whatever you might think of Steven Soderbergh as a director you have to admit that he does know how to hype a film. As the first mainstream Hollywood director to cast a porn star in a lead role, Soderbergh ensured that *The Girlfriend Experience* would receive more publicity than it deserves.

Sasha Grey, the star of almost 200 porn films (made in four years) including such memorable skin flicks as *Teenage Anal Princess 5*, *Barely Legal 62*, *Strap Attack 6* and *I Wanna Bang Your Sisater* (not to mention those that can't be printed here) is no great actress, though admittedly this is the only film of hers that I've seen (no, really).

She is detached and largely unemotional throughout the film (and for the most part remains fully clothed) but maybe that was a casting stroke of genius. This may have been exactly the mood that Soderbergh was looking for. After all, how upbeat can you expect a high-class hooker to be while discussing her clients in very matter-of-fact fashion ("He just wanted to watch", "He was well endowed", "He didn't kiss me goodbye"), and going through career and life reality checks?

So perhaps Grey is an actress of extraordinary ability who portrayed her character absolutely perfectly and as directed and within a story arc encompassing the US Presidential election campaign of 2008 and the coincidental collapse on Wall Street drawing metaphors and insights with each.

Or maybe it was a publicity stunt.

Rating: Bubs club discount (joke), 1 choctop, medium popcorn, a medium drink and a pretzel (it's set in New York)

» [film@ssh.com.au](mailto:film@ssh.com.au)

## Theatre Reviews by Jane Barton



**Elderflowers (a reading)**  
By Alana Valentine

Commissioned by the South Sydney Uniting Church, Alana Valentine's *Elderflowers* is a work in process. It is based on interviews and research undertaken in Redfern and Waterloo with older residents, celebrating the wisdom and

quirkiness of age. It has much to offer both those who generously gave of themselves as research participants and the wider community. Warm, funny and poignant, *Elderflowers* is a sassy look at life through the lens of older eyes and it reveals much about their invisible lives. Bullying by greedy, impatient children, neighbourly disputes, the absurdity of "the system" that hinders more than it helps – the characters emerge as the script spirals its way through anecdotes building up a mosaic-style impression of the older community. *Elderflowers* is a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit and adds to the connective tissue that binds the community together. Social capital in action.



**This Kind of Ruckus**  
Version 1.0  
Performance Space  
With: Danielle Antaki,  
Arky Michael, Kym Vercoe,  
David Williams

Version 1.0 is one of the most exciting theatre companies in Sydney. Its hard-hitting, political, group-devised work has encompassed issues from the "children overboard" affair, the Australian Wheat Board scandal and the infamous Sally Robbins "choke" during the Athens Olympics. *This Kind of Ruckus* explores the complex terrain of sexual politics and references sex scandals such as the Matthew Johns affair. It's timely and relevant work. The use of multimedia creates a distorted eyewitness view as the performers play out scenes of sexual violence in a range of spheres. The irony-laced tone of the piece assumes the audience's equal but opposite distaste. It's a confronting contemporary comment about consent, sexual assault and rape. Although dark, the subject matter is shot through with small jokes, absurd humour and unexpected moments such as when the audience is made complicit as performers. Kym Vercoe and Danielle Anataki fix their gaze on men in the audience, picking them out as potential sex partners. Gail Priest's thumping, disturbing techno backing track takes the piece



Bridezilla violinist Daisy Tulley at Garden Music, Government House, on September 27 Photo: Eve Gibson

to a deep disturbing place. Not easy but rewarding and intelligent theatre.

» [theatre@ssh.com.au](mailto:theatre@ssh.com.au)

## Book Review by Marg Vazey



**Brick Lane**  
Monica Ali  
Doubleday, 2003; 2004

Brick Lane is a real street in East London. Over the years it has been the place where the latest wave of newcomers to the great city have found a place to start a new life in a strange country. Over 200 years ago, it was the place where the Huguenots settled, escaping persecution in France. Today it is people fleeing the poverty and difficulties of their homelands, in particular, Bangladesh.

Monica Ali writes feelingly about this group, through the eyes and heart of a young girl, a bride, brought from her country and her home by her new, and much older, husband, to the place where he had struggled, since a young migrant, to get

advancement in his adopted country.

This is a story of the getting of wisdom. The heroine, Nazneen, struggles with her unhappy arranged marriage, with family commitments and family tragedy, with the bewilderment of living in a strange and very different culture, with slowly acquiring a new language, and with a husband steeped in the old-fashioned ways of his original culture.

The tension builds as Nazneen makes mistakes and bad decisions. Her husband is earnest, well-meaning, and, unfortunately, painfully self-absorbed. Her compatriots are variously intelligent, petty, self-deceivingly righteous, gossipy, uncaring, crooked and downright dangerous. Like Jane Austin, Monica Ali is accurate and unsparing in describing these various characters.

These days, it is very trendy to visit Brick Lane, to perch on the doorsteps of the old Huguenot houses, to eat "Bangla" curries from the local restaurants, to listen to the buskers singing with harp accompaniment, to buy food and clothing at the nearby markets at Spitalfields, and to note that the old Methodist meeting house is now a mosque.

Read *Brick Lane* to get a real feel for the background scene of East London today.

» [books@ssh.com.au](mailto:books@ssh.com.au)

# The live music guide

## THE CIVIC HOTEL

Cnr Goulburn and Pitt Streets, Sydney  
Live music FREE 3 nights/wk  
(TUES 9pm, WED 9pm, FRI 5.30pm)  
[www.civichotel.com.au](http://www.civichotel.com.au)

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

ALEX HEWETSON

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

GAIL PAGE

FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

DEA

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

THE WEIRD ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

GAIL PAGE

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

DEA

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

THE WEIRD ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

GAIL PAGE

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

DEA

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

THE WEIRD ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER - 9PM - FREE

GAIL PAGE

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

DEA

## THE KURRAJONG HOTEL

106 Swanson Street, Erskineville

Live music FREE 3 nights/wk

(WED 7pm, THU 7pm, SUN 5pm)

SPANISH cuisine master chef with

over 50yrs experience

Great food, Tapas from \$7

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

THE CONTINENTAL BLUES & BOOGALOO PARTY

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

DON HOPKINS BAND

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

LEANNE PARIS BAND

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

THE CONTINENTAL BLUES & BOOGALOO PARTY

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

PUGSLEY BUZZARD

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

LEANNE PARIS BAND

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

THE CONTINENTAL BLUES & BOOGALOO PARTY

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

DON HOPKINS BAND

SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

LEANNE PARIS BAND

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

THE CONTINENTAL BLUES & BOOGALOO PARTY

THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

CLAYTON DOLEY'S ORGAN DONORS

## THE HAROLD PARK HOTEL

Cnr Wigram & Ross Streets, Glebe

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7pm, FRI 7pm, SAT 7pm, SUN 5pm)

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

PRISCILLA & THE GROOVE KINGS

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

SHINOLA!

FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

JAMES VALENTINE

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

JO FABRO

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

THE ACCA DAIQUIRIS

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

ADAM PRINGLE & FRIENDS

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

THE EL CAMINO'S

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

JAMES VALENTINE

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

SLEWFOOT

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

THE ACCA DAIQUIRIS

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

ADAM PRINGLE & FRIENDS

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

ALISON PENNEY & THE MONEY MAKERS

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

JAMES VALENTINE

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

THE ACOUSTIC SOUL BAND

SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER - 5PM - FREE

JUBILATION with JOY YATES and

the DAVE MACRAE BEAT

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

ADAM PRINGLE & FRIENDS

THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

DEA

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

JAMES VALENTINE

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER - 7PM - FREE

THE ACOUSTIC SOUL BAND

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& THE TALLBOYS

*The Hollow Way*

CD Launch  
Thursday, October 8  
The Vanguard, Newtown  
with the Refrains, FisherKing  
& Bernie Hayes  
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# A real racket at the Roxbury

Amanda Robb

The latest weekly edition to Glebe's Roxbury Hotel on Tuesday nights will keep you laughing until the weekend. Full Body Contact No Love Tennis is a comedy competition involving audience interaction. Add the fact that the night's entertainment costs only \$10 and you have the cheapest barrel of laughs Sydney has to offer.

The idea of the game was born when an old trophy in a garage sale was found emblazoned with "Jewish men's NSW under 19 tennis double of 1979". From this inimitable treasure, came the title of Sydney's most comical hour.

Every week a handful of Sydney's finest improvisers pair up to showcase their slapstick talent. Improvisers have only 19 minutes, no more, no less, to spontaneously deliver a story, song or even a musical with the purpose of eliciting maximum laughs. Teams have three rounds to execute their talent, with each creating a new routine. What's more, it's the audience suggestions, which can be a single word, that open up the comedians inhibited performances.

The scenes influenced by this reviewer's contribution on Tuesday night involved: a watch-stealing goose, a cursed pirate ship, a vindictive

relationship between an orangutan, a puma and a skinny body builder.

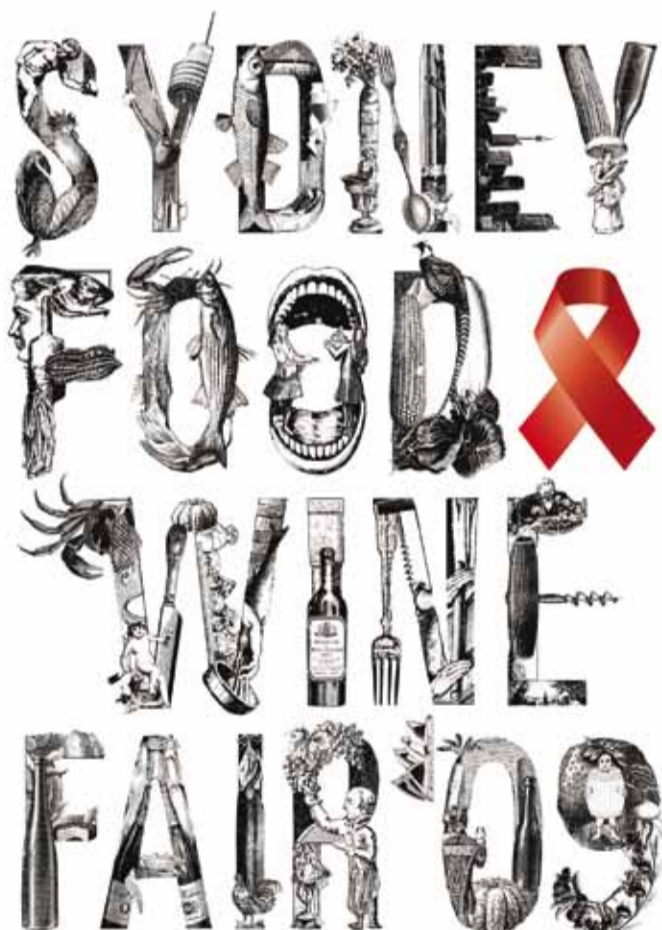
After the second interval, the audience was spoilt with a 30-minute scene, starring Cale Bain and Rebecca De Unamuno who transformed the stage and themselves into cops and robbers, nannies and journalists, sewers and jewellery stores. What's more was the guest appearance of the Devil, who lived in a sewer where he raised babies and hid his hideous "goat legs"!

The best part of the evening was watching the experienced improv players disguise their shock at what their co-players invented. In all improv professionalism, they jump at the challenge with creative exploration, and join in their partner's hilarious endeavour. Whether it results in side-slapping laughs or a comedy of errors, the joke's enjoyed by all, and in particular the performers.

Full Body Contact No Love Tennis is a promise of laugh-out-loud moments, great entertainment and a fun night out. Situated at the stylish Roxbury Hotel in Glebe, it's a must to see Sydney's prime improv artists in action.

The Roxbury Hotel  
182 St Johns Road, Glebe NSW 2037  
Tel: 02 9692 0822  
www.roxbury.com.au

Cale Bain Photo: Supplied



The AIDS Trust of Australia presents  
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## RENAISSANCE ITALY COMES TO SOUTH SYDNEY

**I CANTARINI IS A NEW GROUP OF MADRIGAL SINGERS WHO WILL BE PERFORMING IN THE UNITING CHURCH IN RAGLAN STREET, WATERLOO ON OCTOBER 10 AT 2.30 PM.**

The group will be performing madrigals from Renaissance Italy.

Literally thousands of madrigals were written in the 16th and 17th centuries, making them the pop music of their day - they celebrate, with wonderful music, the joys and despair of love and the beauty of nature - themes that still move us today.

In old Italian, I cantarini meant a small group of (male) singers. However, around this time, madrigals began to include female singers, an innovation which became so popular that it led to opera and the ascendancy of the new stars, the prima donnas.

The madrigals will be sung by a mixed group of 5-7 singers accompanied by a theorbo, a large baroque lute.

For further information contact Coralie Le Nevez on 0407 077 828.



UDC students perform on the Barefoot Rugby League program Photo: Supplied

## A Chance to Dance

KRISTY JOHNSON

Now recognised as a not-for-profit organisation, Urban Dance Centre in Glebe offers opportunities for students of varying abilities and backgrounds.

As part of their outreach program and alliance with South Sydney Youth Services, Co-Directors of the institution, Julie Williamson and Juliette Verne, have created a program called Chance to Dance whereby students from low socio-economic backgrounds in the Redfern area are

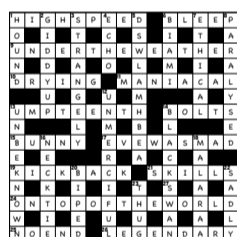
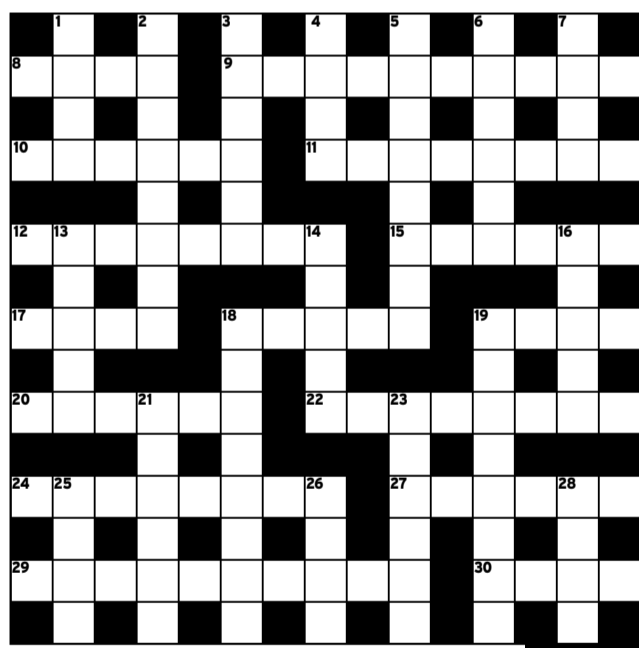
invited into the UDC family. Each Wednesday students are led through Hip Hop inspired routines by resident teacher Michael "Sisqo" Francisco.

Co-Director Julie Williamson is passionate towards using her profile and experience in the dance industry to give back to the local community. "UDC offers classes to such a variety of demographics from young children to professional dancers that we wanted to offer a class to youth who might want to experience dance but due to circumstances would not have the opportunity."

With the program now supporting 15 students, UDC hopes to one day take one or two students through their full-time Certificate IV in Performing Arts Course on scholarship and on to a career in dance. Students have performed at the Family Culture Day in Redfern and on the *Barefoot Rugby League Show*.

Any company or individual who would like to become involved in the outreach program will receive such satisfaction for their contribution, and may contact Co-Director Julie Williamson at [julie@urbandancecentre.com](mailto:julie@urbandancecentre.com)

## South Sydney Crossword



First correct entry received by Oct 31st will win a mystery prize. Send completed puzzle to: South Sydney Herald Crossword PO Box 2360 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012.

### ACROSS

- 8 Emphatic Russian approval displays artistic movement (4)
- 9 Developed upon rushy rills perhaps (5,5)
- 10 Steal wool? (6)
- 11 A local area heavily featured on The Bill (8)
- 12 Pagan wedding vow postponed (8)
- 15 Hey Hey Its Saturday beginning and ending in full bloom (6)
- 17 Its OK returning to Erskineville briefly (4)
- 18 Loose armed in the arms of Morpheus (5)
- 19 Pet name for a pit bull? Shame! (4)
- 20 Struggled voicing fort (6)
- 22 Sydney suburb has a strange man in store (8)
- 24 So green as to turn Gill blue (8)
- 27 Land is primarily surrounded by water (6)
- 29 Realise Xanadu reconstruction is useless here (10)
- 30 Encourage inner resurgence (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Security outcome of Bali bombing (4)
- 2 Curtains for Napoleon (8)
- 3 Rising like a fragrance (6)
- 4 Tortured letters oddly remaining faithful (4)
- 5 Sydney's hamlet stylelessly restyled (8)
- 6 Customary costume like a vital organ? (6)
- 7 Drop off Gandalf. Over and out! (4)
- 13 Hurdling star collapses into suburb truncated over nothing (5)
- 14 Winds up Gaelic dances (5)
- 16 Subsequently packing rafters (5)
- 18 Record collection a tad down by the riverside (4,4)
- 19 Block proposal with approval (8)
- 21 Big star gathering a celebration followed by unknown quantities (6)
- 23 Well am I named holding back the beast (6)
- 25 He leaves hugely unattractive (4)
- 26 Sydney's original inhabitants in the oral tradition (4)
- 28 Nearly night, nearly (4)

## SEEKING BENEFACTOR:

Precious and unique collection of Indigenous Contemporary Art



### 'Civilising the Natives' by Gordon Syron, 2009

A benefactor is required to establish a 'Keeping Place' with this collection as a foundation. Viewing of this collection is by request only.

For an appointment to preview The Keeping Place please call Gordon on 0421 031 392.

For more information please visit: [www.blackfellasdreaming.wikispaces.com](http://www.blackfellasdreaming.wikispaces.com)

### Can we save them, Kevin?

Add your name to the online petition, calling on the Federal Government to establish a National Aboriginal Museum and to save the collection of 547 Aboriginal artworks, to allow The Keeping Place to re-open to the public : [www.gopetition.com/petitions/an-aboriginal-keeping-place.html](http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/an-aboriginal-keeping-place.html)



# free shuttle bus services

FREE shuttle bus services now run from Redfern to Broadway shops via the RPA Hospital; and from Woolloomooloo to Redfern via Paddy's Market and St Vincent's.

These FREE buses are available to all City Of Sydney residents and operate:

Thursday and Friday of each week.

For more information and timetables please call 9319 4439 or visit [www.ssct.org.au](http://www.ssct.org.au)



## SURVIVAL DAY ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

The SSH invites you to join us aboard the Deerubbun for a unique Australia/Survival Day experience on January 26

Support the good work of the Tribal Warrior!

Meet at Sydney Fish Markets at 4.30pm for cruise 5-9pm

Cost: \$70/\$60 (includes BBQ and soft drinks)

Booking: Contact Trevor Davies before Jan 15 to reserve a place on the boat (0400 008 338 or [trevssh@bigpond.net.au](mailto:trevssh@bigpond.net.au))

### SYDNEY HARBOUR'S AUTHENTIC ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CRUISE



## The Lions Club of Redfern-Waterloo & the Tribal Warrior Association Inc, Invite you and your family and friends to: An Aboriginal Picnic on Clark Island FEBRUARY 2010

You will be taken to Clark Island on the Tribal Warrior boat which will leave from Man-O-War Steps on a continuous service from 9am.

\$70 per person (includes food & drinks)

Further details to come closer to date.

Norma: 0404 094 249 Graeme: 0414 816 408 John: 0416 048 932

[pfls@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pfls@optusnet.com.au), [gfreer@gmail.com](mailto:gfreer@gmail.com)

Please transfer your payment (with note "Aboriginal picnic") to: Westpac Admin Account (Lions Club of Redfern-Waterloo Inc.): BSB: 032006 / Acc: 349170

or post your cheque to: Redfern-Waterloo Lions Club, PO Box 3250 REDFERN 2016

## SSH advertising works:

"Since our ad has been in the SSH, it's been phenomenal. It has really raised our profile in the community. Interest has increased ten-fold from the old way of letterbox dropping." Wayne Blindeman, Food Distribution Network, Waterloo

## Donations to the SSH

The South Sydney Herald is an independent not-for-profit community newspaper, produced mostly by volunteers, published by the South Sydney Uniting Church, distributed without charge to 30,000 readers from Zetland to Woolloomooloo.

The SSH gratefully accepts donations and in-kind support.

If you would like to make a contribution you can do so, anonymously if you wish.

By mail: PO Box 2360 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012.

By electronic transfer: BSB 062 231 ACCOUNT NO. 1021 8391.

Contact the Editor: [editor@ssh.com.au](mailto:editor@ssh.com.au)

## Uniting Churches



### South Sydney Uniting Church

56a Raglan St Waterloo  
Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday  
Preventing Child Abuse & Supporting Adult Survivors  
10am Nov 15  
Rev Andrew Collis 8399 3410  
Welcoming people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and identities.  
Peace with justice, integrity of creation.

### Tongan Uniting Church

(South Sydney)  
Worship 1pm Sunday  
Mid-week service Friday 7-8pm  
Ps Sione Hau 0431 144 247

### Glebe Cafe Church

Cnr St Johns & Cambourne Sts Glebe  
Gathering Sunday 7pm  
Free For All/Eight O'Clock Sharp  
Music nights Thu 8pm  
Steph Gesling 9518 9413

### Newtown Mission

280 King St Newtown  
Worship 9.30am & 6pm Sunday  
Rev Ps Doug Clements  
9519 9000

### Paddington Uniting Church

395 Oxford St Paddington  
Church Open 10am-2pm  
1st and 3rd Saturdays  
Worship Sunday 7.30pm  
Church Office 9331 2646

### Pitt Street Uniting Church

264 Pitt St, Sydney  
Worship 10 am Sunday & 6 pm (2nd and 4th Sundays)  
Rev Ian Pearson 9267 3614

### Ultimo University Church

Cnr Bulwara Road and Quarry St, Ultimo  
Worship 6.30pm Sunday  
Rev. Dr John Hirt 0408 238 117

### Wayside Chapel

29 Hughes St Potts Point  
Worship 10am,  
Bible Study 5pm Sunday  
Ps Graham Long 9358 6996

ALL WELCOME!  
South Sydney Uniting Church  
(56a Raglan St, Waterloo)

# ART CLASS

12-4pm Sat Oct 17  
For more info phone 8399 3410.

Previous and new participants, adults and children welcome.  
All materials provided.  
Gold coin donation.

Drawing by Jan Short

**BABANA**  
Aboriginal Men's Group

The next BABANA meeting is on Friday Oct 30, 12-2pm, Redfern Community Centre.  
Contact: Mark Spinks 9243 3546.

## Waterloo Recycling Workshop

Workshop and market open Fridays 9am-12pm.  
Turungah Flats, 1 Phillip St, Waterloo (lower car park).  
Affordable furniture and household goods.  
Donations gladly received (no white goods or electrical appliances).  
Volunteers welcome (phone Naomi on 0407 576 098).

## Spirituality in the Pub

### "Who would Jesus bomb?"

Speaker: Donna Mulhearn  
Tuesday, November 10, 7.30-9pm  
Bald Faced Stag Hotel  
345 Parramatta Rd, Leichhardt

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN REDFERN-WATERLOO?

Get the latest from [www.redwatch.org.au](http://www.redwatch.org.au)  
email [RWIU@turnbulls.au.com](mailto:RWIU@turnbulls.au.com) for free email updates  
or call Geoff on 9318 0824

## YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS



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## Rovers Under 13s win Grand Final

Photo: Supplied

PERRY JOHNSTONE

**Glorious sunshine greeted the Alexandria Rovers Under 13 Division 1 team as they ran onto the field to play in the Grand Final at Coogee Oval against the South Eastern team.**

The Rovers under 13s had finished the season as minor premiers having lost only two games all season and the team was quietly confident that they would not let themselves down in the big game.

The team has been starting slowly in most games but right from the kick off the boys were switched on. With their very first touch of the ball after forcing a mistake from the opposition, Latrell Robinson ran 60 metres to score a try in the corner. From there the boys put the South Eastern team to the sword and they had no answer to the Rovers

team as the boys scored three more tries to Thomas Johnson, Reegan Carr and Aaron McGrath.

The half-time speech was simple – keep working for each other as South Eastern would throw in the towel if we stick to playing hard, smart Rovers-style football.

The speech worked as the boys kept up the pressure and raced to a 28-nil lead before South Eastern scored their only try of the match. The boys responded like all champion teams do and put on two more tries to round off a very emphatic victory to cap off a dominating season – 19 games played, 17 wins is just about as good as it gets.

As the full-time bell sounded the players and supporters celebrated as one. As the boys lined up for the presentation, the Man of the Match was tough-tackling, hard-running forward Johnny Vlad, the smile on his face was from ear to ear

and his proud family were just as excited.

All year these boys have played tough, hard, Rovers football and were rewarded with the premiership. This team will only go from strength to strength.

The team was made up of the following players: Reegan Carr, Chris Ebeling, Michael Halloway, Robert Hilder, Thomas Johnson, Nickolas Lawson, Aaron McGrath, Paul Momirovski, Kingston Nicholson, Shane Nolan, Nathan Rakoia, Justin Rickuss, Latrell Robinson, Ray Simpson, Johnny Vlad, Jake Walsh, Danny Wilson, Steven Winters, Coach Tony Bilich, Manager Lisa Walsh, Trainers Ray Rickuss and Daniel Friedrich.

Well done boys on your most deserved premiership!

For action photos of the grand final, check out the photo gallery at [www.alexandriarovers.com.au](http://www.alexandriarovers.com.au)



Trevor Davies and Jhan Leach in Darlington Photo: Andrew Collis

## Setback on road to Pemulwuy

SSH

**SSH editors, Trevor Davies and Andrew Collis, are delighted with donations received in support of their running efforts on behalf of the Pemulwuy housing project on the Block. So far, just over \$3,000 has been received.**

One of the most recent supporters, Jhan Leach of South Sydney Community Aid, said: "Pemulwuy promises so much – for Indigenous people of Sydney, for the city itself. The Block is the heart and soul of Redfern. As the Block flourishes, so too Redfern flourishes – and that's good news for all of us."

On September 20, in unseasonably hot conditions, Trevor made his way from Milson's Point, across the Harbour Bridge and into the CBD. A great achievement.

Sadly, Andrew was struck down by a virus a few days before the event and unable to take part in the marathon he'd been training for. "I was fit for the Sydney Nose Running Festival," he lamented. "It was one of those colds that feels like the worst cold you've ever had."

Andrew has decided to treat the illness as a setback, and registered for the Melbourne Marathon on October 11.

He has now resumed training. "I'm still running for Pemulwuy," he said. "The AHC [Aboriginal Housing Company] has known a setback or two over the years. I'll keep that in mind. This makes me more determined."

Lani Tuitavake of the AHC has offered ongoing encouragement. "The first step is always the hardest," she said. "We appreciate your enthusiasm and support of the AHC and the Redfern Aboriginal community."

Supporters are also in with a chance of winning some great prizes. Local artist, Adam Hill, who designed T-shirts for Trevor and Andrew, has developed the design and produced a unique work on canvas. Photographer, Elaine Syron, has donated a number of highly collectable urban Aboriginal posters. At 2pm on Saturday October 24 a draw will be conducted at Tripod Café in Darlington. Names of all donors will be placed in a barrel and prize-winners drawn by Mick Mundine of the AHC.

You can support Andrew's continued efforts by visiting the Running for Pemulwuy website: [www.gofundraise.com.au/pemulwuy](http://www.gofundraise.com.au/pemulwuy). All donations very gratefully received. Trevor and Andrew are still hoping to meet their target of \$5,000.

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Secure your Foundation Membership now by visiting our foundation membership office at 88 Pitt Street Redfern or by calling us on 1300 866 761.

www.ncie.org.au



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