

IN MEMORY OF TREVOR DAVIES

(May 25, 1956 – June 14, 2011) ~ Founder and News Editor

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Obituary for Trevor Davies

(May 25, 1956 – June 14, 2011)

SUSAN LEITH-MILLER
(TREVOR'S SISTER) &
DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

TO UNDERSTAND TREVOR'S passion for social reform, his devotion to politics, his love and compassion for the community in which he lived, and, of course, his commitment to the church, we need to know where it all began.

It began with Trevor's parents – two people whose struggle and bravery set the foundations for the man so many people love and dearly miss now.

Trevor's father was born in South Wales, the son of a coal miner whose family and ancestors endured the harsh existence of mining. They worked long, dangerous hours, day and night. History records the miner's fight for the most basic rights we all enjoy today. Trevor continued this battle – he was always fighting for the underprivileged, for those in need.

His Father, known as Taff, was an extroverted, funny man who called a spade a spade – it is easy to recognise Trevor here. As an asthmatic, however, his father was never to go down the mines. At the age of 14, Taff left Wales and went to England to find a better life. And a better life he found. As part of this life, he was a keen and respected union leader.

Connie, Trevor's Mum, was born in England and grew up during the war years. Losing her mother when she was only 5 she faced these awful times without the tenderness and affection only a mother can give. She, however, became the most loving person imaginable and Trevor learnt how to love from Connie – she had time and love for everyone she met.

It will be no surprise to you that Trevor was an unusual child – from an early age he was a happy, thoughtful bundle of paradoxes. Although born at home he spent the first few months of his life very sick in hospital, then at 18 months he won the beautiful baby competition! At 4 years he was the mascot of the teenagers in his neighbourhood – he went everywhere on their shoulders. His father's nickname for Trevor was Jasper. Why? Trev was forever saying, "Jasper minute, wait for me!" He could never keep up and so his dad bought him a bike – Trevor could ride a two-wheel bike at the age of 4.

Trevor watched his first election when he was 9 years old. He wagged school, saying that he was sick, and stayed glued to the TV on Thursday October 15, 1964, and rejoiced as Harold Wilson was elected the first Labor Prime Minister of England for many years. At age 10, Trevor set up an "insurance" scheme for the children in the neighbourhood – they gave him a penny which they would claim back if and when their parents smacked them – the first injustice Trevor attempted to right.

In 1966 his family migrated to Australia as "ten pound Poms" and life was good and happy in the lucky country. Trevor went to Cammeray Public School where he started the school newspaper – the *Cammeray Chronicle*. Later, he went to Chatswood High School where everyone knew him. He was always a character.



Photo: Ali Blogg

SSH

IT IS WITH great sadness that we report the passing of SSH Founder and News Editor, Trevor Davies.

Trevor was due to undergo an angiogram on June 14 but was taken to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital the night before where he suffered a massive heart attack. Doctors worked on him for many hours but were unable to revive him. It became apparent when they operated that he had contracted an infection around a congenital hole in his heart.

Trevor had only recently celebrated his 55th birthday. As well as being News Editor of the SSH, Trevor was

a member and Elder of South Sydney Uniting Church and long-time Secretary of the Darlington ALP Branch. Trevor was one of the foundation members of REDWatch and was known to very many people within the local community.

A memorial service, attracting around 100 mourners, was held outside the Tripod Café in Darlington on June 23. Trevor's funeral was held the following day at the Pitt Street Uniting Church in the city. Eulogies were given by Trevor's sister Susan, brother Ivor and nephew Drew, long-time friends Geoff Turnbull and Barrie McMahon, SSH co-editor Dorothy McRae-McMahon, former Mayor of South Sydney, Tony Pooley,

and Mick McIntyre, President of the St Vincent de Paul Society Erskineville Conference. At the time of his death, Trevor was Vice President of the Erskineville Conference.

Dharug woman Nadeena Dixon and Redfern-based artist Adam Hill performed as part of the Acknowledgement of Country. A recording of "The Last Rose of Summer" by Australian opera singer and Celtic harpist, Jeannie Kelso, was played. More than 800 people were in attendance.

Trevor is survived by his sisters Susan and Annie, his brother Ivor, and extended family including seven nieces and nephews.

Sadly, his father died on Jan 11, 1969, of an asthma attack – Trevor gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but was unable to save him. Undoubtedly, this had a huge impact on him, made him question life and turned his world upside down. His sister can remember him holding the Little Red Book with the quotes of Mao Tse Tung in one hand and the Bible in the other!

The next years were tough financially and emotionally as his mother and grandmother struggled to bring up four teenagers in a new country. In those days

there was no widow's pension, so between them they cleaned houses to make sure that the family had food and clothes. Though poor, they were happy and close – with many friends and neighbours visiting regularly and copious pancakes and waffles served to ravenous teenagers. His mother's struggle at this time greatly affected Trevor.

or expected!

In 1979 Trevor moved to Redfern and lived with his sister, Susan, and her then husband. When they moved away, Trevor stayed and lived in Darlington for the next 30 years.

Trevor became one of the best-known members of the local community. He was very active in the Darlington Branch of the Labor Party, representing the Left of the party in all sorts of situations and discussions. No one could doubt his loyalty for the party and its causes, even

if he had fierce debates with many of its leaders. Not many ordinary citizens of our country have their deaths announced and tributes read in State and Federal Parliament, as did Trevor!

He regularly went to sittings of the South Sydney Council, and later, when the Council boundaries were changed, the City of Sydney. He stood for membership of the City Council and was very nearly elected. Many of us did not regret that he was able to go on as he had been, immersed in local community life and as News Editor and distribution organiser of the *South Sydney Herald*, a project of the South Sydney Uniting Church. Today, this paper is a 16- to 20-page tabloid in colour with a distribution of 22,000, and its own website.

If the parish wanted to take on this project, it was because, at that time, South Sydney had no local paper which clearly focussed on its life, apart from a small area in Surry Hills, and people felt that the news from the area covered by mainstream media was almost always bad news.

Apart from the paid designer and the printer and a modest percentage given to a couple of people who gather advertising, all other work is done by volunteers, largely organised by Trevor. Over the years, the paper has had respected relationships with the City of Sydney and local community leaders, both political, religious, in social service agencies and in places like The Block. Politicians of all varieties take it very seriously and make regular comment on what is printed – sometimes negative and sometimes positive!

The mission statement is: "Celebrating the lives of the diverse people of South Sydney, inviting discussion on issues of concern and interest, adding encouragement to possibilities for community."

All this arose from the dream of Trevor Davies, from his commitment to justice and compassion. Often over the years, those of us who have produced the paper have said that the one person on the editorial team who could not be replaced was Trevor. He was the one who collected the stories. He was the networker. You would sit in a café with Trevor and people would come in and ask, "Could we have this in our paper, Trevor?" and tell him some local news or concern.

At the centre of Trevor's life was his faith. He was the Chairperson of the Church Council of South Sydney Uniting Church for a decade and rarely missed attending its services. He was a long-serving Elder of the congregation. He felt very passionate about his views on life, politics and faith, but you could have a good tussle with him and then move on to the next thing without anyone bearing grudges.

Throughout his life Trevor struggled with significant health problems and died after a severe heart attack. Locals requested and participated in a brief funeral with his casket present in the street beside his favourite café, his congregation held a vigil in the church which was Trevor's spiritual home but not big enough for his funeral, and then around 800 people attended his funeral at the Pitt Street Uniting Church in the city.

Vale, Trevor Davies. The world won't be the same place without you, and we love you and grieve your passing.



Remembering Trevor's activity

GEOFF TURNBULL

OVER THE LAST 10 days as I passed on word of Trevor's death I have seen many comments and stories. It is surprising the number of people who say they saw Trevor in the days before he died. It was a testimony to how many people Trevor knew and how much he did around the community as he knitted together people's lives in his friendship and endeavours. This was his greatest political achievement. He created communities, he generated discussion and he made everyone, even those he disagreed with, matter. I had my disagreements with Trevor.

I have known Trevor since the mid 1970s from the days when Uniting Church Ministers John Hirt and Vladimir Korotkov and the late housing activist Harvey Volke were all Baptist Ministers preaching Radical Discipleship at the House of the New World in West Ryde. It was at a time when Fred Nile ran the Jesus Commune and the Labor Party of Gough Whitlam stood for righting long-term injustice and delivering change.

When Trevor came to Redfern with his sister he came with a view that both politics and faith mattered – they were two sides of the same coin. I was pleased to share some of those two passions with him at Pitt Street Uniting Church and South Sydney Parish and in the activism of REDWatch's battles like with Frank Sartor over The Block.

Robyn Fortescue says that "Trevor was a great believer in the people having a voice, the right to be heard" and that "Trevor's community activity exemplified this".

In the days of inner-city branch stacking, Sue Wicks remembers making sure Trevor actually existed when he applied to join the local ALP branch in 1979. He went on to become the Darlington Branch long-term Secretary ensuring that the branch dealt with real issues of community interest. He regularly invited speakers to address the Branch. He was involved with saving the Erskineville Public Housing estates; trying to save South Sydney Council, and raising issues elected representatives often did not want to hear – whether it was taking on

Andrew Refshauge over drug issues around The Block or on one visit I made with him asking Upper House President Meredith Burgmann to explain why they were allowing Frank Sartor to attack the Pemulwuy project.

When NSW ALP looked set to sell off state-owned electricity Trevor called an activist meeting at the AMWU building and thus was born the grassroots campaign against the sell-off.

Many of Trevor's contributions to the community were outside his branch and his church. Over the years Trevor served on the management committees of many of the local organisations in the area such as The Settlement and South Sydney Community Aid. He was very involved in Redfern Residents for Reconciliation who campaigned for what became the Redfern Community Centre. At the time of his death he was on the committee for South Sydney Community Transport and Vice President of the St Vincent de Paul Society at Erskineville, just to name two organisations where he was carrying on this important facet of his community involvement.

Trevor liked debate and discussion and he helped create the debate, not just report it. The "Chippo Politics" Trevor created on Saturday afternoons at the Thurless Castle Hotel spored the *Chippo Politics Newsletter*, *Road Runner*, *Chippo News* and the *Redfern Chippo Herald* that led to the *South Sydney Herald* of today.

"Chippo Politics" list of speakers over the years covered a very broad spectrum including Alan Jones, Brendan Nelson, Mungo McCallum, David Oldfield, Piers Ackerman, Bob Ellis, Richard Glover and a young ALP tyro not yet running for pre-selection, Tanya Plibersek. Topics included the history of the Eveleigh Railway, euthanasia, council amalgamations, the future of community radio, East Timor and progressive local government.

While "Chippo Politics" might have ended 10 years ago Trevor organised visits of Alan Jones, John Brogden, Brendan Nelson and Barry O'Farrell to The Block to meet Mick Mundine and the Aboriginal Housing Company. It generated debate and articles in the *SSH* and stories in the wider media. It carried on this long Trevor tradition of generating debate and also covering

it. I am sure I was not the only one that had a mixture of excitement and foreboding when Trevor would say, "I've just had a good idea".

Trevor may have been a staunch Labor man who liked debate but I have also had the opportunity to see him work over the last seven years across the broader political spectrum in REDWatch where local members of the ALP, Greens, Liberals, Clover Moore Independents and people not associated with any party worked together to try and ensure extensive community involvement in all decisions made about the Redfern Waterloo area by government and the Redfern Waterloo Authority.

Remarkably we have held REDWatch together through a long battle with a Labor government and a number of polarising election campaigns and sometimes heated discussions within, where Trevor would threaten to walk if he thought his branch might not back him. Some things happened through Lyn and my independent email updates to provide Trevor and other ALP members with plausible deniability.

In the past few months we have been planning for the proposed redevelopment of public housing forming a new coalition called Groundswell. We will miss Trevor as this struggle unfolds but hopefully some of Trevor's friends will help take his place.

Greens Councillor Irene Dounthey, who is also on the REDWatch Co-ordination Group, talks about Trevor not being blinded by party attitudes and of Trevor's support for the South Sydney Greens and their candidates like her. She says she will miss Trevor's regular phone calls to find out the latest gossip around Council and his cheeky leading questions about the Greens.

Seeing Trevor meet up with Ian Thompson, the Liberal party person involved with REDWatch in its early years, was to watch two friends who loved politics catching up rather than watching a clash of class enemies.

I was catching up with Trevor in the front of Saucepan in Darlington as very many of us did. After a succession of people passing by had stopped to talk to Trevor I jokingly said to him that if I was ever to write an autobiography that I would have to call it *Who's That*

Love of God and neighbour

ANDREW COLLIS

WHEN I FIRST arrived in Redfern-Waterloo five years ago, Trevor told me how he'd once climbed onto the roof of the concrete shed behind the church. "I was up there," he said, "with a clear view in all directions," before impressing upon me the importance of serving the people of South Sydney. This was a moment, for Trevor, of clarity, of call. His God had shown him, as in a prophetic vision, the rooftops and high-rises, the back-lanes and parklands of thousands at risk of hopelessness and voicelessness – and charged him with a task: to inform, to agitate for reforms, to protect the most vulnerable, to relieve suffering, to help create safe social space – to herald a reign of love and justice.

"It's awesome," he said, of the responsibility he felt for the *South Sydney Herald* and its work. And then he'd say how he hated the word "awesome" – or hated the way it was abused by overly enthusiastic co-religionists. I never had cause to doubt the sincerity of his vision. It

was plain that he lived in response to it. Among many condolences and tributes this past week some people have told me they sometimes envied Trevor's sense of vocation.

Like many, I'm shattered by Trevor's passing. It seems incredible he's gone. And yet I'm also in awe of something – the lesson of his short but full life. It's this. That when you discern a calling in life there's no telling what you can achieve – there's no telling what can be achieved through you, even in spite of you. The commandments (love of God and love of neighbour) connote a double movement of the heart but not a contradiction.

And more. With the discernment of a true calling, you are free to be yourself. And you can do amazing things – you can push out from within all kinds of limitations. And you can have a lot of fun doing it!

I want to honour how far Trevor had come – how much he'd overcome. I sometimes didn't acknowledge that so well. How he challenged himself and tested cherished propositions and even prejudices, allowed himself to trust and to love – his neighbour as himself. It was

With Trevor? A few minutes later a bishop walked past and Trevor stopped him and said he had seen him around a couple of times and wanted to know who he was and what he was doing around the place. He was the Anglo Catholic Bishop for Australia and New Zealand who lives in Holden Street. An interesting discussion ensued on a number of topics including the role of women in the church and it ended with Trevor asking for his business card and promising to be in touch.

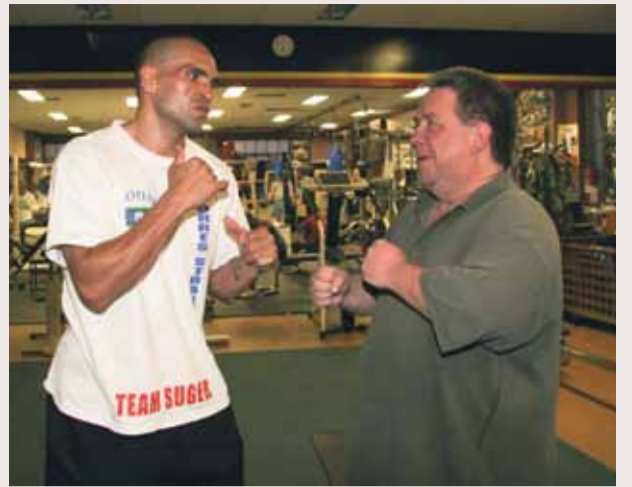
The encounter underlined to me why Trevor knew so many people and why so many people knew Trevor. It showed the important role that Trevor played in knitting the social fabric of Darlington, it brought together some of

the issues Trevor cared about politically and religiously and I suspect Trevor thought there was an opportunity for a future debate or a *SSH* article there also.

We will all miss Trevor and the role he played in our community. If there is one way we can help Trevor's spirit live on it is by talking to our neighbours, building community and remembering that the people around us really matter.

Geoffrey Turnbull
23 June 2011

Thanks to Robyn Fortescue, President, Darlington ALP Branch, Sue Wicks the ALP Branch Secretary before Trevor, and Greens Councillor Irene Dounthey for the use of their memories of Trevor.



rarely without great effort. I not only recognise this double, triple movement in the life of my friend, I also feel the force of it as a personal challenge. Trevor's life and death renew a soul-searching: What am I called to be and to do? What do I love when I love my God? How does my life make for freedom, hope, genuine safety and happiness in others?

It's a properly Christian challenge, and it wouldn't be untrue to say there's a gift-like quality – a graciousness – in the death of one who lived so faithfully. Trevor's death, in good time, will open a space for others, many spaces for others. This is not so shocking with reference to one whose Saviour died for others.

I'm only just beginning to appreciate what I've learned from Trevor. He taught by doing, by trying, by not giving up. I have a terrible sense of direction. Really terrible. But I realised a few days ago that I pretty much know my way around South Sydney. "Turn left," Trevor would say as we made our way in the GoGet van from the printer's in Marrickville, through the streets of Newtown, to Darlington, Glebe, Kings Cross, Surry Hills, Redfern, Waterloo, Eveleigh, Alexandria, Erskineville. "Turn left, always!" He never grew tired of that joke.

Who'd have thought a little congregation and an army of volunteers could produce a community newspaper each month for well over 10 years. Vladimir, Dorothy, Ali, Esther, Jonathan, John and I still marvel at what appears the impossible. But it is possible. By the grace of God, it really is.

Here's the good news. Because there is a light the darkness will not overwhelm you. Because there is a light you may walk in it. Because Trevor Davies, in the Light of One whose commandments are encouragements to give and receive love, has shown you how to make connections in the community, how to maintain friendships, how to care for your neighbourhood, you will not be alone. You are not alone.

Abridged version of homily by Rev. Andrew Collis, given at the funeral service for Trevor Edward Davies, Pitt Street Uniting Church, June 23, 2011.

TRIBUTES

The SSH has been inundated with condolences and tributes to Trevor. Thank you for taking the time to write and send your words. The following is a selection of tributes, many of which have been abridged. Full texts are available on the South Sydney Uniting Church website: www.southsydneyuniting.org.au

"ARE YOU A JOURNALIST?" he asked. "No," I replied, "but I'd like to be." And with that, I met Trevor Davies for the first time.

We exchanged our details, like so many do in an industry where networking is everything. But within days I was confronted by Trevor's want to get me involved. What began as a passive request – "Can you write a story for the *South Sydney Herald*?" – over time morphed into a demanding but endearing, "How are you going with that story? When will you be able to file?"

In offering me the opportunity to write for the *SSH* I thought that Trevor was more than a lucky neighbour to have; here was a man who wanted to help me reach my goal.

While Trevor never had any children of his own, for those, like myself, whom he offered the opportunity to write and tell stories, we became his children.

Just like a father would, Trevor never let me forget one of the first stories that I handed in, riddled with puerile puns and toilet humour. A naturally risible bloke, whenever Trevor would recall instances of my undergraduate humour and churlish quips it triggered his chortles. And like so many things that tickled Trevor, once he got going it was hard to know what it was that made him giggle, as the punch lines and points got lost in laughter.

Over a very short period, I, like many other amateur writers whom he fostered, grew very close to Trevor. As my editor he put himself out there so that I could get in close to the story. He had the contacts that allowed us to find the truth; he knew the people we had to speak to in order to build the true narrative; he wanted us to "sex the story up a bit", but never to compromise on integrity.

Any issue in South Sydney, Trevor was across it. And it wasn't long before his children were experts, able to tell the side of those often neglected and forgotten. This was one of Trevor's greatest strengths and his community is stronger for his relentless effort.

I'm glad I've been able to tell stories for Trevor. He stood for telling the stories that needed to be told, that deserved to be told

and should be told.

Personally, Trevor was more than my editor. Trevor was my mentor, and he was also my friend. And I feel in my heart that he rests soundly, knowing that South Sydney will never be the same without him, and that it will never be the same because of him.

Nicholas McCallum

I FEEL EXTREMELY blessed to have known Trevor during the two-and-a-half years that I have written for the *South Sydney Herald*. Trevor was a wonderfully patient man who always spoke words of encouragement to me, and I will miss him very much.

Brendan Wong

IT IS A shock and a great sadness to hear of Trevor Davies' passing. Trevor will be dearly missed by all the journalists who have ever written for the *South Sydney Herald*.

As an editor he had a sharp insight into the issues facing South Sydney, and strongly believed in ethical journalism that matters to the community. An encouraging and understanding editor, he was constantly ready to let beginning journalists grow their passion for reporting.

He has left a mark on many reporters' lives and we will always remember him.

Doug Dingwall

A NOTE OF thanks mate! A smile & a tear mate, to your always good-humoured patience & persistence in retaining me as a South Sydney Herald casual newspaper deliverer, which became a bit of a regular thing, over the past several months, rain or shine. Trolleys to the wind my friend as we helped get the papers to the people. Journey well my friend.

Reece Meredith

DEAR TREV, I know you've departed us for another world, where you will probably start another kind of newspaper – riling, honest, a tribute to Lady Justice,

compassionate – but I thought I would write you anyway to reflect on your life, most of it spent in Redfern, or more precisely, Darlington, which is the skinniest suburb around but is really a subject to your beloved region: Redfern. As you once said to me in these approximate words: "Redfern isn't a suburb, it's life."

You lived your latter 33 years here, most of them huddled in the small but cosy apartment in Edward Street whose name references the monarchy under which you were born in East Tilbury, England. You never told me East Tilbury was an outpost of London on the Thames, home to the blue-collar manufacturing worker and a fortress to stop the French raiding the kingdom's capital. Funny, but it was these traits you would eschew in your adult life, never relenting on the rights of the battlers and defending them like a fortress against sieges of racism, ignorance and inhumanity.

You mustn't remember much of the 10 years you spent in East Tilbury before your parents hauled you onto a large boat to collect their 10 pounds a head from the Australian Government. I wonder what you thought when you landed in Bradford, north of Manly, the first point of call for the Davies clan with their two daughters and diminutive son. When you started at Chatswood High in 1968, I imagine your accent would have been ripe, but not unfamiliar. You told me it was there that you experienced your first injustice in the form of an alpha male sports master spotting your stumpy legs and disinterest in running about in the warm weather and labelling you a "fairy".

What a loss, then, to lose your father to an asthma attack just three years after arriving in this country. That must have been a gutting and galvanising experience. You once told me, from that day forth, justice would be your quest (bridled with your compassion and friendship). That flame of equity burned a pathway bright into the halls of Bible College in 1976 where you found a distinct lack of groovy people. But you didn't need their whimpering prayers. For all the respect you had for the Word and the Lord, you didn't need an old guidebook to tell you the difference between what was right and wrong. And what better place than Redfern to wield your discernment.

Aboriginal people were returning to the area when you moved there in 1978, thanks to the Whitlam Government's allotment of housing to the Aboriginal Housing Company. It was on this political and emotional land that you chose to enact your love of justice and join the Labor Party. In 1983, party members identified your potential and nominated you Branch

Secretary. Through the '80s you must have watched the rise of materialism and right-wing ideologies with awe and disenchantment. By the time the '90s rolled around, and the dawning of the "Keating era", it was time for you to reignite the flame. It came in the form of the Chippo Newsletter, an A3 sheet that hit the streets in 1991 with individual stories and details of the next Politics in the Pub session. I remember you telling me how you would run to the printers every month and then back to the office of an inner-city politician to photocopy all 2,000 editions in readiness for distribution. Which you would do yourself, as you did with the *SSH* up until your death, with a dogged commitment, and a trolley trailing your steady frame.

With the help of one committed Russian (Vladimir), the *South Sydney Herald* masthead was born. Within a decade, the *SSH* grew to 22,000 copies, and you were breaking news like it was morning bread, thanks to your on-the-ground news sources on your distribution run.

John Howard would keep your inner torch burning, but ironically enough, it was a fellow member of the Labor Party that would provoke your ire. Frank Sartor made an attack on the place you loved and cherished: Redfern. He talked about high-rise developments, the beginning of a long and dense corridor to the airport, and the overhauling of that dirty Block and all the trouble it had created. Never one to let party loyalty stop you from pointing out where someone had crossed the line, you put the *SSH* and your 22,000 monthly babies to work. It was State Government versus Trevor Davies and crew and the kind of punches you threw and defence you showed would have impressed local pugilists Tony Mundine and his son. You were light on your toes Trev, ever moving, ever sparring, knowing when to retreat, knowing when to attack, the lady with her scales (I know how you liked your female deities and figureheads) hovering behind you, willing you on to victory. You were a natural. It must have been sweeter than one of your teas (with the two tea bags and three heaps of sugar) to see Sartor leave the Block, and eventually state politics. A quiet KO.

You must have slept happily those nights. And there were plenty of other fights, too. How many times did *Sydney Morning Herald* journalists call you for leads? And how many times did local, state and even federal members in the area wait nervously for the arrival on their doorsteps of the month's *SSH*?

I still imagine you in your apartment, the distribution done, ABC radio on volume level 9, the fax machine binging the arrival

TRIBUTES

MEMORIAL BOOK

The following is a selection of entries from a Memorial Book in honour of Trevor.

Since Trevor's death, many people have dropped by the Darlington Newsagency in Abercrombie Street to write messages of farewell and tribute. Thanks to Louisa Dyce, Andrew Packham and Belinda Theng for initiating and maintaining the Book, and to Di Everingham for transcribing the messages.

of a new press release every 10 minutes – you up at 5am and reading all the major headlines, sizing up stories and angles for the next edition.

You were a legend, Trev. I know there have been many great and idyllic people to grace the Redfern area, and how you once campaigned to have a statue erected in Redfern Park of Keating, in honour of his now famous Redfern Speech, but I was thinking Trev, and don't respond too quickly: What would you think about a monument in memory of yourself? Nothing grandiose, but what about you holding the scales of justice? Or you, bronzed, next to a newspaper stand where people could pick up the paper, still delivering the printed word, with the words "God bless you" inscribed beneath? You laugh now, and yes I know, I can get ahead of myself at times, but you were like a father figure, and in the spirit of that love, I think you deserve nothing less. Please drop by some time, Trev. We'd love to see your silhouette on the streets of Redfern again. God bless.

Ben Falkenmire

TODAY I MAKE a private member's statement about the sad passing of a valued member of my community, Trevor Davies. Trevor was a man who lived for those around him, as a passionate advocate for his local community in the Redfern-Waterloo area and a long-time secretary of the Darlington Branch of the Labor Party, as a founder and news editor of the *South Sydney Herald*, and as an active and generous elder of his church, the South Sydney Uniting Church. Trevor was a friend to many, a true inner-city character, and those who knew him admired his commitment to social justice and his integrity in remaining true to his ideals and values. Trevor passed away following a heart attack on Tuesday 14 June 2011 at the age of 55.

Trevor is a great example of how individuals can make a difference in the lives of those around them. Trevor was a community activist who genuinely put into practice his belief in the importance of compassion and justice for all people in our society. For example, when concerns were raised locally regarding policies and plans for the Redfern-Waterloo area, Trevor made sure the community had a voice. He was one of the founding members of the REDWatch community group, which monitors plans for the local area, makes recommendations and advocates for outcomes that benefit the community. The group remains a strong, progressive presence reviewing projects taking place in Redfern-Waterloo, and its ongoing efforts are a testament to people like Trevor, who care for their community and take action to pursue outcomes that aim to benefit the community as a whole.

Trevor could only be described as a passionate man; he did everything with gusto and good intentions. He fought for what he believed in and was involved in many campaigns and protests over the years, whether it was to save housing in The Block at Redfern or to fight against homophobia, racism and poverty more broadly. He was devoted to these causes in the same way that he was devoted to the independence of the media, his politics and his church. Trevor was a strong advocate for greater internal democracy within the Australian Labor Party. Trevor did perhaps some of his best work in his support for and work with the local Aboriginal community in Redfern and Waterloo. He was a strong supporter of the Pemulwuy Project of the Aboriginal Housing Company and it was through Trevor that I first became aware of the fantastic work of The Settlement in Darlington, which provides support

for children and young people in the Darlington area.

I will always remember Trevor for his endless energy for campaigning, his quick-talking presence for which political opponents were no match, and as someone who proudly wore his politics pinned to his sleeve. Whenever I met him in the electorate in Darlington I could be certain to find him engaged with people on the street, at a cafe, or at a street stall, always talking, always opinionated, and always looking to the next project or the next article he would write. Trevor's network of contacts and his knowledge about what was happening were legendary. Trevor's monthly column, "Have You Heard: The Fast News", always had its focus on issues facing his community and there was often a bit of local or political history thrown in. In his last column he wrote of the battles in local Labor branches in years gone by to save the Erskineville housing estate.

Trevor did not write the stories or get involved with these movements just to have an argument. He did it because he believed that local people with local knowledge have a lot to offer, and that people in positions where decisions are made should always be prepared to listen and respond to what people have to say. The people of Darlington and Redfern will notice the huge gap that has been left by Trevor's passing. I hope that his memory will inspire people to get actively involved in their local community and to stand up for the things they believe in. I am very fortunate to represent an electorate with a proud tradition of activism and of communities coming together to fight for their beliefs. I hope to see that continue in Trevor's memory, and I am sure it will.

Trevor has been described as irreplaceable, a local legend, a grassroots activist, a forthright publisher, an unflinching friend of Labor, a man of strong faith and a caring friend. I remember him as an unswerving supporter and a passionate advocate for the Darlington community in my electorate. I feel privileged to have known Trevor. Our many discussions and debates on issues both local and broad were stimulating and thought provoking. While we did not always agree, Trevor always made me think carefully about my position on issues, see things from another perspective and often revisit my approach. I pass on my sincere condolences and sympathy to all those who are mourning his loss. The communities I represent and indeed New South Wales have been very fortunate to have benefited from the passion, dedication and hard work of Trevor Davies. He will be missed by many.

**Carmel Tebbutt
MP Marrickville**

AS ONE MEMBER of the Redfern and South Sydney area I would like to extend my condolences to the family of our Mate Trevor Davies! Our mate Trevor was a passionate Labor Party member, Redfern and South Sydney community member, a proud South Sydney Herald reporter and true local community Icon ... We'll miss your yarns and passionate drive for our community ... This is a sad loss to Redfern. You are, were and will be a Brother to us mate!

**Shane Phillips
CEO, Tribal Warrior Association**

THE REDFERN-WATERLOO Authority would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of Trevor Davies to the local community.

Trevor was a member and Elder of South Sydney Uniting Church and the founding editor of the *South Sydney Herald*. Trevor was also one of the foundation members of REDWatch and was known to many people within the local community.

In all of his roles, Trevor always demonstrated tremendous commitment and passion and had a great sense of community spirit. He will be sadly missed.

**Ray Wakelin-King
CEO, Redfern Waterloo Authority**

IN THE EARLY days of the Whitlam Era the Labor Party members met regularly at the Town Hall to advise the new government on policy and practice about Darlington/Redfern. Trevor Davies offered his services to the party as a street cleaner. Trevor cut a good labourer working on the streets and gutters. Col James was acting as a patron of the party. He was able to offer Trevor a new house in Edward Street next to the Settlement. This Trevor occupied for years and was a local figure acting for grass roots policies for Labor. Trevor was a good foot soldier and eventually took up the role of Labor rep reporting to the Party reps at Town Hall. Trevor became the nominal Labor representative. He became a valuable Party member and a strong fighter for Labor policy on the ground. Trevor loved Labor and kept the faith.

Col James

STILL CANNOT BELIEVE that you are gone. Trevor, you are a true champion. I will forever remember your daily visits to the shop. You are one of the most compassionate people I have ever come across. I will forever hold a place for you in my heart.

TREVOR, WE'LL MISS you sitting in the café, sitting in the corner with your Souths gear on. And you'll always be our paper boy!

Redfern Community Centre

DEAR TREVOR AND his family, Thank you for being such a community spirited person. You always knew everyone's name and a bit about them. You will be sorely missed, especially your raising of people's awareness of those in our community less fortunate.

Jacquie Ny

TREVOR – thinking of you today, tomorrow and lots. We will miss you so much.

**Love Michelle and
Quincy the dog**

TREVOR, YOU HAVE been so much part of our community. Literally around every corner, mostly wherever I walked have you been there, you were present – I will remember you and be reminded of you as I continue to walk the streets of Darlington.

DEAR TREVOR, NOW you are in Heaven, I need a favour from you to find my family and tell them I really love them and very soon I will see them again. You were a good person and I will never forget you when I have my breakfast at the best restaurant in Chippendale. Goodbye. I loved you like a son.

Poppy

I AM SO sad that Trev is gone, he was such a personality, a ray of warmth and eternal cheerfulness no matter what, a huge force for good. May the path he has shown us stay wide open.

WE WILL MISS your smiling face and great sense of humour. You were such a great guy. Loved coming into the newsagency to see you because you would always ask me my name (Luisa). Hopefully you will remember me from above. Rest in peace and lots of love.

**Patrick, Luisa, Zac and
Zander McKay. Xoxoxoxo**

TREVOR – wow – what a man. Knew everyone by first name. Many, many names and always in for a chat. A true man for others.

Glen Joseph

HI TREVOR, I know in my heart of hearts that you are watching over us and making sure that we carry on. You will be in my thoughts.

Jennifer Bosweg

TAKEN SO YOUNG. Left many memories. You will not be forgotten

Robert, Huey, Molly

TREVOR WAS AN amazing fellow and a vital focal point for the local neighbourhood. He was always engaged on some communal enterprise and seemed to know everyone! He was always kind to me, ready with a cheerful greeting and an interested enquiry about what I was up to. I have no doubt he'll be pouring the same energy and warmth into his new community – and we'll all get to share a coffee up there eventually.

Margaret

MATE, THAT WAS a fast exit. I hope you remembered to pack your toothbrush. Have fun in your new place and we'll all see you soon.

Clare

THANK YOU FOR all your love and all the smiles you have given to me and my family. Darlington will miss you and I will be looking for you every time I am sitting in the Tripod having a coffee. I know you were a part of a lot of different lives. Thank you for being you.

**All my love Brianna Murphy
xxx**

TREVOR, YOUR RAISED-eyebrow smile and probing questions welcomed me to Darlington twenty-seven years ago, and have continued to make this place a great community. Give the angels hell.

Best, Stephen

TREVOR, YOU'LL TRY I'm sure to convince God that he should vote Labor but I suspect that he'll inform you that he's a Capitalist who makes a profit and only takes 10 per cent.

TREV, WE'LL MISS you – and wait in joyful hope to meet you again. Heaven is going to be a lot more interesting now you're there!

Gai

HEY, TREVOR, I must have seen you every day I lived here, just about. We always talked politics and often disagreed, but we always said we were on the same side, and I don't think there's anyone else that's truer

than you. You're an awesome guy.
Mike and Frankie

DEAR TREV, TOO many good times to recount. I won't forget the things you did for me both career and life wise. You were one of a kind and irreplaceable. Hopefully that park gets named after you. Redfern loved ya, mate.

Joe Correy

TREVOR, YOU ARE and always will be in my heart, my friend, my comrade and champion of our community. In a world where labels are common and often don't reflect the true, you really were a true Christian and a great Labor man. You stood for something and cared for all. I hope that we are able to in a small way take up your care for us and honour it each day. You will be my "Light on the Hill". Farewell Comrade and friend.

Jill Lay

TREVOR, WE'LL MISS your articles in the South Sydney Rag. It was always good to read, fighting for Redfern and Darlington community, giving a voice to an amazing area to live!

TREVOR, I KNEW you for such a short time but can say with confidence that you were Tripod's fussiest but most adored customer. You will be sorely missed!

T. Nicholl

DEAR TREVOR – I'll miss you struggling up Ivy Lane (as I do) and your chats about Labor politics while delivering the South Sydney Herald. After 26 (?) years, Darlo won't be the same without you.

Xx Penny

COMRADE TREVOR, NOTHING will be same around Darlington – you were the heart of our locale. We'll keep the branch fires burning for you, our local hero and true believer.

Love Robyn

O TREV, YOU were Darlington! Sorry I was always in a rush to get somewhere when I met you. You were a grande comrade for Robyn and the Labor Party.

God bless, Rosie Xxxx

LOVE, LIGHT, PEACE and happiness to you, my friend. May you rest in warmth and smiles.

Amanda

TREVOR, THANKS FOR all your works and wiles over the years. You've given us all lots to remember.

Lizzie Ramage

TO TREVOR, I knew you for twenty years. I'm from Chippendale Takeaway. You were our best customer, a good person, always very happy, very caring of people, with a wicked sense of humour. I loved the nickname that you gave me which was "Sexy Anthea". Always you will be in my heart. I will miss you. Rest in peace, Trevor.

Love from Anthea Bletsoginis

FRIEND, MATE, COMRADE, You made the world a brighter place. Thanks for the friendship. Love ya work. Love you always.
Colin and Donna

TREVOR, WE'LL ALL miss you – you were always happy to stop and chat and your identity was such a part of Darlington. The regular 'updates' we received were so much of the fabric of daily life around here. To walk into the paper shop or a coffee shop and not see your face will mean a part of daily life is missing. How will I keep up with Labor politics now?
Margo (Kingston) Brown

IN THE SHORT time that I knew you – we had our differences. It was great knowing you. RIP.

Michael

DEAR TREV, THERE will always be a seat on our verandah for you – somewhere to rest your weary body when you come to collect the South Sydney Herald for delivery, and borrow yet another one of our numerous red trolleys. RIP.

**Love Di, Stan,
Cecilia and Joe**

I REMEMBER A conversation with Trevor one morning in the paper shop. We were talking politics and Trevor mentioned how he had once kissed Belinda Neal (Federal Labor Party) at a Labor function. He was quite chuffed. Trev, you were deeply woven in the local fabric and you will be sorely missed.

Mat Poole

THE "SOCIALIST LEFT" of the Labor party had one minute's silence last Saturday for Trevor.

Sally Quilter

TREVOR, WE WILL miss your smile and the way you talk to people.

Ming – Chip & Dale Takeaway

TREVOR, WE KNOW you for so many years. We will always remember you and we'll all miss you.

Chippendale Scoop

WILL MISS YOU Trev! It won't be the same without you, bud!

Ray

MISS YOU, ALREADY, and we didn't even know each other. Keep smiling.

Love Koe, Gaillia, Dave

WE WILL ALL miss our dearly loved true character.

Donald

HOW VERY SAD, a true local character.

Lisa and Tim

MISSING YOU BIG time my little mate. You were a good man, Trevor.

Michael

LOVE AND PEACE to you, Trevor, our friend and neighbour. You were a selfless man and will always be remembered as the Heart and Soul of the Darlington community.

**Mary Ellen McCue,
Colin and Lincoln Sharp**

There glows the neighbourhood!

Story - page 2



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PERMANENT FREEZE ON LIVE EXPORTS

SANDRA BEESTON

DARLINGTON: Much has been written lately about the live export trade following the Four Corners documentary covering the mistreatment of Australian cattle in some Indonesian abattoirs. The images were so violent and graphic that the documentary provoked a national outrage and animal welfare groups and individuals pressured the government for a ban on the live export trade. Despite the arguments from beef producers and Meat & Livestock Australia that a ban would hurt the economy and cause numerous job losses, the government has implemented a temporary ban for the next six months. Representatives from graziers associations are currently negotiating with the Federal Government to have the ban lifted as soon as possible and find other alternatives to prevent animal cruelty.

One vocal opponent of the live export is Sy Woon, a veterinary student at Sydney University, who took up the position of Director of the University of Sydney Animal Welfare Society two years ago. The WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) approached Ms Woon asking her to participate in the "Humane Chain", a campaign whose aim is to enrol Australian universities into competition for the largest number of letters demanding a ban on live exports sent to Members of Parliament.

Sydney University came second with 500 letters, a great achievement according to Ms Woon's team (Southern Cross University came first with 600 letters). She welcomes the recent temporary ban on live exports, but says that it is not good enough: "Our society is against live exports, we want it to end, not only with a temporary suspension. It's been going on for almost two decades, and yet, improvements have supposedly



Sy Woon supports ban on live exports Photo: Supplied

been made and this is the result of the improvements. It is ridiculous that more hasn't been done, and it's ridiculous that, because it's been exposed to the public, now they are deciding to make some changes."

Ms Woon said the problem doesn't lie only with the slaughtering conditions: "The animals have to be transported from here by ship to distant country areas, and that's also a welfare concern." She doesn't think that exporting cattle only to the A-grade Indonesian abattoirs is good enough: "I don't know how well regulated they necessarily will be."

According to Ms Woon, instead of putting resources into making regulations in those countries, we

should consider the viable option of frozen exports. "The government needs to put more efforts into considering other alternatives. So many people are in support of switching to the frozen export trade; not just animal welfare campaigners, many people in the meat industry also think it's a viable option." She cites the example of Fremantle Council who passed a policy last year in support of switching from live sheep exports to frozen exports. Despite the risk of job losses for graziers, she said: "It is not justifiable to keep people in jobs that are fuelling cruelty and abuse ... I think a lot of jobs will actually open up if we do switch to the frozen export trade."

Soon after the ABC documentary

aired, comparisons were drawn between live exports and the Government's plan to send asylum seekers to Malaysia - a country known for its bad record on human rights - with the underlying observation that the plight of cows seemed to draw more sympathy from the Australians than that of the asylum seekers. Ms Woon thinks that perhaps "we haven't seen shocking images of what these people could endure or face". Even though she had known about live export trade for a long time, the images she saw on ABC in May shocked her: "Animal Australia, RSPCA and Four Corners have done such an amazing job in presenting it to the public, and I guess

if people saw more of the behind-the-scenes of what's happening with the asylum seekers, then maybe they would be similarly shocked."

The slaughtering methods depicted in the Four Corners documentary were understood to be Halal, even though they have been condemned by Muslim leaders, including a senior Indonesian cleric, as well as by an Australian Halal certification organisation. There has been a lot of contention between Muslim authorities from Western countries and more conservative Muslim countries about whether stunning the animal before slaughtering complies to the halal method, which requires the animal to be alive and conscious before being killed. Ms Woon said that the Halal method can be humane as long as the animals are stunned prior to being slaughtered, a practice supported by Lyn White from Animals Australia who exposed the offending Indonesian abattoirs. According to WSPA, more than 70 per cent of Australian abattoirs are Halal accredited and are using the stunning method. Asked if this controversy risks feeding the current anti-Muslim sentiment in Australia, Ms Woon said: "It is really unfortunate that people bring that issue into it, because regardless of whether it was Halal slaughter method, it is just cruel."

Facebook's founder Mark Zuckerberg made the headlines last month by declaring that he would only eat meat of animals he had killed himself. "I didn't see that as being necessarily cruel, I actually thought that was more responsible than what most people do, which is avoid or remain ignorant about where their meat comes from", said Ms Woon, who after years of "vegequarianism" (a diet without meat, but including fish), recently became a vegan.

Ms Woon said that people should be more aware in general about where their food comes from, even here in Australia: "Ignorance is bliss... it's just avoiding reality."

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Home again in Redfern

SANDRA BEESTON

REDFERN: Four years after she had to move out of her Walker Street townhouse to make way for the Redfern East redevelopment project, Jill Edwards is finally back in her beloved neighbourhood.

"I'm happy to be back in the area I was reared in," she said. "My mother and father moved in on Walker Street when I was a new baby."

She and her family had to move out in 2007 when Housing NSW decided to redevelop the estate built on swamp land and showing serious signs of deterioration. Jill says that cracks were showing and that it wasn't safe anymore.

She says that a lot of people were apprehensive, and some community meetings were held by Housing, which she attended with her father, Fred Makin, a respected community figure and husband of late Redfern activist Betty Makin, who has now also passed away.

Initially worried about trading their six-bedroom house for a smaller unit, they thought it would probably work out better as they would need less space as they grew older and as kids would move out. Jill was then moved to a private home in Alexandria, where she met nice people, but couldn't quite settle: "Now I feel like I'm home, but while I was in Alexandria I was not as happy."

The redevelopment was completed in November 2010, but it turned out that a

lot of people didn't wish to come back: "I wanted to come back, my daughter wanted to come back." She and her family, as long-term residents, were able to choose their house, while the majority of the other vacant dwellings were distributed through a ballot, and others were given to tenants on a priority list.

The new development project has won numerous awards, including a Five Star "Green Star" rating, by aiming to reduce energy and water consumption. It now comprises 106 dwellings, a mixture of one- and two-bedroom apartments and townhouses. Jill is very happy with her two-bedroom unit: "I am feeling very relaxed back home here, I enjoy it. I've got a little bit of space and a lovely garden at the front, and it's roomy enough."

Since her return in November 2010, Jill has joined an art class held every Friday afternoon at the Poet's Corner community room, where she enjoys meeting with the other long-term residents.

She says she likes the diversity of people living in the area: "I have worked for 20 years with Centrelink with the same type of people that are in my community, so I saw the people that are vulnerable, the people with mental health issues, the people coming out of prison, the single mothers, the widows ... that's my community in Redfern anyway, so I'm used to it."

Jill has been involved in community work since she was a teenager and talks proudly about the Betty Makin Youth Awards, to which she and her family are



Jill Edwards and grand-daughter in their new home. Photo: Ali Blogg

invited every year: "My parents were both community-minded people, we were very fortunate us kids."

"My mother opened up numerous agencies around here; she did it for her community, unconcerned by who they were, as long as they were part of her community. Being a good person doesn't mean you're wealthy, doesn't mean you've got everything; being a good person means that you can extend your hand out and help somebody and not take everything for yourself."

She appreciates the acknowledgement of her parents by the people who knew

them when they were still alive: "The people in the street know me, it's very warm. ... A lot of them come up to me and cuddle me and say: 'Oh Jill you're like your mother!' No, she's better than me! I'm not that much like Mum."

She enjoys having her relatives close by again: "Mum and Dad would have loved to see us back here now. ... My brothers and sisters love it: they call in because it's like my mum's home again, you know."

"Where you're reared is how you feel. ... A lot of people want to travel overseas: I don't want to go anywhere, I'm happy where I am."

SSH



Photo: Mo

There glows the neighbourhood

KIERAN ADAIR

REDFERN: Christmas came early on Caroline Street last month, as residents lit up the footpaths with holiday lights.

The Light Up Caroline Street project, supported by the City of Sydney Council, saw each house given a set of coloured light rope to hang from their balconies in the shape of inspirational or meaningful words.

Many residents have gotten creative with the project, with one couple using the light rope to construct a bike alongside their word, "ride", and another simply writing, "banana".

"I think the hardest thing for everyone was to work out what their word would be", said Dianne Todaro, lead organiser of the project. "It was just pure fun."

Light Up Caroline Street drew inspiration from Norrie mAy-welby, a well-known Sydney personality, and

resident of the street. Norrie has had the word, "LOVE", displayed in bright red lights from her balcony for quite some time.

"We were standing on the street one night, when Dianne looked up at Norrie's lights on the balcony and said, 'Wouldn't it be great if we all had a word on our balcony?'" Craigh Hull, co-organiser of the project, remembers. "I went on to tell her about the City of Sydney grants available to pull together such projects, and it just rolled on from there."

"This is the bestest Christmas ever, for real real!" Norrie said.

Walking down Caroline Street at night the enthusiasm, and excitement is unmistakable.

"I'm new to the neighbourhood; the lights have given the whole street a really friendly atmosphere where we can get to know our neighbours", said resident Chloe Northover. "Each set of lights shows a side of our personalities."

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Apology & Correction

Re. our story of last month, "Lay ups or laid up?", the SSH offers an unreserved apology for several inaccuracies.

It should not have been inferred that Glebodome (not Glebodrome) is in any way critical of Council, on whose facilities it depends. George Doech is one of the founders of the group, not the founder of the group; there is one veteran of 55 years, not a number of veterans of 55. Mr Doech does not have, nor has he ever had, a broken leg. SSH

Looking for John

A bricklayer in the late '70s early '80s in the Redfern district. He spent some time in England and may have a sister in the area or close by also, would be around late 50s early to mid-60s currently. For any information you have please contact: catherinesmith619@hotmail.com or phone 0449 802 866

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THE YOUTH OF TODAY

Mentoring means skills for life

Tribal Warrior workout at the NCIE Photo: Andrew Collis

YOUTH OF TODAY IS A REGULAR ARTICLE ON LOCAL YOUTH AND RELATED ISSUES KINDLY SPONSORED BY: APPETITE CAFE, 82 REGENT ST, REDFERN, TEL 9699 4069



throughout as the barrier is broken down between police and kids, they acknowledge and respect each other, see each other in a different light.”

Supporting the program, the police force recognises the hard work and commitment of each participant by a sports bag award ceremony at their police muster once a month. Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, Kalmain Williams, said: “Those initiatives such as boxing and the bag ceremony all help to change the attitude of possible re-offenders and rubs off onto other kids, which all helps to lower the crime rate.”

Those values of commitment and hard work build to arm Aboriginal youth with the skills needed to get into the workforce and to stay there. Many of the individuals involved in the mentoring are youth released from juvenile detention who can attend workshops addressing timelines, goals, teamwork, conflict resolution and other role specific skills.

Professor of Criminology at UNSW, and member of Australian Indigenous Law Review, Chris Cuneen, said: “Mentoring is a useful approach and there hasn’t been enough support from NSW [Government] for mentoring programs, apart from support for individuals already in juvenile detention ... it’s really important that re-offenders out of detention also have mentoring and personal support to decrease the likelihood that they are going to end up back in jail.” According to Mr Cuneen, the cost of keeping someone in juvenile detention is \$589 each day. Developing community-based programs that reduce re-offending is a far more economical way of using tax-paying resources.

Marcelle Jordan, from the Department of Juvenile Justice, said that what makes this program effective is that there is no beginning and end to the mentoring. Instead, it provides ongoing support.

Mr Phillips said: “We don’t want handouts, we want to sustain a program that will last more than just a couple of years, that’s what we want from the government. We look at what’s happening now and climb the ladder together to the future.”

ELIZABETH HOGAN

REDFERN: One year on, the Tribal Warrior Association’s mentoring program is successfully steering Aboriginal youth into the workforce. The Redfern-based Tribal Warrior Association started as a maritime education facility for Aboriginal youth with a hands-on learning program 12 years ago. It has now expanded into a mentoring program teaching individuals the skills required to enter the workforce.

CEO of the Tribal Warrior Association, Shane Phillips, said: “We’re a self-help group, a local non-for-profit business keeping it simple in training kids how to adjust into the workforce, to benefit the generations to come.” The emphasis is on communicating with the employer and the individual about adapting to the new environment, role and responsibilities.

The catalyst for the mentoring program was the Babana Aboriginal Men’s Group. Discussing issues related to domestic violence, crime and other

deficits in the community induced the members to do something about empowerment.

Dedication is important, leading to self-discipline! The sessions start early at 6am with a boxing session at the Indigenous Learning Centre with members of the police force, youth from the neighbourhood, and community elders.

Director of Mentoring, Vic Morgan, said: “It’s important to engage the kids in something they love doing, and sport is a great medium. But it’s not just a fitness program, there are messages



Like so many others, I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Trevor Davies.

He was a good friend to many people and a passionate advocate for his local community with a genuine and deep commitment to social justice.

I always enjoyed meeting him because I could be sure he would raise relevant and often challenging issues. We will miss him in many ways.

Trevor was instrumental in our continuing dialogue with the Darlington community and most recently we had discussed a number of issues relating to the planned changes to the campus along Codrington and Abercrombie Streets.

Several recent meetings with the local community and with the Darlington Public School have been extremely helpful in bringing about refinements to the proposal.

In response to concerns from residents and parents of school children, we have relocated the entry to the basement carpark from Abercrombie Street to Darlington Lane and our traffic consultants are now assessing the traffic loading.

The University is also reconsidering the scale and design of the buildings particularly in relation to the streetscape along Abercrombie Street and Codrington Street.

The park on the corner of Abercrombie and Codrington will now be retained to be integrated in the development. This will allow for access for the community to traverse the precinct. Shadow diagrams are being double checked to ensure there is an accurate representation of the impact of overshadowing.

The University values your feedback and will continue to consult with the school and local community regarding these matters.

Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor

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Crew members of the "Freedom Flotilla 2" Photo: Ali Blogg

Challenging the Gaza blockade

PIP HINMAN

CHIPPENDALE: Three Australian activists joining the "Freedom Flotilla 2" were given a heartfelt farewell by Green Left Weekly at the Resistance Activist Centre on June 15.

They are about to leave to join activists from approximately 50 countries taking part in this latest international action to pressure Israel to lift the illegal blockade on Gaza. They have partnered with a Canadian organisation, and their boat "Tahrir" (Liberation) will carry approximately 50 passengers and crew.

Vivienne Porzsolt, spokesperson for Jews Against the Occupation, told the packed room that she could not abide what Israel is doing. "As a Jew I feel a special obligation to oppose it in the traditions of Jewish ethics abandoned by Israel and its Zionist supporters." Porzsolt said it was her secular Jewish background that led her to fully embrace the values of social justice, inclusiveness and the possibility of building a better world.

"I am sailing on the Freedom Flotilla to

Gaza to help pose a real challenge to the cruel illegal imprisonment of the people of Gaza and to make it visible to the world. We hope to shame all those governments who are complicit with this injustice and lawlessness. Ordinary people must act when their governments won't."

Sydney youth worker Michael Coleman said, like so many others, he was outraged by Israel's attack on the "Freedom Flotilla 1". Having spent three months in Nablus, in the West Bank, around the time of Operation Cast Lead, Coleman said he was witness to the "ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their own land". "It's not an Israel-Palestine conflict," Coleman said. "It's the oppression of Palestine by Israel, and it's got to stop."

"Israel sells itself as 'an island of stability and democracy in the Middle East'," said Sylvia Hale, a former NSW Greens MP. But while we cheer on the "Arab Spring" – the uprisings for democracy and economic justice across the Middle East – Israel shows up its hypocrisy by opposing moves by Egypt to open the Raffa border crossing. Ms Hale said she had four reasons for

taking part in the flotilla: to challenge Israel's right to impose a blockade – which is leading to economic degradation of Palestine; to help exert pressure on Israel to lift the blockade; to expose the conditions the people of Gaza have to endure under the blockade; and to pressure the Gillard government "to do something for the Palestinian people".

"Israel has been able to count on the US and Australia – in particular – as loyal allies," Ms Hale said. "We've sent a letter to the PM calling on her government to use its influence with Israel to lift the illegal blockade and ensure that the flotilla is not harmed in any way. We hope you will help us." SSH

To stay up to date with the "Freedom Flotilla 2", check the Palestine Relief Fund website. The participants will be blogging regularly and will also attempt to stay in touch via Skype. Facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=127042173984253 Twitter: @GFFAusGroup E: gffausgroup@gmail.com



Mourners gathered at the Pitt Street Uniting Church for the funeral of Trevor Davies Photo: Gai Smith



ADVERTISEMENT
Tanya Plibersek MP
Member for Sydney

Vale Trevor Davies

"I rise today for a very sad reason. I want to speak about Trevor Davies, a local identity in the Redfern and Darlington area for many years, who died very suddenly and unexpectedly over the weekend from a heart condition that had troubled him all his life. Trevor was born in Wales. He lived for the last 30 years in the Redfern area in public or community social housing. He was just the most dynamic man.

He was prevented from working. He had hip and knee problems, but he walked everywhere. With all of those things stacked against him, he still managed to run a very successful Politics in the Pub for many years. He ran a terrific debate between Fred Nile and the Prostitutes Collective about the legalisation of prostitution, for example.

He also started a small community newspaper—a newsletter, really—for ALP branch members, that became the South Sydney Herald which now publishes 22,000 copies each month and has about 400 hours of volunteer work involved in it. It is a terrific newspaper because it talks about the strengths of the local community and tells the stories of the local people, and people feel a very strong sense of ownership of the paper.

With his connection to the local community, strong friendships in the area and strong friendship with the Aboriginal community of Redfern, many of whom called him brother, Trevor will be sorely missed. He was a dedicated social activist to the end and he will be much missed."

EDITED TRANSCRIPT OF PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT, 16/06/11

Authorised by Tanya Plibersek MP, Labor Member for Sydney

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Redfern Mosque Photo: Ali Blogg

Support for local Mosque

NINA YOUNG

REDFERN: The Mosque in Cleveland Street has been a fixture of the suburb since the '70s and has become an integral part of the local community.

While global opinion on the Muslim faith may not always have been positive over the past decade, members of the Mosque say they have felt nothing but support and respect from the Redfern community.

President of The Redfern Islamic Society, Huseyin Erbas, said the Mosque is all about inclusion:

"The Redfern Islamic Society and the Mosque are very involved in the community. We have people coming here from all different cultural backgrounds, including Indigenous people from around

Redfern. We're here for everybody. We help out with practical things like finding employment, too."

The Mosque services the majority of the Muslim business people who work in the central Sydney CBD, as well as a large number of university students who travel there up to five times a day to pray.

Mr Huseyin said that the biggest change in recent years has been the number of younger people frequenting the Mosque: "In the past the Mosque has been a very serious and quiet place. That's different now. We still have time for quiet prayer but we also have a lot of fun and interesting things going on as well."

The Mosque runs a number of programs to cater to the local youth including guest speakers and recreational activities. Mr Huseyin said: "We have a lot of great

activities here that younger people really enjoy, we have pool tables and all kinds of fun events. We think having the Mosque available as a place for younger people to go is really important; it provides them with something fulfilling to do and keeps them off the streets."

The Redfern Islamic Society has also given back to the community and the country through numerous charity fundraisers including raising almost \$5,000 for the Premier's Disaster Relief fund last year.

The Mosque hosts daily prayer sessions and times can be found on the Redfern Islamic Society website. **SSH**

Anyone interested in learning more about the Mosque should make contact via the Facebook page or website.

City health officers tackle food safety

SSH

The City of Sydney is working with restaurants and cafes in the inner city to tackle one of the most common causes of salmonella food poisoning – raw egg dressings. Outbreaks of salmonella from raw eggs – found in everything from mayonnaise and Caesar salad dressing to milkshakes and mousses – are well documented.

Environmental health officers at the City developed a program last year to conduct food sample surveys that gather information and educate premises about the hazards of this widely used product and reduce local instances of salmonella outbreaks. A report released by the NSW Food Authority in June shows 87 per cent of samples gathered during the survey classified as "good" or "acceptable".

"More than one million people come into the City each day to work, shop or visit, so it's essential that we work closely with restaurants and cafes to ensure the highest standards possible," said Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP.

Raw egg dressings are widely used in restaurants and cafes and are often made in large batches. Many food premises have limited knowledge of the risks associated with mishandling raw egg products, for example allowing products to be kept outside of refrigeration for long periods.

Working in partnership with the NSW Food Authority, City environmental health officers developed a sampling action

plan and collected 107 samples of raw egg dressings across 46 food premises. A detailed hygiene survey was also carried out with each business visited. The survey found that some businesses required improvement in essential practices such as temperature control, establishing shelf life, egg separation techniques and cleaning.

Factsheets, guidance and free hygiene seminars have been provided to support businesses. Officers will conduct follow-up inspections to ensure that any issues have been addressed.

Tips for maintaining high safety standards around raw egg dressings: Do not use cracked, broken or dirty eggs; Store eggs in their carton and in a refrigerator until ready to use; Use an egg separator rather than hands or the shell to separate eggs; Refrigerate prepared dressings at or below 5°C. Make products fresh each day. Sanitise all equipment before and after use.

"While a significant proportion of premises inspected by the City are found to be clean, safe and run by operators who understand the importance of food hygiene, there are still a very small number where it is necessary to use enforcement action to deal with matters which present a risk to public health," said Ms Moore. **SSH**

More information is available in the NSW Food Authority's report and new fact sheet - Safe handling of raw egg products - please visit: www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au For more on food inspections in the City: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/business

Inner Sydney Regional Council invites you to attend:

Our Future Community – The Challenge of Change

A conference for community organisations to discuss how the NGO and community sector will deal with the changing face of our city in line with the changing demographics of the area and the City of Sydney's 2030 Sustainability Plan.

The day will include:

- Lord Mayor Clover Moore as Opening Speaker
- Keynote speaker, Eva Cox
- A panel of experts chaired by Helen Campbell, focussing on topics like gentrification, density and demographics
- Janet Green facilitating an interactive Café Conversations afternoon session.

Date: Wednesday 20th July 2011
Time: 9.00am – 4.00pm
Location: Sydney Town Hall House, 456 Kent St, Sydney
Cost: \$65 (includes lunch and refreshments)

For more information or to book please contact Char Jones on 9698 7960 or email char.jones@innersydneyrcsd.org.au

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Jubilee Park, Glebe
Sunday 3 July, 11am – 3pm
- Flag Raising Ceremony
Redfern Community Centre,
Hugo St, Redfern
Monday 4 July, 11am
- Family & Sports Day
National Centre of Indigenous Excellence,
180 George Street, Redfern
Friday 8 July, 2011, 9am – 4pm
- Woolloomooloo Family Day
Forbes Street Reserve and
Plunkett Street School, Woolloomooloo
Saturday 9 July, 10.00am – 4pm



Erko Estate Photo: Ali Blogg

Housing estate victory teaches value of social capital

NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

ERKINEVILLE: In what could serve as an instructional video on grassroots resistance to development, *Saving Erko Estate* is a DVD released to commemorate the objections of a handful of public housing tenants in 2002 who successfully fought off the state government's plans to knock down their small estate. The just released DVD is being used by the fledgling Groundswell coalition whose aim is to rally seemingly disconnected groups in order to fight for their rights to be consulted about the future of public housing estates in Redfern and Waterloo.

Saving Erko Estate tells an uplifting story of how, over five months, a community of "public housing tenants and yuppies" came together to battle bureaucrats and confront consultants to eventually win over the heart of the Minister for Housing, Dr Andrew Refshauge.

In 2002 the Department of Housing quietly informed residents of the garden estate that sits on Swanson Street and borders Erskineville Park that their homes had been flagged for renewal and redevelopment. The redevelopment would have seen the 146 public housing units turned into 400, with all new units being private dwellings.

Hal Alexander, a charming elderly resident, tells of how what began in its nascent stage as a "revolt of the mushrooms" exploded into a community-wide struggle that brought together singles, couples, families, retirees, the elderly and the infirm. "We do not need regeneration or gentrification," he states. Hal reflects on the historical significance of the area in relation to fights over housing evictions, especially the battles of the 1920s and 30s that led to riots on Union Street.

Philomena Watson, an elegantly dressed elderly resident who had lived in the area since 1939 and watched the estate being built before moving in at the end of the Depression, proudly shows

off her resplendent flowerbed that sits between two schools. "The children going past take great pleasure in picking those to give to their mother, or someone - even to me", she exclaims of her purple daisies.

A second-generation resident of the estate, Deb Taylor, commented on the incredulity of the department's intention to knock down a functioning public housing community when there were others in the state more in need of repair and redevelopment. "When the department wanted to evict us, or threatened to evict us in the name of progress, I can honestly say that my mum aged about 10 years. And so did many of the older members of the community with the worry of losing that security," she said.

"And that security doesn't come from four walls and bricks and mortar", Deb continued, with reference to the community spirit that meant so much to the residents. "The threat of losing that social security was a lot for the older people to bear."

The proof of the resilience of that

ENVIRONMENT

Could Regent Street be two-way again?

ANNA CHRISTIE



Remember Crown Street in Surry Hills when it was a one-way system heading north all the way from Cleveland Street to Oxford Street? Waves of heavy traffic would thunder along, broken every now and then by no traffic while the lights a few blocks up kept the waiting flood of vehicles at bay.

Turning Crown Street into a two-way street improved local amenities, attracting more pedestrians and stimulating retail development, with shops, restaurants, cafes and personal services.

Many locals believe the same benefits could occur in Redfern, Waterloo and Alexandria if the major "traffic sewers" of Regent, Wyndham and Gibbons Streets, and parts of Botany Road were turned into two-way avenues, calming traffic and enabling safer and easier crossing from one side to another.

The problem lies with their classification as "arterial roads", and consequently their role in the road hierarchy is predominantly to carry through traffic from one region to another - preferably as quickly as possible.

City of Sydney Local Area Traffic Studies have revealed that residents want two-way traffic to be restored in many one-way thoroughfares including also Elizabeth and Chalmers Streets.

This would reverse changes made throughout the 1970s and 1980s when local amenity and environmental factors were not given any consideration in

the road planning process, especially where they were lined with old and derelict shops.

One road historian told the *SSH*: "Transport planners tended to look the other way when the one-way roads were created, because the neighbourhoods were not seen as livable, and they thought there was no harm done. The idea of reversing the one-ways has been around for a long time, and keeps re-emerging."

As far back as the 2006 Waterloo and Redfern Urban Design Report, there was recognition that reducing speeds through and around Regent Street would support a pedestrian friendly environment. According to the report there was, "scope for revitalisation of large swathes of Regent Street and Botany Road".

Arterial roads are managed by the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA), a body unconcerned with public amenity, or stimulation of local commerce, whose primary focus is the efficiency of traffic flow, measured by "capacity".

"Capacity is their God", joked transport expert Dr Michelle Zeibots from the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney. "The RTA is not concerned with the pedestrian experience of walking long distances along roads with a threatening atmosphere."

However, the current one-way network is hampering the holistic planning and development, of Redfern, Darlington and Chippendale.

Dr Zeibots points out, "The Chamber of Commerce, shopkeepers and residents need to get behind the two-way push. Clearing up Regent Street is a very big part of it".

SSH

security is found in the pervasive sentiment that good neighbours watch out for each other, stirring one resident to declare the Erskineville Estate "the best public housing in New South Wales".

The DVD has been made available by Groundswell along with a how-to kit intended to foster resistance to redevelopment that inadvertently

causes the break-up of communities. Groundswell's intention is that the DVD kit be shown at community gatherings and includes discussion guides and surveys designed to spur community members to action.

SSH

More information can be found at www.groundswellcoalition.org.au



L to R: Father Claude Mostowik, Sister Geraldine Kearney, Sister Louise Runne, Bhante Sujato, Bishop George Browning, Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins, Mr Kanti Jinna, Mr Manjit Singh Gilhotra Photo: Carlyn Chen

Erko priest meets PM on climate change

MIRIAM PEPPER

On June 2, a delegation of religious leaders met with 25 parliamentarians at Parliament House in Canberra, including the Prime Minister Julia Gillard, to advocate for strong action on climate change.

The religious leaders expressed their support for a carbon tax, but also urged parliamentarians to think more broadly about options for reducing carbon emissions. They advocated for public investment and incentives for the creation of renewable energy, stronger mandatory energy efficiency standards and substantial adaptation funding for developing countries that are adversely affected by the changing climate.

The 28 delegates were from a number of states and from Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Jewish, Hindu and Sikh traditions. Among them was Catholic priest Father Claude Mostowik, MSC, who is the director of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre in Erskineville.

Already involved in the Pacific Calling

Partnership, a coalition working to raise awareness of the threat of climate change to Pacific islands such as Kiribati and Tuvalu and to advocate for a just response, Fr Mostowik was keen to take the message to Canberra. "I am deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change on future generations and people in developing countries," he said. "I felt I could do more to speak out and to counter the negative rhetoric coming from the shock jocks."

Fr Mostowik met with Kelvin Thompson MP, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, and the electoral officer to Senator Doug Cameron. He was pleased to be given a receptive hearing. "The three parliamentarians were very much onside with strong action on climate change. In our meetings, we encouraged them to exercise their leadership a bit more," he said.

As well as finding the experience an empowering one, Fr Mostowik was keen to emphasise the value of interfaith cooperation on climate change. "It was terrific that so many religious leaders from different faiths were able to work together harmoniously on this issue." SSH



Railway carriages in Eveleigh Photo: Esther Turnbull

Twin tracks of heritage and tourism

CHLOE POTVIN

EVELEIGH: Fuelled by the Redfern-Waterloo Authority's new Draft Interpretation Plan and Implementation Strategy for the former railway workshops at Eveleigh, debates over the heritage future of the site have been reignited. The document has been exhibited from March 9 to April 6, with feedback submissions accepted from the community.

For many years the RWA has struggled to strike a balance between heritage conservation, tourism and the creation of a modern business destination and events location at the Eveleigh site. Thus the plan aims to affirm the heritage significance of the site, maintain the integrity of the past industrial site in its modern context and increase historical understanding of the area through tourism, education and recreation.

The plan has been generally well received and viewed as a positive step towards fulfilling the potential of the large multipurpose site. However, as highlighted by Geoff Turnbull of REDWatch, there are still questions to be answered with the implementation and long-term maintenance of the developments.

In a letter to the RWA Mr Turnbull said: "The Plan does not address what mechanisms need to exist to ensure the Plan is delivered and that there is ongoing management and development of the heritage and tourism potential ... my main concern is that unless the Implementation Strategy addresses this central issue it is likely to fail or at least not deliver the potential that could be achieved if there is an implementing and co-ordinating body."

Wendie McCaffley from Wrought Artworks, the historic blacksmith's shop at the Australian Technology Park, said that she hopes the plan will be implemented and not placed in the "too hard basket" so that the public

can appreciate and absorb the amazing heritage experiences the site has to offer.

Concerns have also been raised over who will have responsibility of the site and the ongoing coordination of the heritage initiatives once the RWA has concluded, and how the plan will be funded. Bruce Lay, a heritage consultant and architect, shares interest in the development of Eveleigh and has outlined numerous issues with the plan to the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority (SMDA).

Mr Lay said: "The doc seems incomplete and unfinished – was it rushed because of a political imperative, I wonder?" Mr Lay suggested that if the heritage future and tourism prospects of the site are to reach their maximum potential the plan needs to be taken back to the drafting board with a greater concentration on detail, management strategies and structure and sources for recurrent funding.

A spokesperson for the RWA responded: "The Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA) recognises the importance and significance of

the heritage sites at Eveleigh. It has consulted extensively with the community and heritage experts on the Interpretation Plan with research for the preparation of the plan conducted over a six-month period in addition to the one-month exhibition period. The Interpretation Plan is currently being reviewed following feedback during the community consultation process.

"Preparation for the plan was carried out with input from the Redfern-Waterloo Heritage Taskforce and Eveleigh Steering Committee. A Field Day was also held in October 2010, to capture information in preparation of the Interpretation Plan.

"The Interpretation Plan will provide a framework for the owners and future developers of the Australian Technology Park and North Eveleigh sites towards the conservation of Eveleigh's heritage significance. Funding for implementation of the Interpretation Plan will be sought through developer contributions, capital works programs and heritage grants where appropriate."

The RWA will be finalising this strategy soon. SSH

Souths Leagues Club – What's happening?

SSH

According to Ken Stewart, CEO of Souths on Chalmers (also known as Souths Leagues Club), the Leagues Club has taken over the floor in the Chalmer's Street building, and will finish the renovations just as soon as funding is sourced to complete and approve the fit-out. "The developers were not in a position to finish it off," Mr Stewart said.

"We are working hard to get the

Club ready for our members as soon as possible," he added. The SSH understands that a builder is in place to complete the work.

Readers are advised to check the Souths on Chalmers website in coming weeks for updates. SSH

If you have enquiries for the Leagues Club (Souths on Chalmers) you can call on (02) 9319 4156 or visit the Park Cafe (north-west corner of Redfern Oval) for Leagues Club Membership forms or visit www.southsonchalmers.com.au

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Kristina Keneally MP

MEMBER FOR HEFFRON

It took fewer than three months for Barry O'Farrell to break his promise that he would not do deals with the minor parties in the Legislative Council.

In a shocking assault on the state's marine life, the O'Farrell Government has combined with the Shooters Party to push a moratorium on marine parks through parliament.

Just two weeks earlier, the Shooters and Fishers Party provided the O'Farrell Government with the crucial votes to pass their law capping the wages of public servants and removing their access to the Industrial Relations Commission. In nearly no time, we see the payoff to the Shooters Party.

This move adds to the growing list of the O'Farrell Government's attacks on the environment, including:

- Dumping the Coalition's Shadow Environment Minister Catherine Cusack, a staunch opponent of the Shooters & Fishers Party's push for hunting in National Parks
- Abolition of the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water
- Handing responsibility for marine parks and catchment authorities management to the Department of Primary Industries, in direct breach of the Coalition's election policy
- Lifting of bans on high risk fishing methods that were designed to protect the critically endangered grey nurse shark
- Reducing the sanctuary zones in the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Parks
- Attempting to retrospectively slash the Solar Bonus Scheme tariff to 110,000 households who have invested in a clean energy future.

Robyn Parker is supposed to be the Minister for the Environment, but with the hands of Barry O'Farrell and the Shooters Party on her shoulder, she is increasingly the Minister Against the Environment. Labor has voted against every one of the Liberal Party's attempts to water down environmental protection and will continue to do so. The Coalition's decision to let the Shooters Party run riot, trashing hard won environmental protections, is nothing short of a disgrace. Labor will fight for the environment and for the restoration of environmental protections to our marine parks.

Kristina Keneally MP
Member for Heffron

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Gas mining plans fuel environmental concerns

CHLOE POTVIN

Concern is growing over the environmental and social implications relating to controversial plans to drill for coal-seam methane gas in Sydney's inner-west.

Opposition to Dart Energy Limited's plans to perform exploration drilling at a site in Alexandria/St Peters has gained momentum from scientists, academics, politicians, environmental advocacy organisations and residents.

Mr Stephen Cattle, associate professor in soil science at the University of Sydney, said the biggest issue with the introduction of coal-seam gas wells is the likely alteration the extraction process would cause to underground aquifers and the question of what happens to the saline polluted waste water produced.

"Extracting salt and pollutants from the waste water would make it suitable for irrigation, but what would be the energy cost of this water purification?"

Neither the City of Sydney Council nor Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP support coal-seam gas and have opposed the proposal at Alexandria/St Peters. The council is concerned about mining across NSW especially river cracking undermining Sydney's water supply and the damaging environmental effects

caused by the extraction process.

Clover Moore said: "We find the method commonly used to extract coal seam methane, called fracking, unacceptable because of its risks to the environment. The City is opposed to pursuing coal seam gas as an energy source, and in fact it can't be used in the City's planned trigeneration plants because of poor quality methane and trace elements."

The former NSW State Government approved the license to explore for coal-seam gas in Sydney's inner-west without community or council consultation.

Mr Desley Haas, a spokesperson for the Alexandria Residents' Action Group, said: "As a group we are very concerned about the implications of coal seam gas mining and think it is appalling that the whole matter has been imposed on people on or near their property without any respect for their rights or lifestyles, and, as it has become the norm politically, little real prior consultation."

Due to mounting community pressure, a public forum was held at the University of Sydney on the evening of May 16 to provide a dialogue between residents, government and industry representatives and a panel of academic speakers.

Ms Jacinta Green from Sydney Resident's Against Coal Seam Gas said

that the group was represented at the forum by many members. "From this forum we are hoping to understand the impacts in a more scientific sense ... We are also hoping this event will further raise awareness of this issue and elevate it from being considered a 'fringe hippy protest anything' into a serious debate ... In particular, why is Dart Energy linking their plans to the City of Sydney's plans for trigeneration when Clover Moore has publicly stated that they do not want to use coal seam gas?"

At the core of the problem lie legislative concerns. The Wilderness Society fears that the Coalition's interim assessment policy may overlook key environmental issues.

Mr Warrick Jordan, campaigns manager at The Wilderness Society Newcastle, said: "Any Coalition mining policy must look at all the impacts of mining - on communities, on agriculture, on rivers, on groundwater, on bushland and on threatened species." "The recent announcement by the Coalition that all pending mining projects will be assessed under current and discredited legislation is a real cause for concern. The Wilderness Society hopes that the Coalition will bring in laws that actually protect the environment, and don't just provide greenwashing for the mining industry."



Kings Cross at night Photo: Ali Blogg

Cash to splash in rivers of grog

JO HOLDER [OPINION]

KINGS CROSS: This is not another public relations puff piece on our Clover's "vision" for Sydney. "The online discussion forum on the Night Time Economy has concluded ... The findings from community consultation and research will be presented in a discussion paper due to be released in October 2011."

Bang the table - a media company no longer on contract with the NSW Government has team of consultants soliciting via web technology for responses to the "vision" of our Member for Sydney. City of Sydney ratepayers are forking out for this on-line what's-your-view-about-a-good-night-out process aimed at sociable young Sydney-siders with high disposable income (15-30 year-old drinkers with cash to splash on our city streets).

When you read, "The City of Sydney invites you to help them realise a truly global and iconic night-time economy for Sydney", you may not immediately

recognise you are participating in a push-polling exercise to convince us all the "Late Night Economy" - with street bars and energetic clubs presented as leading examples - is "a good thing". Apparently a night out can be "creative". Look forward to lots more "art bars".

Council dismisses as NIMBY bleating the desperate requests of residents for their serious concerns to be heard. The unholy Trinity of Oxford Street, George Street and the Cross is officially regarded as "beyond saturation" for licensed premises. Yet Clover is straining her brain to "attract a wider range of people into the city centre" and "encourage more locals and visitors to explore Sydney at night".

But where is the vision splendid for the battered Day Economy? What subsidies for the creative arts, historically the source of so many of our distinctive characters? Council's substantial property holdings on Oxford and William streets should be made hives of creative industry as those streets were before the LNE began to grow.

The forum we need to have is about

residential and social amenity and what is not working in the Late Night Trading Development Control Plan (2007).

It is not cheap maintaining an LNE. Street cleaning alone costs most of \$20,000 per day. Small bars receive subsidies. Temporary pissoirs are paid for while heritage toilets languish, sealed off.

And then there is the cost of producing all the uber-schmicko publicity buzz to remind us how much we love this City of Villages.

The mayor alleges "problems are caused by rogue operators". We must be plagued by shiploads of those to fuel the 6,000 strong mobs of merry-makers milling about in Bayswater Road while similar numbers scream through Springfield Plaza and stream along Darlinghurst Road.

The "rivers of grog" pour large profits that bloat rents beyond the means not only of creative businesses. Mango Fresh has been forced from its long-term greengrocer premises in the Rex next to Kings Cross Post Office. The day after they moved out a liquor DA was posted in the window.



Graphic: Bob de Freitas

THE GREATEST AMERICAN HERO?

This is an abridged, updated version of an interview which first appeared in *Green Left Weekly* on June 4. Timothy Lawson, freelance journalist and editor of Monash University paper *Lot's Wife*, spoke to Jim, a member of Sydney Solidarity for Bradley Manning, about the group's campaign work.

TIMOTHY LAWSON

Can you tell me about the Sydney Solidarity for Bradley Manning group?

Bradley Manning is a US army soldier accused of passing information to WikiLeaks, including the "Collateral Murder" video of an American airstrike that killed two journalists and nine other Iraqis and wounded two children; the Afghan War Diary; the Iraq War Logs; and more than 250,000 diplomatic cables, many revealing vast differences between public statements and actions of numerous governments.

Manning was arrested in May 2010, and from July 2010 to April 2011 was held awaiting trial in maximum security under widely criticised conditions at the Quantico Marine Base in Virginia.

He is facing charges carrying sentences of up to 52 years jail, and, in theory, the death penalty. After worldwide outcry, on April 20, still awaiting trial, Bradley was moved to a new military remand prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where his detention conditions seem better.

Sydney Solidarity for Bradley Manning is a small, informal, self-organised group, currently seven people. Michele, our founding member, started things going in March 2011, with a rally in support of Manning in Martin Place. It was cold and wet but 50 people were there; David Shoebridge from the Greens spoke. Several people volunteered to help Michele, and the group began.

Our goals are to draw attention to Bradley Manning's legal case and the circumstances of his detention; to campaign for a fair trial and eventually for his freedom; to raise awareness of his

heroism, if he is the leaker, in exposing apparent war-crimes and government misdeeds; and to canvass the broad associated issues of whistleblowing, open democratic governance instead of secrecy, and the role of the media and the people in checking abuses of power.

What rallies or campaigns are coming up in the near future that people can get involved in? In what other ways can people get involved?

A pre-trial hearing for Manning is expected in July. We will hold a rally or "vigil" then. The next event will be a forum in August [see below].

We'd love it if Manning supporters would come to these events. You can also post a photo signature at www.iam.bradleymanning.org or join our mailing list: see www.syd4bradley.posterous.com or email us at syd4bradley@gmail.com

Amnesty International has expressed concern, calling the Quantico detention conditions harsh and punitive, and 295 American legal scholars signed a letter in April 2011 saying the conditions amounted to a violation of the U.S. constitution. Can you further describe these conditions?

US journalist Glenn Greenwald was probably the first person to draw wide attention to "the inhumane conditions of Bradley Manning's detention" at Quantico, in a *Salon* article in December 2010. Greenwald described those conditions as constituting "cruel and inhumane treatment and, by the standards of many

nations, even torture", and "likely to create long-term psychological injuries". They included:

- intensive solitary confinement
- barred from exercising in his cell; not allowed to doze or sleep during the day
- no pillow or sheets, only a coarse blanket
- awakened at night every five minutes if guards could not see his face
- repeated rejection of requests for removal from "Prevention of Injury" status, despite support for such a removal by psychiatrists
- incidents in March 2011 where he was stripped of all clothing at night and forced to present for morning inspection totally naked
- denial of official visits from the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez; Congressperson Dennis Kucinich; and a representative from Amnesty International.

Do you believe the horrendous conditions Manning was kept in at Quantico were devised to put pressure on him to implicate Julian Assange?

Given the pressure and physical torture that we know have been inflicted on detainees held by the US elsewhere, for example at Guantanamo Bay, such an intention is not out of the question.

A more general level of cruelty in American penal institutions, combined with animus against Manning for his alleged actions, may be a less Machiavellian explanation. Greenwald offered yet another explanation in his 26 May address to the ACLU of Massachusetts annual Bill of Rights Dinner: "The reason that we put

Bradley Manning in solitary confinement, a form of torture that can destroy people psychologically forever is because we want to create, we the government, want to create a climate of fear that says to future whistleblowers if you too were [aware] of deceit and corruption and illegality and think about publicizing it to the world take a look at Bradley Manning and what we've done to him and what we can do, and that's what will happen to you."

On May 24, PBS-Frontline aired a sweeping documentary on Bradley Manning. WikiLeaks was upset with how it was portrayed in the documentary. Do you think the documentary was beneficial or counterproductive?

The *Frontline* documentary is representative of a tendency of a large proportion of the mainstream media to focus on issues of personality rather than principle or politics, let alone philosophy.

If so-called chat-logs (published by *Wired*) genuinely express Manning's thinking, his reasons for leaking materials arose out of his observation of oppression in Iraq, and are based on his desire for "people to see the truth ... regardless of who they are ... because without information, you cannot make informed decisions as a public".

It is not beneficial for an understanding of why Manning may have been the main WikiLeaks whistleblower for the press instead to try to trace his alleged actions to his childhood, his gayness, or his private history. We hope people will see through trivialisations by the media, and instead focus on the revelations of the leaks themselves, and the challenge they pose to militarism and governmental secrecy.

Bradley Manning has been accused of undermining national security in the US. What do you think about these claims?

While the leadership of the United States sees its national security and national interest in waging wars in other parts of the globe and in dominating exploitation of world resources, exposure of its military and diplomatic crimes will indeed be against that selfish interest.

If, instead, realisation develops in the US and elsewhere that this is one finite planet, where we all have a common interest in peace, sustainability and sharing, then Bradley Manning – if he is in fact the source of the leaks – will be thanked and celebrated as a hero well into the future, for allowing people everywhere to see truths which help set them free, no longer to be deceived or manipulated by their governments, but to decide their own and the world's destiny for themselves. SSH

Bradley Manning versus the Culture of Revenge

A forum presented by Sydney Solidarity for Bradley Manning in association with the Sydney Peace Foundation and the Greens NSW.

Chair: David Shoebridge MLC

Panel: Prof. Wendy Bacon, Prof Stuart Rees, Dr Ben Saul

When: Tuesday 2 August 2011

– 6 for 6.30pm to 8.15pm

Where: Theatre, Parliament of NSW, Macquarie St, Sydney

Cost: Free, but please register online to ensure seats

Registration and further information: www.syd4bradley.posterous.com/s4bforum



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

EDITORIAL

Change: the next step is ours

SSH

THE CITY OF Sydney has changed the preamble to its corporate plan and formally recognised that Indigenous Australians were subject to an "invasion" in 1788.

"[The] vote was an historic moment overturning 169 years of previous councils' attitudes", said Andrew Woodhouse, president of the Potts Point and Kings Cross Heritage Conservation Society.

"I think we have to tell the truth about

what happened, that's why it [the word invasion] has a rightful place in any preamble to do with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it should be included", said Christopher Lawrence, a member of the Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel.

The SSH welcomes the change. There can be no peace without truth and no real hope for the future without peace. Change: the next step is ours is the national theme for this year's NAIDOC Week (July 3-10) celebrations. The City is rolling out a wide range of initiatives celebrating and supporting the history,

culture, creativity and achievements of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (see page 5).

WE ARE PROUD to present this issue of the SSH, the last to feature stories assigned by our News Editor, Trevor Davies. We are very proud to be part of this community project he founded, and committed to continuing his good work. There will not be an issue in August, however, as we'll need some time to grieve and to regroup. Thanks for many kind wishes and prayers. See you in the Spring!

SSH

COMMENT

Housing NSW's \$12m anti-social behaviour experiment

ROSS SMITH

HOUSING NSW HAS activated the new regime of Conditional Entry for visitors to the six high-rise buildings in the Waterloo Estate affecting approximately 1,250 households, from the total of 2,500 households in the entire Estate. It was initially announced with great fanfare, however, there were no dancing girls, cheerleaders or commemorative medals and no ribbon cutting ceremony when it commenced.

The tenants, once photographed for "security purposes" receive lanyards with the name of the suburb embossed on them, on which to hang their swipers for the electronic door lock. One was suggested it was done to assist the powers that be to establish where the wearer should be returned to if found wandering outside Waterloo.

The occupiers of the concierge cages, ensconced behind safety glass screens, lord it over two clipboards, complete with tethered ball point pens and loose sheets of paper, plus the button which unlocks the building's door. One clipboard is for tenant visitors, the other for tradesmen [sic]. Signature is required prior to being allowed into the building, with time of signing of entry and details of the flat to be entered. The clipboard must also be signed on leaving the building with time.

The practice of recording times of attendance at a particular location and verifying the identity of the person attending has been the cause of many Industrial Relations based court cases.

There is a lack of signage informing the visitor/tradesman [sic] of the authority supposed to verify the proof of

identity and the collection of attendance details. There is also a total lack of information as to whom will be supplied the information collected, how it will be stored, and the length of time it will be stored for. The concierge has no written material to supply to those who ask for information setting out the authority to collect the details that supports the claim that entry to the building is conditional on the personal identifiers being supplied and provides the details of the Privacy provisions in place for the data collected.

Previously, there was an intercom for visitors and tradesmen [sic] to contact the tenant who could "buzz" them into the building, if the tenant wanted. This intercom has been removed and the ability for the tenant and the visitor/tradesperson to have a conversation has been removed. This action increases social isolation whilst reducing social inclusion.

The occupancy of Housing NSW residential premises is normally based on a rental agreement issued under the NSW Residential Tenancies Act, and thus subject to the Act. There is no provision in the NSW Residential Tenancies Act that allows the landlord to impose Conditions of Entry for the tenant's visitors, even less to acquire personal identifiers of those visitors. The latest changes to the Act regulate what information can be included on tenancy related databases.

The reason cited for the project, "Elimination of current anti-social behaviour claimed to be occurring in the high rises", makes a mockery of the claims previously made in the NSW parliament by various NSW Housing Ministers that the special legislation

they sought, and gained, would eliminate anti-social behaviour in the tenant body.

The fact that the legislation passed at their insistence has failed to eliminate the long-term anti-social behaviour of a very small number of their tenants statewide casts an extremely long shadow over the current Minister's attempt to eliminate anti-social behaviour in a very small part of the HNSW domain.

The current attempt to eliminate anti-social behaviour within six buildings in Waterloo was initially announced as costing \$12 million and described as a three-year trial project. At a stakeholders' briefing (26th February 2010), one week after the initial Ministerial announcement (19th February 2010), Housing NSW staff said the budget would rise to \$15 million.

When announcing the trial project, the Minister acknowledged that it would displace existing anti-social behaviour into the other half of the Waterloo Estate (some 1,250 households). He also said that Housing NSW had no strategy in place to address the impact of the resultant increase in anti-social behaviour on the other half of the Waterloo Estate. In short, the project had remarkable similarities to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic after realisation that the iceberg had been hit.

How many more examples of successive NSW Housing Ministers' absolute determination to not utilise existing legislated powers to control anti-social behaviour is the NSW Public Housing tenant body and the NSW State Treasury going to be subjected to? **SSH**

This article first published Feb 7, 2011, "RIMFIRE REVIEW" (Contact: rimfire@thenexus.org.au)

FAITH

The faith of Trevor Davies

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

If I wanted to demonstrate faith which is "non-pious" I would point to that of Trevor Davies, our News Editor, who died recently. In doing this, I would want to distinguish between piety and piousness. I see piety as a discipline of faithfulness to one's God and what one believes. On the other hand, I would define piousness as connected with false smiles and a sort of display of self-righteousness - one which, in itself, implies that the person with whom you are engaging needs to be converted to your view of life and faith.

Christians are called upon to "bear witness" to their faith. Some people interpret this as an instruction to preach to others, teaching them what they should believe. Bearing witness, however, is surely more like simply sharing ways in which faith has enhanced your own life journey and letting that sharing simply lie there for others to receive or reject.

Trevor was an unselfconscious sharer of his faith. However, I would think that few people would find the way he did that either judgmental or offensive. It was just part of his authentic life. "Jesus loves you" or "God bless" he would say and then go on and discuss whatever was current or wave to you as he plodded off down the street. Sometimes that blessing would be in among expressions which were far from religious!

It is hard to see the origins of Trevor's faith when you look at his life. Obviously, his fiercely unionist Welsh father invited in him a model of living which was deeply engaged with justice and compassion for others. He then added from somewhere a quite "evangelical" aspect to it, one which meant he chose to attend a Bible College for a while at the end of his schooling.

I watched his relative religious conservatism change over the years to become radical, inclusive of diverse people, and, obviously, when he joined the Uniting Church, linked with a different view of faith than that in his beginnings.

Often he reminded me of a follower of the early life of Methodism in his home country. It was always a mixture of inviting others to faith and living out

that faith in movements for justice. Both the Union Movement and the Labor Party were begun by the early members of the Methodist Church.

At Trevor's funeral, the Bible reading was the calling from the Christ to follow the two great commandments - to love your God with all your heart and soul and mind and your neighbour as yourself. Everything else in Christian life is measured against those commandments and Trevor Davies was a great example of one who tried to put that into practice with faithfulness and authenticity.

Part of that faith meant that Trevor dared to challenge all sorts of people, no matter what their status in the community. Another feature of it was that he did dream impossible dreams and take steps towards achieving them, carrying others alongside him. Given his own vulnerability in so many ways this was quite remarkable.

None of this means that Trevor Davies was some sort of saint - far from it! But somehow his obvious humanness meant that more people could respect and love what he stood for. He was not demonstrating some sort of superior life, but one with which most of us could identify. He added genuine hope to the world.

SSH

A Blessing for Trevor

*Go in peace, dear Trevor,
with our love, tears and laughter,
surrounding you.
And may God the Loving Parent hold
you fast,
the Christ, whom you served so
faithfully,
be there to greet you,
and the passionate Holy Spirit
celebrate all you have given to justice
and love.
May the strength and energy for life
which was yours
be added to the mystery
of all that lies beyond the veil of death
and your laughter resound in joy
as your life is joined with a different
dream.
May you journey in delight
into new places of hope and peace
and then hover low over our lives
when we grieve your going.
Amen.*

READERS' LETTERS

Waterloo Green an Alcohol Free Zone?

I am writing to express my concern about a notice published in the SSH advising the public about an Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA) proposed to be set up on Cope and Cooper streets at Waterloo Green. An APA is an area where drinking alcohol in public is illegal and police and council rangers have the power to confiscate and tip out any alcohol they find in the possession of drinkers or suspected drinkers.

City of Sydney Council has many of these APAs established throughout the local government area and in the past I have generally opposed their establishment. I have done so because there is no evidence that they have any effect in removing the social problems associated with drinking - ambulance statistics show they simply move them elsewhere.

This displacement means that drinkers are more likely to retreat to

more isolated areas to drink, increasing the likelihood of violence or other problems as they are removed from the public eye.

I believe that the best way to deal with street drinkers is through the establishment of "wet centres", places where the homeless or other people in need of social support services can go for help and not be judged or turned away if they happen to be drunk or drinking while they're there.

However, despite all this I'm hearing anecdotal evidence that the local community are quite concerned about public drinking and are in favour of this APA. I'd therefore encourage any community members concerned about the issue to let Council know your thoughts. Write to GPO Box 1591 Sydney 2000 or email afz@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au and let us know what you think. Your input will be invaluable in allowing myself and the rest of the Council to come to a decision on this

**Councillor Irene Doutney
City of Sydney**

Yurungai delights in Turkish festival

SSH

WATERLOO

The Factory Community Centre's YURUNGAI DANCE GROUP has returned triumphant having represented Australia at the 2011 Seventh International Ordu (Turkey) Youth and Children's Theatre Festival held between June 14-21. The group was generously received in the Black Sea port, famous for its connection with the founder of modern Turkey, Kemal Atatürk, and also its hazelnut growing industry.

Performing two shows in a central recreational area to large crowds, Yurungai Dance was rapturously received to the extent that security had to be called to the second performance in order to protect the young Indigenous group from inner-city Sydney.

The eight-member troupe also performed twice to over 1,500 children and the general public in a central park in Ankara, in the presence of Ambassador to Turkey, Ian Biggs and his wife Christine. The first performance was streamed live to air on national TV.

Following running a workshop the next and final day of the tour (which was held in a children's community centre), the group capped this life-changing experience through paying respects to Ataturk, visiting his final resting place and mausoleum. Their next big challenge is in hosting the 2012 Festival at Cockatoo Island were 15 countries are expected to attend.

Yurungai Dance is grateful to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program Public Diplomacy Branch of the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its award of funds towards the travel costs. Other funding support was received by Barnardos Australia, The Redfern-Waterloo Authority, Clubs Limited NSW, Housing NSW, and the Factory Community Centre.

For further information, contact Micheal Shreenan at the Factory Community Centre, 67 Raglan St, Waterloo, NSW 2017. Email MShreenan@th-factory.org.au or Ph 02 9698 9569.



Ian and Christine Biggs with members of Yurungai Dance Photo: Patrick Russell

Artist Profile: Margaret Walters *All the livelong day*

WENDY COLLIS

Margaret Walters began her collaboration with songwriter John Warner in Sydney in the early '90s, singing as part of informal gatherings at the Glengarry Castle. Such gatherings, she says, are the very soul of folk music.

Warner, a model train enthusiast, writes songs that focus on Australian history, industrial history and the environment. A union song he wrote, "Bring Out The Banners", has been performed by other folk singers to large audiences in England and North America – including a performance in Wisconsin at a rally of over 30 thousand to combat growing anti-union sentiment in the US. "It's such a buzz", says Margaret, on this work being received far and wide.

One of Warner's songs is about the Eveleigh railway workshops and their importance to Redfern's social and cultural heritage – he wrote this piece in response to concerns in 2008 that these workshops would be closed down.

Margaret sees her performances as a form of oral history – and she finds singing Warner's songs brings working-class stories and experiences "alive to me, more than any history book might".

"John's got a really great way of crafting words and it's a real pleasure singing his songs," she says.

Thanks to Margaret and John, some of the stories of the hardworking people who worked on the local railways and helped build New South Wales will not be forgotten.

Margaret will be leaving later this month for a tour of the UK, where she will perform unaccompanied at festivals including the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, Whitby Folk Week and the York Traditional Singing Weekend.

Some of her recordings are available through her website at www.margaretwalters.com

From "Eveleigh Rail Workshops" by John Warner:

*The men of the Gadigal people,
Paid a boy's wage because of their race,
Did a hard-working day,
Well earned twice their pay:
That shame is recalled in this place.
By the clamorous clang of the anvil,
By four generations of sweat,
We pledge to those gone
That their tale will live on
In this nation that owes them a debt.*



Margaret Walters in Eveleigh Photo: Esther Turnbull

Connecting local farmers to city folk through an organic fruit and veg box subscription service

Food Connect Sydney is a social enterprise that aims to make ethically grown food from local farmers accessible to any household in Sydney. Food Connect Sydney buys direct from local organic and chemical free farmers and packs it into three sized boxes – \$35-\$65. These are then delivered to a local host or "City Cousin" where subscribers come once a week to pick up their pre-paid box. Food Connect Sydney also offers a wholesale service.

Fruit and Veg from Food Connect supports farming and local communities as it is:

- FAIR:** 40c in every dollar goes back to the farmer.
- ORGANIC:** 100% of the produce is certified organic or chemical free.

- LOCAL:** average food miles of around 250km.
- DIRECT:** over 90% of the produce is bought direct from the farm.
- COMMUNITY DRIVEN:** Local communities come together at their City Cousin.

Food Connect Sydney is based on award-winning Food Connect Brisbane who have been trading for over six years.

Food Connect Sydney's Enterprise Coordinator was recently recognised as the Sydney Social Entrepreneur of the Year.

Sign up at www.foodconnect.com.au

The Reviews

Film Review
by Lindsay Cohen



X-Men: First Class
Director: Matthew Vaughn
Starring: James McAvoy, Kevin Bacon and a bunch of much cheaper and younger actors
Genre: Capes not required

X-Men: First Class offers a vision of a past (or even a present or a future) featuring human genetic mutants with skills of little use in an office environment. None of the mutants can type at 80wpm, change the toner on a photocopier or manage a project on time and to budget. Mind you their smiting abilities could come in handy with the boss when it comes to negotiating pay rises.

So in other words they are no different to any other kids today. And most of these X-men are not men at all but kids (including girls), as this is, after all, a prequel to the other four *X-Men* films in the franchise, each of which was more dire than the previous one, and which by the most recent, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, was truly unwatchable (apparently; I didn't watch it).

Fortunately, *X-Men: First Class* bucks the trend, holding together in an almost believable fashion with special-effects that for the most part aren't too over the top, actors that don't overplay their roles (except Kevin Bacon but he's the bad guy so it's OK) and a storyline that nicely meshes World

War II, 1960s and contemporary concerns about the plight of humanity. It also gels nicely with the earlier (err, later) films but they were mostly so forgettable it's hard to be entirely certain.

Alternate visions of the future were provided in the trailers before the feature. The latest Transformers film, *Dark of the Moon*, demonstrates we're all doomed to endure another Transformers film while *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, another prequel, doesn't end well for the humans by definition.

Robots, Apes or Mutants to subjugate humanity? I'd go for the mutants if I had to choose, at least they look good in blue body paint.

Rating: Three-and-a-half evolutions.

» film@ssh.com.au

Music Review
by Graeme Grace



Come West Along The Road, Vol. 2 (DVD)
Irish Traditional Music
RTÉ/SRO 2011

Irish television started in 1961 when the national broadcaster RTÉ (Radio Television Erin) finally began transmission. For many years previously the government had dithered while the people purchased television sets to tune into the strong signals coming from Britain's BBC.

So, from its inception, Irish TV had to compete with an established and better resourced TV network, and needed to offer the Irish people a reason to switch over. RTÉ had one advantage – local content, local culture. Right from the start RTÉ has broadcast Ireland's native music and dance through a number of its programs and now, after several decades, there is a sizeable body of work in its archives.

Currently, *Come West Along The Road*, which airs music film clips from the 1960s-1980s period, is a popular show in Ireland. In 2007 RTÉ released a DVD of highlights from the series, scoring an instant success. Surprisingly, it has taken four years for Volume 2 to appear. Like the first volume there is variety aplenty, amateur and professional. It includes ceili bands, lilting, set dancing and step dancing, ballads (some in English, some in Irish), reels, jigs, pub singing and harp solos; seemingly all forms of traditional Irish music bar keening.

It features well-known acts, such as The Dubliners and Planxty as well as songs from members of Bothy Band and the Clancys and a number of amateur performances, both staged and impromptu.

The one stand-out difference from the first volume is the appearance of folk-rock, via a 1976 recording of Horslips, the first Irish group to successfully bring electric guitars into the folk tradition.

Not all segments will appeal to everyone but the sheer size of the DVD (52 performances over 2½ hours) should ensure there is much that will please any folk music fan.

Volume 3 has just been released in Ireland, but is yet to reach our shores. This series is of historical importance, capturing slices of the vernacular culture before the modern world closed in, with its pernicious effect of replacing myriad neighbourhood musicians with a few global superstars spreading a single, dominant style of music.

As the Irish Times said of the DVD, in endearing Irish syntax: "An unprecedented collection of Irish folk music ever filmed."

» music@ssh.com.au

Designer cocktails and cuisine



SCOTT WINTER

Unique style, great taste and excellent cocktails are alive and well

an above and beyond lifestyle at the so very chic C-ique Design Bar in Surry Hills.

Customized group bookings are available where a function package will be designed to exactly suit the budget requirements. Three levels of underground public parking are available with direct lift access to the courtyard. C-ique Design Bar and the Classique showroom have a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces which can be partitioned to suit the size of different functions. There is function space available on the balcony, upper-level showroom and mezzanine levels. The bar level can be partitioned with bollards to separate small areas for both indoor and outdoor entertaining. Conference room hire is available for more intimate small presentations and meetings. The building can be booked out completely for events of over 100 guests. For functions

over 150, the large courtyard space can also be booked with marquee options available. Large courtyard space bookings must be approved in advance with 10 weeks booking notice given.

C-ique offers a complete in-house bar and catering service for functions, with unlimited food and beverage options that give event planners the flexibility to tailor function packages to suit a wide variety of needs. Chef Roshan Rodrigo is a previous Winner of the *Sydney Morning Herald* Gold Plate Award, and has created menus that offer extremely good value with exceptional quality gourmet cuisine. Food and Beverage Manager, Monique Bihari, who has over 15 years industry experience, and is an expert in cocktail mixing, has created over 14 delicious designer cocktails especially for C-ique Design Bar, such as the Mi Ming Martini and the Nirvana Amour.

C-ique Design Bar
St Margaret's Urban Village
423-425 Bourke Street, Surry Hills
Bookings: 9331 8822
De Groots Media
Follow us on Facebook
Watch video on
www.bestvideos.com.au

WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

What's up, Doc?

PAUL SULLIVAN

Do you eat rabbit? I do. What about bunny? It really is a completely different mindset. I was walking down Cleveland Street to work the other day, past St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church gates when out from the hedge hopped a big fat rabbit. Not the sort of jittery grey rabbit you'd see hanging from the back of a hunter's ute but a big, fluffy white one like you would see in *Babe* or *Charlotte's Web*.

I smiled broadly, such that the pedestrians coming towards me stopped and looked concerned as if to say my smile was unsafe on a Sydney street. Noticing their fear I pointed at the rabbit, but when I looked back down it was gone. I tried to peer through the gates to see where the rabbit had gone, but alas, it had vanished.

I have seen stray animals before and not given them more than a sideways glance. For whatever reason though, my thoughts wandered repeatedly to the bunny in the Greek churchyard and I began to fear for its welfare. I knew I wasn't looking at an Indonesian Export style catastrophe, but anyone who's had a good Greek Rabbit Stifado, or Stuffed Roast Rabbit with Olives and Capers knows that possibly the bunny's days were numbered.

What was this rabbit doing happily bounding around the inner city streets of Sydney, anyway? South Sydney has historically had rat plagues, but a rabbit plague is generally reserved for the country, so

it couldn't be that. I supposed it was another victim of circumstance and thrown out or "let go". Sad. Still, if a rabbit was to be abandoned anywhere, it seemed that Redfern was the right place. There is an obvious affiliation. Early players for Souths would make some extra money by hawking rabbits around the local districts calling out "Rabbitoh". It was the original home delivery. In those days the inner city purchase would end up being something simple, like rabbit soup or maybe a rabbit and bacon pie. A wholesome family meal, both healthy, and delicious.

Rabbit has long been abandoned at the family table in lieu of chicken, lamb, and beef, even though it would be a cheaper option. Yet even in my darkest of bank balance hours, I have never served up rabbit to my kids. I wondered if it was because of the association of the word bunny versus rabbit? One of my daughter's favourite Golden Books is *Home for a Bunny*, not rabbit. Could a rabbit be something we eat, but a bunny is something we cuddle?

I left work before dark that day, and on my way home I tried to peer through the gates to see if the bunny was still there. A worker inside the church saw me and approached thinking maybe I was looking for some sort of redemption. I explained my encounter that morning, and a similar smile to mine from earlier appeared on his face. "Oh yes. He lives here. He arrived a few weeks ago, and we take care of him." Good news. Whether for food or friendship, all animals need to be taken care of properly.

FINDING RHYTHM IN REDFERN

Redfern Artists Group (RAG) is a collective of multidisciplinary artists who aim to collaborate and inspire each other to produce works that infiltrate, stimulate and interpret various memes. The first group show, **RAGTIME**, opens on October 5 and runs from October 3 to 16 at Global Galleries in Paddington. Fifteen artists from RAG will be examining the artistic and cultural influences of the last century and the commonalities and differences between the turn of the last century and the turn of this century and millennium.

Artists exhibiting at **RAGTIME**: Jo Tracy, Jo Kot, Lyndal Campbell, Peta Morris, Gilbert Grace, Michelle McCosker, Estelle Asmodelle, Sky Baldwin, Jess Cook, Brendan Penzer, Julia Odgers, Julie Doye, Cigdem Aydemir, Justine Muller, Michaela Davies.

For more info about RAG or the **RAGTIME** show in October contact Jo Tracy: jotracy8@gmail.com



Elegance on two wheels

SSH

The City of Sydney has just installed new bike stands in front of the Tap Gallery in Palmer Street, encouraging cyclists to use the new cycleway to get to the art on the walls. Mike Rubbo hopes patrons will ride to the gallery, especially for the opening of **Nothing But Bikes** on Sunday July 10 at 3pm.

Sixty-one works, including linocuts, rubbings and solar etchings, in one exhibition on one topic by one bike artist. Perhaps it's a world first in art and activism.

According to the artist, the bike is a very cool presentational device for the human body. Historically, the nude has had a revered place in art. The human figure on the bike, especially bikes of the stately sort, deserves its place as well.

Rubbo wants to position the sit-up bike in the public mind as a creator of grace and beauty as well as a sensible transport provider, blending the practical and the sensual. "I want people to go from thinking, 'What a wonderful sight, that person gilding along there on the sit-up bike', to, 'That looks like it feels great. I should try that,'" he said.

Nothing But Bikes: Beauty In Utility

Tap Gallery, 278 Palmer St, Darlinghurst
July 4 until July 17,
noon to 6pm daily.
See Mike's bike films and blog
www.situp-cycle.com



Beoung Tompun Village, Phnom Penh, 26/02/2010 Photo: Hayley Megan French (INSET: Heart You Hold book cover)

Book to behold, to hold

PETER ARCHER

Sydney artist, Hayley Megan French, has produced a book of photographs inspired by her volunteer work in Cambodia. *Heart You Hold* was launched last month at the City of Sydney Library in Haymarket. The Rev. Peter Archer of World Vision was guest speaker at the event.

It is a truly beautiful book to hold, to look at, to read. But it is also a challenging, an unsettling book. These moments in time, captured by Hayley, captured me.

So many emotions and thoughts are provoked by the images. Looking into the faces, into the situations, we understand more of the reality for these kids and their parents, and we learn something of Hayley herself: of her desire to deeply engage with these people and their circumstances; to recognise that despite differences of colour, culture, religion, or situation she is connected by the simple reality of being human; to see her sensitivity that honours and dignifies the people in the slums of Stung Mean Chey and other communities in Cambodia and yet articulates the scandal of the injustices they face.

The injustices are many: too many kids dying of preventable causes; women and kids exploited for profit through the sex and other industries;

children needing to work in terrible and dangerous places simply so their families can survive day to day, opening them to disease and harm.

And yet Hayley gently depicts the beauty, the wonder that is life, and the strength and resilience found in community, especially in these communities. And so hope and grace are found in the debilitating consequences of poverty: the questioning and concerned look of one little friend to another; the fun and freedom of rolling a tyre tube down a street; the out and out joy and happiness of kids dancing in a classroom; the curiosity of kids watching a doctor make his notes.

We can also discover something of ourselves if we dare: that through these beautiful and challenging and disturbing images, we too are connected to these people and their situations; in so many ways we have the opportunity and the resources to respond to the needs presented in this book.

We hold many of the solutions to child mortality, to the provision of clean water, to the protection of these communities from exploitation. The developed world is able to partner with impoverished communities to provide training for midwives, to dig wells, to offer micro loans for businesses, to build schools and clinics. In fact, non-government organisations are continually improving their work as they properly consult with commu-

nities to bring about worthwhile and lasting change.

But so often we can hold these solutions at arm's length from ourselves simply outsourcing our charity to this or that NGO. It becomes an academic response: a monthly deduction from my bank account; the purchase of a chook or a water tank through a gift card at Christmastime; a once-off donation to an emergency appeal.

Sure, it is hard to put myself into these situations; they are removed in a physical, emotional and social sense. But through this book, Hayley presents us with a terrific opportunity: to see through her eyes the people behind the statistics; to connect with them; to have our hearts captured by these people, the kids and their friends, the parents, the teachers, the doctors and nurses.

Not only to hold their hearts in our hands as it were, but to give our hearts to these people as well; to connect in a deeply personal way. Hayley has captured the dignity of these people in Cambodia, and held it up as a mirror to our own humanity and fragility. And by presenting neither just the despair nor just the hope, but the journey from the one to the other, she invites us to find our place in it.

.....
Heart You Hold can be purchased via Hayley's website: www.hayleymegan.com



SSH

Australian photographers, Lisa Maree Williams and Tracey Nearmy, best known for their award-winning photojournalism throughout Australasia have collaborated to explore a recurring theme in their works – the human relationship with water.

Steering away from a more structured narrative, *Flow* pays homage to everyday rituals carried out around the world in the water and at its edge. At times delving into the deeper meanings that water plays in relation to the emotional psyche, *Flow* is vibrant and colourful, finding beauty in the often serene moments of daily life.

Lisa Maree Williams is recognised for her documentary and portrait work. Published regularly in some of the world's leading publications, she has pursued projects throughout Indonesia, Cuba, North America, Europe and Australia. Currently based in Sydney and a graduate of the Queensland College of Arts/Griffith University with a bachelor's degree in photojournalism, her work delves into social issues, often documenting life in marginalised communities.

In 2007 Lisa completed a photo series with Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). *The Players* was sponsored by Canon Australia and showed in conjunction with the annual Sydney Arts Festival. Her work with East Timorese refugees living in Brisbane was awarded the Australian Photojournalist Association Documentary Award in 2003. She was a semi-finalist in the 2008 and 2011 Moran Portrait Prize,

a finalist in the 2009 and 2010 Head On Photographic Competition.

In 2009 Williams was named the Sony World Photo Competition (Natural History) winner for "Wildlife Warriors". It was included in a hard-cover book and toured to major cities around the world as part of the Sony World Photo group exhibition.

Her work "After Katrina" was screened at the 2010 Reportage Festival and her ongoing series about Sydney Mardi Gras, titled *Catch the Light*, was included in the 2010 Walkley slide night.

Tracey Nearmy began her career at Messenger Newspapers in Adelaide, and has worked with numerous publications throughout Australia. Nearmy graduated from the Queensland College of Arts/Griffith University with a bachelor's degree in photojournalism and has received national recognition for

her work in Cross Projections, the Reportage Festival and at Walkley slide nights. She is currently a staff photographer with Australian Associated Press (AAP), Australia's national news wire service.

When not undertaking photo journalism assignments Nearmy's work looks at the role of disintegration in the process of fertility, creation and change through documentary, portraiture and experimental lighting techniques. She is based in Sydney and a member of Australian photojournalism collective "fotostrada". She recently exhibited at Global Gallery in Sydney along with fellow "fotostrada" members during the Head On festival.

.....
FLOW
June 29 - July 28, 2011
The East Village Hotel
234 Palmer Street Darlinghurst
www.fotostrada.com

Orchard Gallery - call for submissions

"A unique opportunity for individuals and communities to be involved in an artistic and intellectual program about diversity, spirituality and society"

Nicky McWilliam - Director Eva Breuer Gallery, Sydney

"This exciting project will enrich the role of the arts in our community life while also exploring the significance of faith and hope in a multicultural and multi-faith Australia"

Rev. Tara Curlewis - General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Australia

"A simple yet dedicated resource as well as a unique pathway for meaningful and diverse community conversation to take place around spirituality and the arts"

Nur Shkembi - Arts Officer, Islamic Council of Victoria

"This project will inspire individuals and communities to articulate and explore issues of identity, collective memory and belonging - all at the very heart of what it is to be human"

Rebecca Forgasz - Director Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne

The Orchard Gallery (South Sydney Uniting Church) invites submissions for EVERYDAY SPIRIT, an exhibition of visual art and poetry, curated by Hayley Megan French and Miriam Cabello.

The show - open to people of all ages, backgrounds, traditional faiths or none - will open on Saturday, September 17. The title alludes to Ordinary Time according to the Christian liturgical calendar, and also, more broadly, evokes everyday hopes and beliefs. What are the forces or spaces, rituals or practices that sustain hope and belief in our time?

Creative specifications available on request.

Closing date for submissions: July 31

Deadline for completion of works: September 9

Contact: Andrew Collis (8399 3410; editor@ssh.com.au)

THE Orchard GALLERY



The Blake Society Ltd

Brazen power & beauty

DJON MUNDINE

In Arnhem Land when beings, creatures, and people exhibit a type of internal radiated "beauty" at certain times, they are said to be fat, or full of djukurr (fat). It is a period of strongly evident health and vitality.

Beauty is exhibited by those attributes deemed culturally as pleasing or impressive or just a socially defined personal appearance. This varies considerably from society to society, culture to culture and time to time.

Vanity isn't necessarily a bad personal trait as pride in one's achievements and knowing your worth. And these three artists have much to be vain about. Good looking, stylish, intelligent and prescient. They have accomplished artistic careers by any measurement.

But, when vanity does appear as excessive pride or conceit it is painful to watch and endure.

Christian Thompson's brazen display is more than a conceited flaunt. In former times and revelatory occasions Aboriginal adult males covered their naked bodies with various painted and adorned spaces and designs. These were in essence a vision of how your soul, your very personal spiritual essence, in all its power and beauty exists all the time, despite the changing form of your outer shell. Is the outer layering and discarding performance, a reference to this practice and belief?

To be an intellectual in Australia is a terrible burden (maybe a vanity) to carry. Freudians may say that everything is sexual but there is identification with and a joy of meeting the young. Youth is a beautiful thing. This joy of freshness and renewal

is Gary Lee's obsession, search and expression.

Adam Hill projects his alter ego, possibly unconsciously, revealing a 1950s "Chesty Bond" Australian male, as a kind of striving sincerity, and yet a send-up of himself, and the idea of the "male".

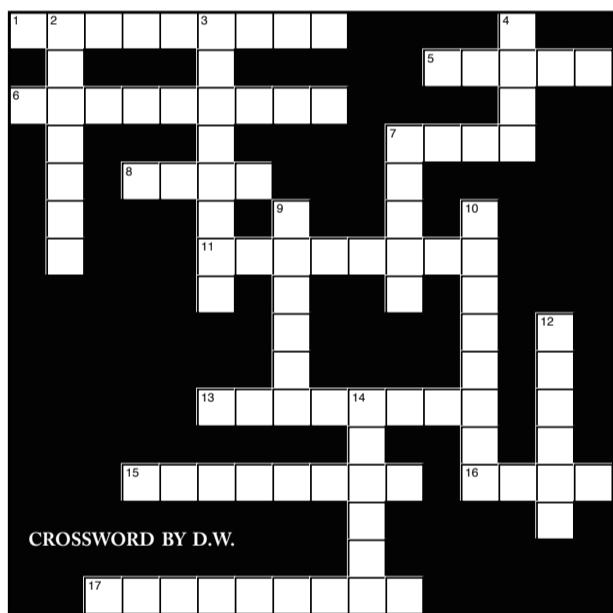
**Beauty, Vanity and Narcissism
Three Aboriginal Male Artist**

Photographers: Adam Hill, Garry Lee & Christian Thompson
Curator Djon Mundine OAM
30 June to 30 July 2011
The Cross Art Projects
Contemporary Art and Curatorial Platforms
8 Llanckelly Place,
Kings Cross Sydney 2011
Hours: 11 to 6 Thursday to Saturday
or by appointment
T: (02) 9357 2058



Defence Shield Required Photo: Nobuko Shimizu

South Sydney Crossword



First correct entry receives a prize.
Send to:
South Sydney Crossword
PO Box 3288
Redfern NSW 2016

* Denotes cryptic clue

- Across**
- *Cover a chair and raise your gun perhaps?* (9)
 - Sack (5)
 - Infuriate (9)
 - Virginal (4)
 - A curse; bringer of misery (4)
 - Lift (8)
 - *Fight for possession of this word game* (8)
 - Dilemma (8)
 - A sweet pie (4)
 - *Sewing the end of first circle* (9)

- Down**
- *You are quiet in stance and reason* (7)
 - Unknown person; odder (8)
 - Sand hill (4)
 - Water and flour (5)
 - An associate of a club or society (6)
 - Risk (6)
 - German capital

Poetry

JIMMY CLARK

I remember
in audio-visual clarity
the disparity of life
and death
sad the questions remain
conjuring I wandering
and wonders sing
remembering Jimmy Clark
and the early morning knock
at the door and tidings
the kid three doors down
told me this
that Clark was dead
lost control and flew
into the Black Forest
and all before we went to school
that morning
I said nothing I was in shock
I loved Jimmy Clark
when I was a kid
I still think of it.
- Adrian Spry

FANTASTIC

Daedal
Die alive and dancing
flying and death dancing
sit down tonight
and sigh sigh high
the lights reply
a fantastic lie
- Adrian Spry

LONELINESS

Immobilis'd 4
by 5
Lone li ness 3
Bad Place To Be 7
Change Direction Now 5
- Cecile Pauly
She's a lamb.
In my lap, perfectly.
Perfectly placed -
a Borgian daughter,
embraced.
- Cecile Pauly

WORDPLAY - CREATIVE WRITING GROUP
Woolpack Hotel Redfern, 229 Chalmers Street, Redfern
6-8pm Wed, July 6 & 20. Phone Andrew on 8399 3410
All welcome



*For translation visit www.dharug.dalang.com.au



Help someone see a better future.

Vinnies changes lives every day. Donate now to the Vinnies Winter Appeal. Call 13 18 12 or visit vinnies.org.au



BABANA
Aboriginal Men's Group
Next meeting Friday, July 29
12-2pm, PCYC, Redfern
Contact: Mark Spinks 9243 3546




food distribution network
home delivery of low-cost fresh fruit & vegetables

The Food Distribution Network is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers boxes of fresh and inexpensive fruit and vegies to older people, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and carers who live in the City of Sydney and need assistance living independently at home. For \$9 you can have a box of 6-8kg of fruit and/or vegies delivered to your door each week or fortnight. Please call 9699 1614 or e-mail enquiries@fdn.org.au for more information. These services are funded by the Home and Community Care programme and the AIDS Trust of Australia.

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

SATURDAY ART CLASS
South Sydney Uniting Church
(56a Raglan St, Waterloo)
12-4pm Saturday July 9 & 23
More information phone 8399 3410.



Painting: Grace Collins

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

Singing Bird Productions presents
MUSIC AND ME
Kristina Keneally interviewed by Emma Ayers
Performing artists: Angela Lewis, David Hidden, Julie O'Reilly, Mary Leigh Hand
Friday August 26, 7.30pm
Paddington Uniting Church, 395 Oxford Street
Tickets at the door: \$30 Tickets online: \$28 www.trybooking.com/RYO

New support group for men

The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service (GLCS) of NSW is announcing a new service to increase awareness and support for men who identify as gay, bisexual, queer, same-sex attracted or who may be questioning their sexuality.
"Talking It Out: a men's discussion group exploring issues and sexuality" is an ongoing casual group meeting for men, based on peer facilitation and support. The group is aimed at men who are looking for support while coming to grips with issues such as coming out, safer sex, relationships, homophobia, families and finding happiness. The group is open to all men aged 18 years and older.
The group runs every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, having commenced on April 7. The group runs from 7pm to 9pm upstairs at 43 Bedford St, Newtown, NSW. There is no need to register or commit to each session.

GLCS also offers other support groups, such as SMART drug and alcohol recovery and the Women's Coming Out Group and will be launching a social group later in the year.
Telephone counselling and information is also available 5.30pm-9.30pm every evening on (02) 8594 9596 or 1800 184 527 (freecall for regional NSW).
For more information on the work of GLCS see www.glcsnsw.org.au or call the office on (02) 8594 9500.

What is happening in Redfern-Waterloo?

Get the latest from www.redwatch.org.au
Geoffrey & Lyn Turnbull
Ph Wk: (02) 8004 1490
Email RWIU@turnbulls.com.au

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 apps).
Volunteers welcome (phone Naomi on 0407 576 098)

- Uniting Churches**
- 
- South Sydney Uniting Church**
56a Raglan St Waterloo
Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday
Rev Andrew Collis 8399 3410
Welcoming people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and identities. Peace with justice, integrity of creation.
- Glebe Cafe Church**
Crm St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave, Glebe
Worship Sun 7 for 7.15pm
'Colbourne Ave' Intimate Candlelit Concerts Thu 8pm
Steph Gesling 9518 9413
- Leichhardt University Church**
3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt (near Norton St)
Worship 6.30pm Sunday
Rev. Dr John Hirt 0408 238 117
- 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
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
- Wayside Chapel**
29 Hughes St Potts Point
Worship 10am,
Bible Study 5pm Sunday
Ps Graham Long 9358 6996

YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS



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Rabbitoh resurgence

ADRIAN SPRY

Well, it's Hallelujah time! The competition has reached the halfway point and we are heading into the business end. The Bunnies are looking better by the minute. Two wins on the trot and we are now sitting just outside the eight. Just sitting pretty, smoking our pipes and waiting to pounce. Bring it on, baby! It's Bunny time! Can I get a Hallelujah?

The Bunnies have shown a real ability to hang in there when it gets tough. After suffering such a horrific run of injuries a lot of the younger guys have really hopped up to the plate.

The onus is now on the more established stars to fight their way back into the team. Consider the players who will be returning after injury in the next six to eight weeks just in time to do the business when it matters most. Yeehaw, it's Bunny time!

Come on Bunnies, keep picking up those points week by week, and before you know it the momentum will become an irresistible force. The Bunnies will be weaving their way through the pack just like D. Beadman aboard Super in that big Randwick mile a few years ago.

A miserly attitude in defence combined with a profound belief in this being the Year of the Rabbit will have people dancing in the streets of Redfern-

Waterloo come that day in September. It's gonna be dancing days. Can I get an Amen?

That was a great win against the Broncos. A big scalp. And the form around that win against the Sharks is looking better. Come on Bunnies!

I have consulted my crystal ball and this IS the Year of Red and Green! We've already beaten the Sea Eagles this year and the crystal ball is telling me it's going to be Bunnies vs Sea Eagles in the big one.

Timing is everything and the Bunnies will be coming home like Bernborough, steaming down the middle of the track with their little cotton tails in the air. Yeehaw, it's Bunny time!

SSH

Little ray of sunshine

MICHAEL PAGE

It has not been a great year for Souths to date – there is no doubt about that. They've struggled with injuries and ongoing concerns regarding their ability to win games when the pressure is on. Many supporters appeared resigned to the view that this year was all but over, and all too ready to heave a sigh and the all too familiar, "There's always next year". But in Perth, as the skies opened up, umbrellas blew inside-out and the ground turned to a quagmire, a little ray of sunshine shone on Souths' season.

All in all, June wasn't a bad month for Souths. It began with disappointment in an accustomed way with a loss to a very beatable Melbourne. The after-match discussion focussed on the Dave Taylor "no try" decision. And while it remains a mystery as to why Taylor's charge was not referred to video, the discussion

distracted attention from the ongoing inadequacies in Souths' playmakers who once again failed to capitalise on a ton of possession and the hard work of an energetic forward pack led by Michael Crocker.

After picking up two easy points from the bye, Souths took on the Titans at home. Once again the young Souths pack was impressive. Converted from back row through necessity, Shannan McPherson seems born to play prop with his well-timed charges, straight running close to the ruck and his willingness to do the "hard yards". Leading 14-nil and dominating a seemingly impotent Titans, Souths let in two easy tries and fans braced themselves for yet another close finish. A Sandow field goal did little to ease concerns but the Souths defence held out and a flurry of exciting tries in the last seven minutes delivered a deserved 31-8 victory.

When people think of Perth they think about blue skies, warm weather and the

sun setting into a beautiful ocean. Souths' relocated "home" game was a planned showcase for the game in the rugby league starved state. But early in the afternoon the wind blew, the rain came down and the ground became absolutely saturated.

But Souths took a liking to the swamp-like conditions and scored early through the hard running Chris Macqueen and then through the combination of Chris Sandow's puddle-finding talent and Wesser's web-footed plunge into deep waters moved to a 14-nil lead.

This early lead was crucial and despite a two-try comeback from Brisbane, Souths' defence held on against a mountain of Brisbane possession in the second half. Souths' dogged defence in the last 15 minutes was noteworthy and outstanding, bucking the established pattern of capitulation when the two points are on offer. Greg Inglis and Nathan Merritt made some heroic plays to save the day but the win belonged

to the whole team. Crocker's leadership of his young and willing pack of "no names" has been a feature, and juniors Nathan Peats, Jason Clarke and Eddie Pettybourne have shown character, composure and maturity under pressure.

Now nestled on the edge of the eight, July will be crucial for Souths' finals chances. And fans will be hoping that they bring the same grit and determination they found in the wetlands of Perth.

SSH

The Ravens meet each Saturday at 8am (for the winter months) on the corner of Botany Road and Raglan Street in Waterloo. New members (and beginners) welcome! Phone Adrian on 9690 1427

RAVENS RUNNING GROUP

BARANI BARRABUGU YESTERDAY TOMORROW

photograph by Tim Webster: timwebster.com.au

WALKING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS:

a new guide from the City of Sydney explores the Aboriginal history of Sydney, from first contact to today's living culture.

Guides are available at various outlets throughout the Sydney CBD. For locations and further details call 9265 9333, or download the brochure at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani



CITY OF SYDNEY