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the South Sydney Herald

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

BEATING THE CHRISTMAS BLUES



HopeStreet affordable toy sale in Glebe Photo: Ali Blogg

HopeStreet Urban Compass will be running its annual Christmas Hamper Drive, and this year the group is putting together up to 550 hampers to hand out to the homeless community and the disadvantaged residents of the Woolloomooloo and Glebe housing estates.

Brendan Wood, Relationships & Communications Manager of HopeStreet, said the Christmas Hamper Drive ran every year because the hampers were always well received by people. "Many of them depend on it for their Christmas meal, either on their own or with their family," he said. "The fact that we are able to hand out a hamper and offer a hand of love makes an impact on them."

Mr Wood said that the members of the community were fairly honest in helping the group evenly distribute hampers. "When they're in need, they'll tell us and when they're not and they're okay, they'll usually tell us as well," he said.

The Kings Cross Community Centre will be closed from Christmas Day to New Year's Day but the centre is making sure its clients are looked after and are given enough provisions during that time. Robyn Greaves, the Centre Coordinator, said many of the disabled and elderly clients lived alone or were isolated during the Christmas period.

"I contact all our clients and talk to them about what they're doing over Christmas, tell them what's available, and if possible get them booked into places to go on Christmas day or organise for someone to visit them over the Christmas period," she said.

The Kings Cross Community Centre arranged for its members to attend rotary lunches and the centre's own Christmas lunch. It also worked through other charities to organise the delivery of Christmas hampers or gifts for clients who would benefit from them.

For information on how you can donate or assist with the Wayside Chapel's Annual Christmas Day Street Party visit www.thewaysidechapel.com
To donate or assist with HopeStreet's Christmas Hamper Drive visit www.hopestreet.org.au

BRENDAN WONG

With Christmas fast approaching, many inner-city welfare agencies are hard at work organising lunches and hampers to support disadvantaged members of the community.

The Wayside Chapel is currently preparing for its popular Annual

Christmas Day Street Party which has run every year since the early 1970s.

Rev. Graham Long, Pastor and CEO of the Wayside Chapel, said the free community event was not only for the disadvantaged but for those who were lonely. "We just say if you need to be with us, then you qualify. It's really about not being alone, more than anything else," he said.

Mr Long expected 1000 to 1500 people to attend the lunch but he said there had been years when the attendance had reached 3000. Running the lunch required 400 volunteers but the group always received more volunteers than they could use, Mr Long said. "When we call for volunteers, we start the registrations at 9am and by 3pm that same day we got them all,"

he said. "People are anxious to be part of our party." Mr Long said the public could help with the Christmas Day lunch by volunteering or donating food or equipment. The Wayside Chapel has traditionally made Christmas hampers but due to current problems with their building, the group will be giving out back-packs with items such as toothpaste and soap.



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Funding for young mums, swim and dance lessons?

FLINT DUXFIELD

The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre in Redfern is set to expand its community programs after receiving a \$100,000 donation from Queensland mining magnate, Peter Bond. The Linc Energy CEO made the donation after spending ten days in Redfern as part of Channel Nine's reality TV series, *The Secret Millionaire*.

Chairperson of the Settlement management committee, Joel Pringle, said the Centre was extremely grateful for the support provided by Mr Bond. "Something like this makes a huge difference to a neighbourhood centre like the Settlement which is traditionally quite underfunded," he said.

Mr Bond, whose estimated wealth is over half a billion dollars, said he initially planned to donate \$50,000 up front and provide more funding in following years. But after spending time at the Settlement, he realised the importance of providing the funding without any conditions.

"The feedback was that they don't get a lot of money without strings attached to it. I was going to try to control it, but I thought what if these people aren't here in the years to come? Let's give them the most we can right now."

Mr Bond said he was inspired to donate the money after witnessing the dedication of local people at organisations like the Settlement and the Shop, which he visited whilst filming the show.

"If you'd asked me before I went there what I expected to find in the community, I probably would have given a stereotypical answer about drug and alcohol problems. But after spending ten days working with people like those at the Settlement, I walked away filled with hope and optimism because here are people working hard to break the cycle of difficulties that the community faces."

According to Manager, Vicky Winters, the Settlement is Australia's oldest neighbourhood centre, providing cultural,



Vicky Winters Photo: Ali Blogg

health and educational services for the local community for over 100 years. It runs on an annual budget of around \$300,000 with which it assists around 80 young people and adults each week through a drop-in centre, after school care and other community programs.

Exactly how the funds will be spent is yet to be decided. Ms Withers said there are a number of options on the table and proposals are still being accepted from community members about how the money should be used.

"We're thinking about starting a young mums' group to get young mums into a space where they can interact publicly with their children. We're also hoping to use it for some new initiatives for the kids like a swimming program or dance lessons," she said.

Ms Winters said there was also the option of buying a community bus.

"That would allow us to transport more people to events like Karate competitions which some of the kids take part in and also to do more spontaneous work like picking up local youth and taking them swimming."

Roxanne Briggs of Canterbury has been visiting the Settlement for over 17 years. She has four children aged 6 to 14 who regularly visit the Settlement and take part in its activities. "The kids love the Settlement, especially the homework centre. It's because it's so warm and friendly. I don't know what the community would do if it wasn't here," she said.

While the Settlement is grateful for the money provided by Mr Bond, Ms Winters says more funding is needed to finance much needed building upgrades.

The Settlement has applied for \$300,000 through the State Government's

Community Building Partnership scheme to fund the upgrade. Residents of the Marrickville electorate were invited to vote for the Settlement's proposal alongside 13 other community projects through a ballot system organised by the Member for Marrickville, Carmel Tebbutt.

Ms Withers said the Settlement had made it through to the second round of the selection process for the grant and was hoping to receive at least part of the funding requested when the recipients are announced in early December.

If the Settlement doesn't receive the funding it needs, it may be able to look to Peter Bond to provide additional assistance. Mr Bond said he was planning on visiting the Settlement again before Christmas and hinted that there could be further funding available for the Centre. "I might go back and give them additional money if need be," he said.

Thirty years and still transporting

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

The 30th anniversary lunch for South Sydney Community Transport (SSCT), held in the Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh, was packed out with member clients alongside drivers, volunteers, officials and various community leaders. All around were people telling good stories of a service that is life changing for many. Manager Jane Rogers moved around making everyone feel welcome, and the President of the SSCT Committee, David Atkins, guided us through the event.

The brief Annual General Meeting brought only good news – a financial surplus for the year, increasing funding from its sponsors and overall enthusiasm for its services. The Chinese Ultimo Community Choir sang, Auntie Silvia Scott welcomed people to Country and Gumeroy delivered an amazing didgeridoo performance.

Roy Wakelin-King, CEO of the Redfern Waterloo Authority, described the depth of care, the extra mile of service given by all associated with the transport and its contribution to the forming of community among all concerned.

In launching the new DVD, which tells the story of the service, Lord Mayor Clover Moore reflected that so many community organisations begin with enthusiasm and then falter as time goes on. She felt the fact the SSCT has succeeded is due to three main factors. The first is that the service is based on genuine need, and the second that it is "firmly based in and built on" the local



The Ultimo Community Choir sings in celebration Photo: Ali Blogg

community. The third, and she thinks most important, factor – that the project has attracted "an extraordinary range of imaginative, dedicated and hard-working staff and volunteers".

The objectives of the service are ones to which the Lord Mayor has been committed all through her varied political life. She believes that "an equitable city must be an accessible city and one that caters for all ages and abilities".

She stated that there is still much more to be done on a wider front in the city, especially in the light of global warming, and suggested that the State transport system could learn much from South Sydney Community Transport.

She celebrated, especially, the difference it makes in the lives of so many people – allowing them to move around for medical appointments, shopping, local exercise centres, social interaction with

neighbours and social outings.

Ms Moore announced that the pilot project shuttle bus from Redfern to Glebe via the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital would continue to be funded by the City of Sydney.

She then launched the new DVD, which was followed by children from the Darlington Public School Choir leading the singing of 'Happy Birthday' and enjoyable socialising by all.

New Centrelink officers to help the homeless

ROBERT MORRISON

Minister for Housing Tanya Plibersek, and Minister for Human Resources Chris Bowen, have appointed 90 new Centrelink staff across Australia, who will work to achieve Kevin Rudd's goal of halving homelessness in Australia by 2020.

As part of the Labor Party's White Paper on Homelessness, the new Community Engagement Officers will work closely with non-government organisations like drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, mental health services, hostels, boarding houses, refuges and drop-in centres.

Daniel Withers, 47, hopes the new CEOs can help the 340 people "sleeping rough" in Sydney every night, particularly in the inner west. "I've been in that situation and it is one that I never want to return to ... Many people think it's a choice for these people because it was their own drug addiction or alcohol problems that got them there, but that's not true," says Withers. "The new CEOs should help get more of [the homeless] off the streets and into homes or shelters."

A recent count by Sydney City Council found that Woolloomooloo had the highest number of "rough sleepers" in Sydney closely followed by Kings Cross. Other areas recording higher than average numbers included Paddington, Glebe, Surry Hills, Ultimo and Redfern.

"[The] CEOs will help individuals break the cycle of homelessness," says

Ms Plibersek. "Focusing on prevention reduces the number of people who will experience homelessness. Assisting homeless Australians to access the full range of Centrelink services will help them end their homelessness sooner."

Since taking office, the Labor Government has spent over \$7 billion on homelessness. However, many are questioning whether this generous spending is making an inroad into the homelessness problem.

"Kevin Rudd has stated that the number of homeless in Australia is 'unacceptable', but his government has, so far failed to deal with the problem," says Tom Dobson, local Green-Left activist.

The Homeless Persons Information Centre recently reported a record 67,000 calls to its assistance service for the 2008-09 financial year. That was 13,000 calls more and 24 per cent higher than the year before. Wesley Mission in Sydney has also reported turing away on average 35 people a night and have already housed over 1500 people this year. That is 15 per cent higher than last year.

However, Mr Bowen hopes that the greater accessibility to information through the CEOs will help reduce these numbers. "Centrelink is a key 'first to know' agency and is well placed to identify people at risk," says Mr Bowen. "These officers are trained to work with homeless Australians, who have difficulties accessing information and all available support services they need."

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Free speech or hate speech?

NORRIE MAY-WELBY

Riot squad, sniffer dogs and police on horseback gathered around the Humanist Society building in Chippendale on the first Friday night in November as a hundred local folk conducted a lively street protest against a neo-Nazi group that had planned to meet in the building.

The demonstration had been initiated by some local people who had been disturbed at the sight of Nazi icons on those apparently using the building for a regular neo-Nazi meeting. In an address to the crowd, one local resident told of his fear as a gay person at seeing people gathering with brazen displays of Nazi paraphernalia associated with murderous homophobia, racism and cultural intolerance. Other people from groups targeted by Nazis expressed similar concerns. Yet the

second speaker, Chris Mansergh, a long-term truth and social justice activist, spoke in favour of the right of the neo-Nazi group to meet, on the principle of freedom speech.

Mr Mansergh told the SSH that he had gone to the Humanist Society building a few weeks previous for a meeting of another group, and he and his friends had then been terrorised by people attacking the building with baseball bats and smashing windows, not knowing until afterwards who those people may have been or what they wanted. It seems likely that these people had been trying to protest against Nazis, using the same techniques for which Nazis are notorious.

Kieran Adair, a local university student who came to support the rally, told the SSH: "I don't want fascists in my city or my country. The Nazis started this way and it's too dangerous to even let them plant their roots. Hate speech is not free speech."

Dale Mills, 46, a long-term member of the Humanist Society, told the SSH: "I think that freedom of expression is very important, but this is more about organisation, and far-right organisations coming together to organise and promote their policies. If their policies are racist and hateful, I think that leasing them a room to let them do that is a step too far." He said the booking had probably been made without the nature of the groups being known.

President of the NSW Humanist Society, John August, issued a statement to that effect, explaining that a group called the Public Information Forum (PIF), banned from meeting at Humanist House in 2005, had returned under the name Klub Nation. At the recent AGM in August 2009, PIF/Klub Nation participants and supporters were elected to the Humanist Society's management committee.

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Planning to make heritage relevant

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A forum held at the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre late last month, attended by 40-50 people, enabled the Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill 2009 to be publicly debated with interaction from the public.

Co-chaired by MHS President Richard Blair and committee member Sonia Laverty, guest speakers were Helen Westwood MLC (Labor); Brad Hazzard MLA, Shadow Minister for Planning (Member for Wakehurst, Liberal); Sylvia Hale MLC (Greens); and Peter Lowry, National Trust board member.

Most of Helen Westwood's speech discussed recent additions to the Heritage

Register. She also discussed the Heritage Grants Programs and indicated that "the Government is committed to making Heritage relevant".

Brad Hazzard claimed that former Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, now a backbencher, has recently reversed his view that there is no need for a new Environmental Planning & Assessment Act. Hazzard's Liberal Party, if elected, would bring out a new EP&A Act within 18 months of gaining office and would split Planning and Heritage into two portfolios.

Sylvia Hale expressed despair over Part 3A Major Projects (introduced in 2005 and supported by both major parties) which allows the Minister for Planning to switch off heritage protection and make major planning decisions. This effectively exempts from

the Heritage Act anything deemed of State significance.

Peter Lowry said the National Trust fully supports the separation of Planning from Heritage and decries the composition of the Heritage Council being largely "people who are pro-development". He believes that community needs must be given precedence over the demands of developers in the decision-making process.

Some questions from the floor related to the slowness of the heritage listing process, whether the Government is listening to the community's concerns, and developer donations. In relation to donations, Peter Lowry said, "If the system for heritage worked properly, there would be no need to regulate donations".

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Parichat (Anne) Chantarat of the Thai Square restaurant on Redfern Street Photo: Andrew Collis

Rolling up the shutters and getting down to business

PHILIP WEN

Businesses in Redfern have been asked to roll up their infamous shutter doors – for good.

The City of Sydney, Redfern Waterloo Authority (RWA) and the Redfern Waterloo Chamber of Commerce (RWCC) have joined forces to launch the Roll-Up Redfern campaign, urging business owners along Redfern and Regent Streets to remove shutter doors from their shop fronts.

"Shutter doors send out messages of insecurity, higher-than-average levels of crime, and the need for protection," RWA Chief Executive Roy Wakelin-King explained. "Removing shutter and roller doors will acknowledge the revitalisation of the area to its current state and its exciting potential."

The City, RWA and RWCC co-wrote a letter to business owners talking up business opportunities, citing the imminent arrival of Channel Seven at the Australian Technology Park and the approval of the Aboriginal Housing Company's Pemulwuy Project concept

plan as examples.

While the removal of shutters will be voluntary, RWCC President Mary Lynne Pidcock said she hoped business owners would support the cause and help demonstrate that Redfern's stock was on the rise. Ms Pidcock said: "A very strong message that we think that we can give is 'We will roll up the shutters', and give the impression that Redfern is open for business, it is welcoming, it is on its way back – and we want to give that very strong message to everyone."

The City of Sydney believes that improving the appearance of shop fronts will add to street appeal. Numerous shops along Regent Street have deteriorated after being vacant for long periods. "If a shop is vacant, owners can agree to artworks or aesthetically interesting products displayed in the shops, in a professional layout, so that the area regains a 'live' look and not a depressed, unengaged look," a City of Sydney spokesperson said. "The idea is to create more vibrancy in the area, attract many more people and create more interest in renting or selling shops that are currently empty."

And while the City says the majority of property owners support the Roll-Up Redfern campaign, some tenants require more convincing. "The one time we didn't put our shutters down, we got broken into," said Julie Nguyen, of Yen's Vietnamese Cuisine on Regent Street. "It was only a few weeks ago."

"Three times they broke in even with the shutter doors," said Hazem Sedda, manager of Redfern Convenience Store on Redfern Street. "If we leave the shutter doors open, it will not be good. Insurance will be a lot higher without shutter doors – it's already high in Redfern anyway."

When asked for comment, the City of Sydney said their own enquiries to insurance companies indicated that insurance premiums should not be increased if the roller shutters are removed, and that alternative security measures were being discussed.

Mr Wakelin-King said that the area's history of high crime and insecurity was a thing of the past and incongruous with the optimism of today. "We believe the perception about levels of security in the area is not currently reflective of reality," he said. SSH

Supermarket and pokies "socially irresponsible"

KELLY LANE

The City of Sydney Council has approved a supermarket in the new Souths Leagues Club building, despite no guarantee the club will be pokie-free as once hoped.

When Peter Holmes à Court and Russell Crowe took over the South Sydney Rabbitohs in 2006, they were applauded for their announcement to have a new style of club without poker machines, until Leagues Club members later voted to retain them.

Mr Holmes à Court said last month that, despite his wish to see the Leagues Club free of poker machines, the football club had no power in a final decision. "Russell and I are separate from the Leagues Club," Mr Holmes à Court said. "We expressed a desire, an aspiration, because we felt it was in the best interest of the community of Redfern ... we were just hoping, imagining, dreaming."

City of Sydney Councillors were faced with the decision about the DA for the fit-out of the supermarket last month. Prior approval had been given for a supermarket in 2007, but for some Councillors this was on the basis that the club would be pokie-free.

Souths Leagues representatives, who

refused comment for this story, have argued that the supermarket is vital to the club's survival as it is a major tenant in the development.

However, Greens Councillors Irene Doughty and Chris Harris, the only Councillors to vote against the development application, expressed their concern about the potential for a supermarket and poker machines to be housed in the same premises. Cr Doughty said she supported the Leagues Club but it would be "socially irresponsible" for the IGA to be in close proximity to poker machines, because shoppers could be diverted and gamble their food money. "When you live in an area that's full of people that are on very, very low incomes, many of whom have a number of addiction problems ... it would seem folly to me to put a supermarket in the same building as poker machines," she said.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore did not take part in the vote because Mr Holmes à Court was a donor to her state election campaign in 2006. Cr Harris said he gave initial approval to the supermarket in 2007 because he saw it as a means of income for the club in the place of revenue from poker machines. "My view now is if they're going to finance the club with poker machines, they don't need a supermarket there," Cr Harris said. "The other thing of

significant concern to me is, how much pressure was put on the management of the club and the members of the club by the poker machine industry?"

Labor Councillor Meredith Burgmann had faith in Souths Leagues Club's intention to submit a development application without reference to poker machines. She said, however, that under the legislation only planning controls should have influenced Council's decision about the supermarket. "They made a decision and supported a supermarket, so to then say you can't fit it out because there are poker machines next door is not a lawful decision," Cr Burgmann said.

The survival of the club was also important to the social fabric of the Redfern area, she said.

"It's really important that the club be there, as a focus for community sentiment."

Mr Holmes à Court believes the club may still open in the middle of next year, without poker machines. "Russell and I have only argued from the start for one thing, which is, it's worth a shot to try and create an environment [where] families want to gather, friends want to watch the football [and] people want to go out to dinner."

The supermarket will operate from 7am to 10pm seven days a week. SSH

Why vegetarian?

By Angelique Watkins

Well, why not? Not only am I a vegetarian for ethical reasons, in that I don't believe in harming other living beings, but for good overall health and environmental reasons also.

Many people claim they are striving for a peaceful world, yet as humans we are the only animal that consistently kills for fun, and eats other animals when there is no nutritional need to do so. Do we really want to strive towards peace, or just talk about it, to be seen as a "peaceful person", while continuing to act in a manner inconsistent with a peaceful philosophy?

If you stop to think of the harm that is caused not only to the animals that are bred in large numbers only to be slaughtered, but to the land by breeding "livestock" solely for the purposes of food and clothing, where less harmful alternatives are available, is the decision to eat meat justified? The process of eating farm animals requires large tracts of land to be cleared for the animals to graze and to grow the food to feed them.

The meat from these animals feeds a fraction that could be fed if the same amount of land were used for human food crops. If we all went vegetarian, less land would be required to feed the people of the world and there would be less degradation to the environment. The starving populations of the world may be able to eat if only half of the land used for grazing and livestock food crops were used to grow food crops for humans.

Vegetarianism can be a difficult choice as most of us were raised to eat meat, have become accustomed to eating it, and have been sheltered from the reality of it as we tend to buy it from a supermarket or butcher pre-packaged and ready to go. However, if you can make the step towards vegetarianism or at least make vegetarian food a larger part of your diet, not only will you be healthier (provided you do eat sensibly i.e., a range of fruit, vegetables, grains and legumes), but you will know that you are making a positive difference to your fellow animals and the environment.

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The Darlington and Alexandria Park Public School Band Photo: Ali Blogg

What instrument does a skeleton play?

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

I must admit I didn't know the answer to that significant question until told to us all by a confident young Darlington Public School student at the Halloween Fete recently. The answer is, of course, "A trombone!" Obvious, when you think of it. She gave us another one.

"What does a bird say on Halloween?" The bird says, "Twig or tweet!"

On the day, we all had a great time walking around among the stalls and the suitably painted and attired Halloween characters in the school grounds. Everything hummed with activity and a real sense of community. Talking with some of

the parents, they all agreed that creating community between its diverse pupils and those around was a strong feature of life at the school.

Watching the music teacher, Graeme Sandstrom, organising a number of individual performances and then that of the school band, told us a lot about the nature of the school and its staff. There was such a spirit of friendliness,

of encouragement, combined effort and talent as the band set itself up to bring us its music. If you were expecting 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' or maybe some familiar elementary classical pieces, you would still be waiting.

The band, which is a combined Darlington and Alexandria Park Community School group, launched into a song from *Mama Mia!*,

complete with a very impressive young soloist singing confidently into a microphone! Times have changed.

It was a great fun day, with a Ghost House in one of the classrooms and all sorts of enjoyable activities for everyone. We came away with a sense of real celebration for all that lies there in the efforts of both teachers and students.

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Labor's hard line on immigration

ALEX FLEMING

Controversy has once again erupted across Australia over the nation's immigration policy following the incident involving 78 Sri Lankan refugees that emerged last month.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has received criticism for his handling of the issue, which has sparked a country-wide discussion about the highly complex issue of "illegal" immigration.

Given his position as the overwhelmingly preferred Prime Minister contending with a conflict-riven Opposition, many have expressed their disappointment with the position taken by Rudd. From Canberra late last month, Mr Rudd defended his strong position, arguing, "I make absolutely no apology whatsoever for taking a hard line on illegal immigration to Australia".

The national debate has sent Labor for Refugees, a grass-roots lobby and action group comprised of members of the ALP, formed following the 2001 Federal Election, into overdrive, petitioning the government to undertake a humane and international approach to both the Sri Lankan refugees as well as the broader problem.

Linda Scott, Surry Hills resident and Co-President of Labor for Refugees, says that the Sri Lankan scandal has now more than ever illuminated the need for a fairer and more humane refugee policy. However, Ms Scott believes that of most

pressing alarm at the moment is Malcolm Turnbull's recent announcement that if the Coalition is returned to power he will reintroduce the Temporary Protection Visa abolished by the Rudd Government.

Under this category of visa, people were not permitted to leave the country nor were their families allowed to come to Australia. Ms Scott argues that this subsequently led refugees to encourage their families to get on boats and attempt the dangerous passage to Australia.

"We are very concerned about the message that Mr Turnbull is sending to refugees, both within Australia and those considering getting on a boat," Ms Scott said. "What we have here is Mr Turnbull presenting the public with opposing rhetoric - he says he wants to stop the flow of boats and yet he's willing to reintroduce this visa ... [it] is so horribly irresponsible."

Ms Scott said that although Labor for Refugees was pleased with the progress that has been made since the Rudd Government took office, there was still much to be done. Of particular concern is the "Australian migration zone", which distinguishes between Australia and Australian waters.

Under current legislation, refugees who are picked up by authorities within these excised areas are processed separately from those on the mainland on Christmas Island. Refugees that are processed there do not have the same rights or options available to them, and can be sent to neighbouring islands within the Papua

New Guinean region.

Labor for Refugees is also pressing for more action on climate change refugees - those who either now cannot or in the future will not be able to continue living in their native homelands due to the effects of global warming and climate change.

This is a serious and foreseeable threat towards small and underdeveloped nations such as Bangladesh and the Maldives. As early as the 1990s the UN has taken action to protect these possibly displaced peoples, however Ms Scott believes, that as a powerhouse in the region, it is up to Australia to take a leading and more concrete role in the matter.

Nonetheless, Ms Scott praised the government for the way it has significantly decreased the processing time of detained refugees, as well as abolishing detention debt and putting an end to children being placed in detention.

Beyond this, Ms Scott remained optimistic about diplomatic progress on the issue, particularly in the way the Rudd government has opened up talks with Indonesia and our neighbours to address the issue on an international scale.

"It is a really complex and controversial policy area, we have to spend enough time on it and hear all perspectives to make sure we get it right and avoid isolating ourselves. It's good that we are negotiating with Sri Lanka. It's good that we are negotiating with Indonesia. This is an international issue and it needs to be addressed at its source." SSN



Jason Glanville, CEO of the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence Photo: Ali Blog

National Centre part of Redfern renaissance, says CEO

NAVOT ROM

As the opening of the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence gets closer, CEO Jason Glanville addresses the concerns of local residents.

The NCIE is being developed by the Indigenous Land Corporation and is planned to open on the old site of Redfern Public School in January, with some facilities being activated in December.

Mr Glanville said of the long-awaited opening: "It's a little bit behind time, in terms of our original expectations but, with a project of this size, things often run overtime and our concern is that we get the project right rather than rush it to try and get it finished. And for us a new year opening is a good thing. We get to start the new year with a new centre."

Some locals are skeptical about the

need for the new Centre and believe it may take attendance away from similar local services, such as the Police Citizen Youth Club.

Geoff Turnbull of REDWatch, said: "All the services already exist, it's just a matter of another one being added in."

However, Mr Glanville says the NCIE is targeting national, as well as local, needs. Speaking of his own role in the development, he said: "Our job is to oversee the entire project ... and make sure that, as a national Centre based in Redfern, we start to build that national outreach; while being of as much use to the local community as we can possibly be, also growing into a national centre and being useful to as many young Aboriginal people from across the country as possible. Our ambition is that we'll have about 5000 young Aboriginal people through the Centre every year from right

across the country, and we've already got interest in bookings from organisations as far away as North Queensland and Western Australia."

Locals such as Mr Turnbull have questioned whether the project is necessarily more suited to Redfern's needs than the old school. "There's been a fair amount of unease and resentment about it from the local community ... population is going up and Redfern no longer has a school ... It was done because it's what the ILC wanted, and thought Redfern was as good as anywhere else," he said.

But Mr Glanville is enthusiastic about the role of the privately funded NCIE in government plans to renovate Redfern. "I would hope that the Centre is being established at the right time, given the approval of the Pemulwuy plan ... to be a part of the renaissance at Redfern." SSN



Have You Heard?

THE FAST NEWS

WITH TREVOR DAVIES

Campus life

Last month the Sydney Morning Herald had a serious of investigative reports about some of the appalling behaviour of the male students in the residential colleges at the University of Sydney. I received an email from a former student who also worked at some of the bars on campus. She writes: "Working at the University of Sydney student bar you get an insight into the drinking culture in colleges. There were regularly parties where only first year girls and older guys were invited. We had such a problem with guys buying girls mixed drinks that were double shots (without telling the girls) that we had to ban doubles. They dealt with that by buying a mixed drink and a shot, and tipping it in the drink once they were away from the bar. After that we had to ban shots, and the kids just simply stopped turning up to events. When we tried to sort it out with senior college kids who were on the Events Committees they told us that we were being too strict and not giving them cheap enough drinks so they would rather go to pubs in the surrounding areas and get cheaper drinks and more lax security there." One last comment. I work in an inner-city news agency and have to sell a magazine called Zoo, a magazine with pictures of women in states of undress. It's called Zoo. What does that say about how we blokes view women and some may even treat women - like animals. The magazine is published by ACP (the publishers of The Australian Women's Weekly). We need a good revival of 60s feminism. We need Germaine. Come on sisters! Don't take that sort of crappy behaviour from us blokes. On the other hand, guys, how about we men call each other into line in the name of being respectful to women and to the best in ourselves? Perhaps ACP should change the name of this trashy publication. Just think - they axed The Bulletin and kept Zoo!

Ethics instead of Scripture?

The debate on ethics courses in schools is interesting. For about

five years, in the mid-70s, I taught Scripture across the Northshore - Model Farms, Baulkham Hills and Pennant Hills, North Sydney Boys, Ku-ring-gai High Schools. I was at Pennant Hills High on Tuesday mornings. After reading some pretty emotional stories and asking all the 13-year-old students to bow their heads and pray, six students raised their hands to respond to a call to conversion. In retrospect I'm embarrassed by the way I taught Scripture. I don't think I'm alone. That probably still goes on. There is a strong case for the Department of Education to protect our kids and make sure that only trained teachers teach Scripture. The Minister must approve Ethics courses and I'm sure she will. Parents must have a choice. If you want to make your voice heard, there is an online petition where you can register your support for Ethics courses.

Surry Hills Festival returns to Crown Street

It seems that, next year, the Surry Hills Festival will move back to Crown Street from Prince Alfred Park. It had moved from Crown Street to Prince Alfred Park after the RTA decided to impose massive charges on the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre (the organisers of the festival). The charges would have wiped out most of the profit from the festival which is, we understand, the Neighbourhood Centre's main source of income. Now the million-dollar question is: Will the RTA do it again?

Living heritage

There's always a lot of interest in heritage issues - old buildings, the Eveleigh rail yards, etc., but there are some inner-city residents who should also be seen as living heritage. Poppy is of Greek heritage, born in Alexandria, Egypt. She has been living in Darlington for 50 years and knows all there is to know about Darlington. Poppy had coffee with her favourite polly, Tanya Plibersek, and offered the Minister some good old Greek wisdom.



Tanya Plibersek and Poppy Photo: Bill Sheridan

Flair, initiative and perseverance at the ATP

NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

Last month the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Kim Carr, was at the Australian Technology Park (ATP) in Eveleigh as part of the federal government's Powering Ideas initiative. The senator from Victoria was there as part of the Rudd Government's long-term strategy to boost the nation's innovation capacity and performance. This was part of the \$3.1 billion injection into research and innovation from this year's budget.

"It is a strategy to stimulate creativity, to accelerate the production and dissemination of new ideas," the Senator said.

"It is also a strategy to translate more Australian ideas into products and services we can sell to the world", stressing the importance of transforming Australia's fresh ideas into commercially viable products.

"This is an area in which we have not always done well," he stated, adding, "Having great ideas is one thing. Commercialising them is another."

The Senator praised the steadfast abilities of the young technology companies located at ATP, despite recent economic difficulties. "Economic downturns do more than cause short-term hardship, they also destroy capacity that can take years to rebuild," the Senator said. And whilst there was some praise for the Rudd stimulus package, Senator Carr did not take away from the efforts of the Australian workers and ingenuity housed at places like ATP.

"Most of the credit, however, goes to Australian workers and Australian industry," he said. "Successful innovation requires flair, initiative and perseverance. They have contrived to keep skilled and experienced people in jobs. They have held their nerve under fire."

Currently there are 55 individual companies at ATP, along with the historic



Senator Kim Carr talks with staff from Innovations Photo: Ali Blogg

rail heritage company, 3801 Ltd., and the unique blacksmith shop, Wrought Artworks, the ATP also hosts numerous IT companies. It is also home to national research centre for NICT Australia, and is the largest information and communications technology company in Australia, working in the fields of medical sciences, environmental management and intelligence.

Also found at the Technology Park is Marathon Robotics, a company that has been developing cutting-edge Rover System for realistic target training for military and law enforcement training.

There is also the GreenTech company, Biopower Systems, which has been concentrating on developing wave and tidal energy solutions. The company plans to bring its zero carbon emission bioWAVE and bioSTREAM online in Australia by 2010. These will be at specific locations around the country, feeding power into existing grids.

There are currently more than 450 fulltime employees at the ATP, attracting

over \$30 million in private and public investment, generating over 78 new products and services and over \$40 million in revenue.

ATP Innovations works in partnership with Australian National University, University of Sydney, University of New South Wales and University of Technology Sydney and has provided 95 new graduate positions as of 2008.

Senator Carr expressed his gratitude at the expanding possibilities and opportunities that the site offers for Australian ingenuity, and the role the ATP will play in transforming the nation's ideas into products and services that will be accessible for the world.

"It is immensely satisfying to see innovation in action," the Minister said.

It is also immensely satisfying to see government investment in Australian ingenuity within Australia, instead of allowing the country's young and creative minds to be exported overseas. With continued investment it is hoped only their products will be leaving our shores. **SSM**

Darlington resists the Uni push

NEIL WHITFIELD

Like old Dan in Judith Wright's 'South of My Days' John and Bev Hunter have 70 years of Darlington memories hived up in them like old honey. "It was a great place. We had the best of it," Bev recalls. "It was a really safe area. You could leave your key in the door, or leave it open, or the key under the mat. You never got shut out."

"It was terrible, what happened. 'Progress' they call it, but the Town Hall where everyone had their birthday parties, engagement parties, wedding parties - that went. But we did save the old school, which is a music room now, and the gates with the war memorials. How many were affected? You'd have to look at the James Colman Report on the expansion of Sydney University into the Darlington area." Bev has a copy in front of her. It came out in 1976 and is in Waterloo Library.

There were some, apparently, who helped themselves to people's property even before they had fully moved out. Some of the local hard men soon dealt with that. "It was pretty tough in those days," Bev says. "But we did get enough support to stop them crossing Shepherd Street" - referring to the University of Sydney which began encroaching on Darlington in the 1960s and has now "swallowed up almost half the suburb".

Not the first time the area was devoured of course. In 1788-9 the "Kangaroo Ground" (as it was then known) was set aside for educational and other purposes, though it would be the 1850s before the University actually appeared just above the swamp and lake that formed one of two sources of Blackwattle Creek. By 1791 most of the Cadigal had succumbed to

smallpox and other hazards. In 1835 the botanist, Thomas Shepherd, had a nursery there named in honour of Governor Ralph Darling; the street names - Ivy, Rose and so on - reflect that origin. By the late 19th century Darlington was well established as the working class suburb John and Bev Hunter were later born into.



Bev Hunter Photo: Ali Blogg

One of the attractions for young people in the 40s and 50s of last century was the Surryville. Johnny Devlin & the Devils, from New Zealand, started a permanent Tuesday night dance at the Surryville, but the place had been jumping long before that. St Vincent de Paul's had an event there: "In the winter of 1903, the Society organised at 'Surreyville' for the distressed poor of the parish a Bread and Butter Dance which was hailed as 'a perfect success'. Thirty-three lady parishioners, ranging from Madame Huenerbein to Madame McSweeney furnished a generous table free ... Rickett's string band discoursed the music and Miss May Stanley played the extras'. G.

Smythe provided Arnott biscuits, E. and G. Humphreys the cordials, the chemist Mr. M. H. Limon the programmes, and four local butchers the meat."

Bev remembers the alcohol-free dance nights. "We used to walk up to the Surryville, where the Wentworth Building now is, and walk home again around 11pm - that's how safe it was then."

But the University did provide work, too, for local people in the 60s and 70s. Bev herself worked as a cleaner in the Wentworth Building from 5-9am, then at a shop on the corner of Calder Road and Shepherd Street, which she eventually owned. Later she was in the hamburger bar upstairs in Wentworth. The Calder Road shop did much business with students from the new Engineering School; among Bev's customers was Frank Sartor with whom Bev would in time be on Sydney Council. Bev's activism in that role is local legend now. Her community work was acknowledged by the Council in 1988 with an Australia Day Award for voluntary work. She had also become a JP during those activist days so she could save people having to walk up to Newtown Court to get their documents witnessed. She is still an active JP.

Bev and John raised three children in Darlington. Retired to Long Jetty, she still feels part of the Darlington community. Some of their old neighbours now live not far from their new home, including one who was John's next-door neighbour in 1939. Bev still has relatives and friends in Darlington and visits quite often. A sister-in-law and her family still live in Calder Road. **SSM**

Acknowledgement: St. James' Forest Lodge parish history (online) for the account of the St Vincent de Paul event of 1903.

ADVERTISEMENT



Kristina Keneally MP
MEMBER FOR HEFFRON

South Sydney and Botany Bay residents now can use a new, high frequency bus service to the City and North Shore.

The newest Metrobus route is here, running between Mascot and Gore Hill. The route 20 Metrobus service provides an extra 80,000 spaces for people travelling between Sydney's south, the city and the lower North shore every week. As with the Metrobus route 10, the route 20 Metrobuses are a distinctive bright red colour.

This is the second of a five-route Metrobus network, which will be completed by the end of 2010. This whole network will provide over 300,000 additional passenger spaces on Sydney's busiest corridors every week.

The Metrobus network is unique and features:

- a route that connects places of work, shopping, entertainment and hospitals
- high frequency services not requiring a timetable
- a cashless, PrePay-only service for faster boardings, and
- a mixture of high capacity 'bendy' buses and standard buses.

From Mascot the new Route 20 service will travel up Botany Road, turn right onto Epsom Road in Rosebery, past Victoria Park on Joynton Avenue, up Bourke Street, across Phillip Street, Waterloo and then to the City along the Chalmers Street/Elizabeth Street corridor and on to North Sydney, Crows Nest, St Leonards and Gore Hill.

As you may recall, the Route 20 was originally planned to start and terminate at Rosebery. However, the southern terminus was extended to give residents and workers in the Mascot area greater access to public transport.

The NSW Government made the pledge when the first Metrobus trial began of giving Sydney more buses, more often. That promise is being delivered with the Route 20 and will continue to be honoured next year with three more Metrobus routes.

For more information on the Metrobus Route 20 and additional services that are planned, visit www.sydneybuses.info/metrobus.htm

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Julie Crittle ponders the future Photo: Ali Blogg

Boarding house under new management

ALEX TAYLOR

The management of a number of the culturally-significant Millers Point boarding houses has been placed by the Department of Housing into the hands of a not-for-profit company.

Numerous head tenants, including two women in their 80s, and residents in boarding houses in Lower Fort Street, had previously been under government orders to vacate their premises by October 30 without the assurance of alternative public housing. However, residents' lobbying has

resulted in Bridge Community Housing Ltd offering rolling one-month leases to allow tenants to stay on in their dwellings.

"Landladies ... have been a part of the heritage fabric of this area for over a hundred years, however, given our tenancy law offers no protection to boarders, the move to leases by Bridge Community Housing is a step forward, and if the verbal assurances by Bridge about the ongoing nature of the leases is to be relied upon this is a good outcome," says the head tenant of a Lower Fort Street boarding house, Julie Crittle.

Activist Jack Munday says that the heritage-listed Millers Point boarding houses were a lynchpin in the struggle to preserve culturally significant buildings with Green Bans in the 1970s and that it is important that low-income people continue to have access to the properties.

"It was in the Millers Point and Rocks area where the Green Bans fought for the right of decent rents for lower-middle income people and so I think that's got to be maintained. And this government hasn't got a very good record of looking after public housing, or for the lower income groupings." SSH

Pub politics with emphasis on participation

NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

If the boys from Monty Python have taught us anything, it's that alcohol and philosophy are a great mix. And when it comes to holding forums concerned with the institutions that have been handed down by the likes of Plato, it seems only logical they should be held in one of Sydney's public bars.

So far Sydney has not been home to any noble ideas to rival the ancients, but Talking Heads At Toxteth (THAT) in Glebe is host to debates that would make the ancient Athenians proud. THAT is just one of the thematic discussions that are held in pubs across the inner city and which are fast becoming a unique aspect of Sydney as a home for social and democratic discourse.

Held on the first Thursday of every month, the ironically named Talking Heads At Toxteth is dedicated to providing a public and accessible forum for the people of Sydney, with emphasis on audience participation.

Convenor of THAT, Kate Barton, former convenor of Politics In the Pub (PIP), is intent on engaging all sides of politics. For years, PIP, held at the Gaelic

Club in Surry Hills, has been proudly characterised as an association of the broader left, but Ms Barton believes the focus has been too concentrated on a particular, one-sided narrative. "As a former Convenor of Politics In the Pub, I feel that that forum has lost the plot insofar as they are just the usual array of the radical left," Ms Barton stated.

Through THAT Ms Barton hopes to energise debate by including people from all sides. "I actually started THAT as an antidote to PIP," the Convenor said.

At a PIP session last year, held to discuss the 'Pathology of NSW Labor', the panel hosted Alex Mitchell of Fairfax Media fame, and Greens MP of the NSW Upper House, Lee Rhiannon. But when an audience member asked if anyone from the Labor Party had been asked to participate in the discussion, it was revealed that no one had been approached.

"We do not have a party political agenda," Ms Barton affirmed, though she doesn't deny that, for the moment, THAT will be run like a dictatorial party of one. "I prefer a committee of one, however I often co-opt friends to help with different tasks," she said, before adding that she is happy to enlist the help of others such

as Meredith Burgmann.

Another point of difference between THAT and PIP is the role that the audience plays. Where the PIP crowd sits in the traditional row of seats and appears quite subdued, the Toxteth audience members have tables on which to place their beverages and are encouraged to participate. "We encourage heckling and don't object to swearing," Ms Barton admitted, something that will surely occur after a few drinks leads to lowered inhibitions.

Past guests have included Philip Ruddock, Pru Goward, Greg Smith and John Dowd from the Liberal Party, Greens Mayor of Leichhardt Jamie Parker and journalist Michael Duffy.

Upcoming sessions in 2010 will discuss such things as "politicalisms", or, voting in terms of race or gender, the forgotten fight for freedom in West Papua and 'Putting Community back into Politics'. There will also be a feminist trivia night in conjunction with the Feminist Bookshop.

For those who enjoy the dynamism of public forum, or perhaps just want the chance to heckle and boo, be sure to participate in the next Talking Heads at Toxteth on Glebe Point Road (Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe). SSH



STOP PRESS! Local woman, Patricia Corowa, has been invited to be part of the Pacific Calling delegation to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change. Patricia is an Australian-born South Sea Islander of both Saltwater Muroona, Sovereign Ancient Nation of Djiru, Ni-Vanuatu and Sovereign Ancient Nakamal of Viatnamatta, Tanna, descent. She has long been an activist for her people and the land. We wish her well and look forward to hearing from her when she comes back! Photo: Ali Blogg



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Building on Common Ground

SSH

In October, NSW Premier Nathan Rees received widespread community support when he announced a plan to permanently help some of the 27,000 of his citizens who are homeless every night. On November 19, NSW Housing Minister David Borger informed the media that the DA would be placed that day with the City of Sydney.

The initiative will model the Common Ground Housing concept begun in New York in the early 1990s by Rosanne Haggerty, who was present when the Minister visited the Camperdown site to announce the DA. The Common Ground project approach has now reduced homelessness in New York by 50 per cent, saved huge amounts of funding and is being reproduced in many cities in the US, as well as in most State capitals in Australia. Therese Rein is the Australian patron of Common Ground Housing.

City of Sydney Council, Housing New South Wales and not-for-profit partners such as the Mercy Foundation will join forces to offer around 90 of Sydney's homeless their own apartments in this first Common Ground endeavour in the State. Architectural firm, Hassell, and developer, Grocon, are providing their services at cost. MA Housing, a division of Mission Australia will be the community housing provider for the project.

The building will have a 24-hour concierge and programs such as drug and alcohol counselling, health support, and education and employment training will be available in the complex. The various services provided will also be offered to the residents already living in the Public Housing on either sides of the new development.

The proposed site of the purpose built accommodation is vacant land between two existing housing department blocks in Camperdown. The concept plans require the demolition of a small section of one of these blocks, known as Alexander Terraces, and the resulting displacement of some of the residents who have spent most of their lives in the units.

However, in discussing this dislocation with Minister David Borger, it appears that although things were not easy in the beginning, many of the issues are gradually being resolved. There will be six households affected and careful arrangements are being made for the relocation, with each tenant holding personal discussions with the Department. Three of the residents have decided to group together, to keep their long-term friendship going. They will be moving to an attractive unit in the Inner West. Housing NSW will cover all residents' removal costs, pay for the reconnection of electricity, gas, phone and internet as well as for three months mail redirection.

Remaining residents in the Terraces

“It is nonsense to believe, as many people do, that the homeless are that way by choice...”

have been assured that the heritage issues related to their buildings will be respected and that their courtyards will remain private to them.

Although some public grassed land will be lost in the development, the new building will make access to open space a priority and there will be a community garden available to residents.

In response to the concerns of residents about open space in the area, City of Sydney Councillor and Greens representative, Chris Harris, has asked the Council “to meet with Housing NSW to investigate the prospects of jointly developing some adjacent open space that



Artist's impression of new housing development: Supplied

forms part of the Joanna Odea complex into a park that can be used by tenants of public housing, the Common Ground project and other residents from the local community. This will serve the dual purpose of providing alternative open space for a park and integrating the new project into the community.”

Cr Harris says: “With good management, sensitivity and a cooperative approach between Housing NSW and the City of Sydney we can create an innovative project that begins to tackle homelessness in Sydney and provides more affordable accommodation and open space for local residents. The site is considered ideal, being close to transport, a hospital and the city.”

Mercy Foundation is one of the key players in the Common Ground housing project. The Foundation is a Catholic

philanthropic organisation owned by the North Sydney Sisters of Mercy. Their current focus is on homelessness and their CEO, Felicity Reynolds, believes Common Ground offers a real opportunity to break the cycle for many of Sydney's most vulnerable.

“It is nonsense to believe, as many people do, that the homeless are that way by choice. They usually have a range of problems that have forced them into this predicament,” Ms Reynolds said. “The longer someone stays homeless, the deeper the entrenchment and adaptation to that lifestyle.

“Studies have shown that providing

stable housing first and then offering on-site support services after that gives the best chance of ending chronic homelessness. The building will have a tenancy mix with low income workers

and students as well as the formerly homeless living in a socially inclusive environment.”

In December 2000 the Federal Government released a White Paper

on Homelessness entitled ‘The Road Home’. The Paper's goals were to halve homelessness and provide supported accommodation to all rough sleepers by 2020.

SSH

Chewing the fat on trans fats

JOHN AUGUST

Bob Carr has echoed the calls, from overseas and from Kogarah Council, to require a prohibition on the use of trans fats in fast foods as a condition for Development Applications (DAs). I spoke with Rosie Stern, a food scientist and local member of the Dietitians Association of Australia.

Fats can be saturated (having no double bonds), mono unsaturated (having one double bond), and polyunsaturated (many double bonds). Saturated fats were previously known to be the most unhealthy, promoting the retention of so called “bad” cholesterol, while polyunsaturated fats promoted “good” cholesterol.

However, during the processing of fats to give them a more solid consistency and longer shelf life, it was discovered that nominally “good” fats (unsaturated and polyunsaturated), the molecules had a different arrangement, incorporating a “zig zag”, and we had so called “trans” fats. These also encouraged the build-up of bad cholesterol and were unhealthy in other ways. It became clear we needed to differentiate unsaturated fats into the “bad” unsaturated fats, the “trans” type,

as compared to the “good” unsaturated fat, the “cis” type.

However, it's worth understanding that pretty much all naturally occurring fats are composed of a combination of these different types of chemical fats – only the relative proportions vary.

Some unprocessed foods like meats have small quantities of trans fats. Because these are unavoidable, various authorities have accepted these in people's diets. The problem comes with additional trans fats, which are avoidable.

However, while we can focus on “fast foods”, there's a lot more to the trans fat picture. The processed foods we buy at supermarkets have variable and unknown amounts of trans fats. This has been reviewed in articles in *Choice* magazine. There was a push to include the trans fats content on food information labels, but this was lost.

Then you have the cakes and pastries you buy at cafes, what you don't normally think of as fast food, but nevertheless have looser regulation because they're not “packaged”. Vendors do need to tell you about allergens – but it's not clear whether they need to tell you about trans fats.

When it comes to fast food, trans fats

are mostly about manufactured food – the approaches to food preparation don't really influence trans fats content. This means that for fast food chains, the whole enterprise needs to change the food it produces. For individual outlets, we still need an effective market with suppliers willing to provide low trans fat foods.

Still, focusing on trans fats and avoiding saturated fats means you can miss the big picture. You want to control your kilojoules and your total fat content, even if it might be unsaturated non-trans fats. Many people don't know to check the nutrition information panel on foods (check out the kilojoules and fats of “2 minute noodles” – they're diabolical!).

Further, some food suppliers sell foods with unhealthy levels of fat because that's all consumers are willing to buy. We need to become more aware as consumers – and we need the information to become more aware. Local Government DA restrictions won't hurt, but we need a broader regulatory framework – providing trans fat information on the nutrition information panel – together with consumers who are willing to look into what they're buying and make informed judgements.

SSH

Thank you to our volunteer distributors in 2009: Kath Green, Jackie Dettman, Melissa McMahon, Georgina Abrahams, Adrian Emilsen, Adrian Spry, Bede Kelcher, Anthony Kable, Rosemary Tyler, Miriam Pepper, Nicole Fleming, Eve Gibson, Matt and Tammy McClennan, Lyn Turnbull, norrie mAy-welby, Sam Choy, Joel Pringle, Barrie McMahon, Barry Carroll, John Berry, Ross Smith, Mark McPherson, Chelsea Reid, Gaylene Smith, Nicole Gertenaar, Damien Roberts, Don Crowley, Tony Pooley, Gai Smith, Sue Dahl, Jacob Hikila, Stan Correy, Di Everingham, Pepsee, Steph Gesling, Donna Mulhearn, Gabby Briene, John August, John Lanzky, Neil Whitfield, Peter Lonergan, Nick McCallum.



EDITORIAL

The media is hugely powerful in its influence on society and therefore carries a grave responsibility. The way we do our work has the power to either build or dismantle community. There are times when we pretend to ourselves that we are just reporting and reacting to the initiatives of others. There is a certain truth in that, but it's far from the whole truth. What we give prominence to, the emphases we give and the very selections we make for coverage, are part of the formation of the life of the community. The media can concentrate on the bad news or give us stories that inspire

us. To tell the life stories of ordinary people who survive against the odds or achieve great things lifts the hearts of us all. Media can encourage or discourage genuine debate. The role of the media is not just in the area of honest and accurate reporting. We can take people deeper into the issues, or keep the discussion superficial. Television often uses grabs and sensational bits and pieces, rather than the more reflective mode of some radio and print media. The supreme example of this trivia lies in what now purport to be magazines – turning us into voyeurs

and consumers of the lives of the rich and glamorous. We can collude with those who end discussion before it begins by labelling people as “rednecks” or “latte and chardonnay drinking lefties” or refuse to support this and insist that the issues be properly explored. Media can invite us to dare to trust each other or be endlessly suspicious. It can stereotype people in categories or encourage us to be curious about and stimulated by difference. To be part of the media is a great privilege and challenge. May we all have a great new year together!

COMMENT

Mostly bad news on global warming

BARRIE MCMAHON

So let's start with the good news. Senator Ian Macfarlane is showing real leadership in his negotiations with Penny Wong on amendments to Labor's ETS legislation. The tragedy is that it might all be in vain. But along the way there have been a couple of statesperson-like pronouncements, which we should have heard from Rudd months ago.

They are: There will be no more coal-fired power stations built in Australia, and, Don't put your faith in geo-sequestration to solve the carbon problem. The reason you haven't heard this from Rudd is that he is beholden (and holding us captive) to the coal interests – more on that later. From now on it is bad news. Copenhagen looks like a fizzer. That won't be the end of the world – that is still due in 2050 at the rate we are going. Success

in stopping global warming was always going to be by a journey of thousands of steps, of which Copenhagen might have been one. We'll just have to look for others. Meanwhile the skeptics are having a dream run. As we are all illiterate when it comes to the science, they just say that the cost of everything (with an ETS) will rise through the roof – and they are not necessarily wrong. The ETS is an extra tax. It is necessary because: Our climate is warming because there is too much CO2 in the atmosphere; we have burned too much fossil fuel; we bought it cheaply; we did not count the getting it back. But Rudd has not been prepared to sell us this cost because his approval rating might slip (as it did). So we are swayed by the skeptics. Optimistically we downgrade climate change as an issue. We turn our attention to boat people (which doesn't reflect well on Rudd either). The confidence of the opposition

grows. They think that not only might they win the next full-term election, they might even win a double dissolution one. Rudd won't stop BHP mining coal and sending it to China. It might be asked, Who will? Maybe the farmers who object to good agricultural land being turned over to mining. Maybe the self-funded retirees (through their superannuation) will invest away from BHP. Maybe the rest of us will stop buying imported products made from/with our coal. Looking at it economically, the more we spend on energy, and the energy component of other basic goods, the less we spend on the imported goods from overseas, which moderates the Chinese demand for coal. This all changes, of course, once we don't get our energy from coal, but from wind, solar, tide, hot rocks, hydro, and, err, nuclear. Our own effort, alone, is necessary (but futile as the skeptics tell us). There must be global collaboration on this – which was what Copenhagen was/is about.

Channel Seven a boon to local business

ROY WAKELIN-KING

I refer to the article contained in the November 2009 edition of the SSH entitled 'Channel Seven rates poorly in Alexandria'.

The article strongly implies that the Redfern Waterloo Authority deliberately kept residents in the dark on this matter, and goes on to suggest that there was inappropriate conduct regarding the approval process. This is not correct. The development of the Channel Seven building was carried out in accordance with strict adherence to the planning laws and procedures of NSW. The Australian Technology Park (ATP) Master Plan referred to in the article no longer applies

to the ATP. The Plan was superseded by the Redfern Waterloo Authority's Built Environment Plan (Stage 1) (BEP) and Schedule 3, Part 5 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development), which were both adopted in 2006. They allow for a variable building height of 4, 11 and 12 storeys over the Channel Seven site. The Channel Seven building does not exceed the maximum allowable 12-storey height limit. In addition to statutory notification requirements, the Department of Planning sent over 1,000 letters to the neighbouring businesses and residents regarding this development. Following the completion of the public consultation process a number of changes were made to the design of the building

to accommodate community feedback. In relation to the building's height, the planning controls for the ATP limits building heights to 12 storeys, which the developer has complied with. The suggestion that the developer or the State acted in some underhanded way to permit a change in the height of the building from 5 to 12 storeys is false and misleading. The developer of this building has complied with the law. I acknowledge that this development has raised concerns from some members of the community, who want to know how potential impacts of the operation of the building will be managed. This is why I have met with the local residents directly to discuss their concerns and have also organised a community meeting on

FAITH

Cherishing the child

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

Maybe it's not by chance that in the Christian tradition we believe the Christ came into the world as a vulnerable child. As we remember this in the Christmas season, perhaps this year we could contemplate whether we, the churches and the community, have loved, protected and respected all children as we would hope for the Christchild? Where we have not, could we grieve that and offer to the abused a love and care which is long overdue – as though we were caring for the vulnerable Christ.

After the Prime Minister's apology to half a million Australians abused in institutional “care”, many of those institutions owned by the churches, we could remember that the Gospel speaks of family, of kin: “What does the kingdom of God resemble? To what will I liken it? It's like a mustard seed ... It's like yeast” [In the Inclusive Bible translation of Luke 13:18-21 “kingdom” replaces the more common “kingdom” with its implicit sexism and reference to power over others].

Talk about the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven is religious and political talk, interpersonal and environmental talk. It's about space. It's about open space – space for life and freedom, space for telling painful truths. It's about making space in particular places wherein we say that God reigns, that love rules, that there is enough space for you and me, for those unlike us as well as for us. The kingdom of God is a place, as implied by the word “kin”, of mutually respectful and supportive relationships.

When we talk about the kingdom of God we are talking about safe places for caring relationships. Our projects in the name of safety and care for the one who cries, “For as long as I remember, I've been hurting” [Psalm 88:15], matter a great deal. Even if what we create together is something not so grand, not so impressive by the standards of world-beaters and big-time players. Our task is not to build a big and impressive place but to make our place as safe and as caring as we possibly can.

It's about caring for the beginnings of things – the tiny “mustard seeds” of life, which, if we nurture them, will surprise

us with their offerings to the world.

We also need to say a word about the yeast, which often has negative connotations in biblical writings. Nevertheless, yeast is also an addition that can enable growth and produce something sustaining. Yeast is the cry of protest. Yeast is the cry of lament: “Why God? Why did this happen?” Yeast is the heart's cry for acceptance and for justice: “This did happen to me. It shouldn't have happened. It must stop happening.”

Like yeast in a ball of dough, voices rise from within our families, schools and churches. Overwhelmingly, this is where abuse happens – not at the hands of strangers, but at the hands of known and trusted adults. It's a terrible tragedy and an offence to our sense of already providing safe and caring families, schools and churches. Voices rise. Two million adult survivors of child abuse. There is no kingdom of heaven for us without hearing and without heeding what they say.

What does the kingdom of God resemble? To what will I liken it? It's like a community, church (or a church-run school or college) whose leaders and members work to untangle knots of abuse, whose down-to-earth members assume heavenly responsibility for unbinding what is bound, whose members work in a Spirit of care and support, and in response to a promise of space for life and freedom. The promise is real. The kingdom of God is a real place. The childlike heart understands that.

People brought their infants forward for Jesus to touch. When the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents. However, Jesus intervened by calling the children to himself. He said, “Let the children come to me. Don't stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. The truth is, whoever doesn't welcome the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it” [Luke 18: 15-17].

And whoever doesn't cherish the life of little children, may never know what it is to be a true friend of God and one who shares in making Christmas real.

.....
Based on a homily by the Rev. Andrew Collis for a service at South Sydney Uniting Church: Preventing Child Abuse and Supporting Adult Survivors.

READERS' LETTERS

Rosebery ropeable

The article in last month's SSH on City Council's proposed garbage truck depot for Rosebery claims our Action Group is unhappy because “of three possible sites, Rosebery is the worst option”. This is incorrect. In fact, Rosebery was never an option, never one of the three possible sites. The sites recommended under Council's depot strategy were: (1) the RTA site on Burrows Rd, Alexandria (currently leased to City Council); (2) Anywhere else around the Alexandria canal, north of the airport; and (3) redevelopment

of the Epsom Rd, Zetland depot. It also recommended “council should not locate depots adjacent to recreational, residential or commercial areas”. However, when the Rosebery site came up for sale and council bureaucrats saw it would make a cheap depot conversion they decided to ignore due diligence, their own depot strategy and the constraints presented by adjacent residents and the increasing residential developments surrounding the site. The way in which the Rosebery site was chosen for a 24/7 heavy fleet operation was wrong and will cause problems for residents, local businesses and for the councillors who will have to field the on-going complaints for years to come.

**Graeme Grace
Rosebery Residents Action Group**

development that will be held at the ATP in December 2009.

The community engagement process does not stop when construction work is completed. It is an ongoing process that we will undertake in partnership with the developer and the tenants of the building. This is why I am pleased to advise that Channel Seven and its partner company, Global Television, will be joining me at the community meeting in December 2009.

The most fundamental aspect of this development is the significant positive impact that the arrival of Channel Seven, Global Television and Pacific Publications will have on the broader Redfern Waterloo community. The economic and social benefits will provide a significant

boost for the area. Already the building process alone has created jobs for over 60 Aboriginal employees, many of whom live in the local area. This offered a number of these people the opportunity to enter the workforce for the first time.

The builder, WATPAC, is to be congratulated for its commitment to this critical program.

The benefits will also go beyond the construction phase, and we will see a further invigoration of the local business community, generating more local jobs and leading to positive social change. We are committed to working with the community to achieve this.

.....
Roy Wakelin-King is Chief Executive Officer of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority.

Newtown Festival languid, solar-powered

Laura Bannister

Newtown's annual community music celebration, the Newtown Festival was brilliantly kick-started once again on Sunday November 8 in the usual grass roots style – with a resounding clap of some slightly rusted cymbals and the, inverted

arpeggio of a brass saxophone, building steadily to a crescendo.

For over 30 years the free community event has been run by the efforts of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, with the help of many dedicated volunteers.

Comprised of five stages showcasing live music, performances, licensed bars, workshops and over 280 arts, craft and food

stalls, the focus of the iconic day-long festival seemed to be something that lay beyond the often quirky exterior of the inner city suburb.

Whether intentional or not, the important factors that make the community unique came strongly to the fore – namely the inclusion of those traditionally excluded.

In spite of stubborn, fluctuating weather conditions, a steady stream of 80,000 visitors passed through the gates of Camperdown Memorial Rest

Park over the course of the day.

The atmosphere was nothing short of electric, as mouths and figures buzzed in delighted conversation over a shared plate of Gozleme, bodies sprawled languidly across tufts of grassy terrain. The music that wafted through the grounds could have been anything, because everything was there – be it indie, jazz, garage, tango, shoegaze, grindcore, dutch pop, folk, reggae, electronica or hip hop.

The Vocal Local Village Stage, run completely on Solar Energy, featured bands ranging

from the Crooked Fiddle Band to Newtown Community Choir.

The Newtown Neighbourhood Centre provides community services to Sydney's inner west for those who are socially and economically marginalised, as well as general information and advice on local community groups and activities.

Visit www.newtowncentre.org for more information on the NNC.



Urban sprawl Photo: Hamish McCluggage

Pump up the jam at CarriageWorks

Kristy Johnson

Urban Dance Centre is proud to announce its annual Urban Jam will be held at CarriageWorks (the venue used for filming of the hit television series *So You Think You Can Dance Australia*) on Saturday December 12 at 2 and 8pm!

Watch the Centre's full-time students perform a variety of pieces choreographed by leading industry professionals including Juliette "Jet" Verne, Veronica Beattie and Rosa Agius. These pieces represent the professional development of Urban Dance Centre's full-time students throughout the duration of the Certificate IV Performing Arts Course. Each student has been equipped and prepared with the necessary skills for a successful entry into the dance and entertainment industries.

Co-Directors Juliette "Jet" Verne and Julie Williamson are delighted to have *So You Think You Can Dance* 2009 Finalist Tim "Timomatic" Omaji perform a vocal number for the crowd. "Timomatic is a prime example



of what it takes to succeed in the national and international entertainment industries. Although the *So You Think You Can Dance* experience did not allow for his vocal talents to be showcased, Timomatic is a triple threat of the new generation in terms of being able to sing, dance and act. Three qualities of a performer we strive for our full-time students to become," says Julie Williamson.

Youth students aged 5 onwards and Chance to Dance students will perform for friends and family at both the matinee and

evening performance shows. Their performances will showcase the hard work and determination put in by the students throughout the year. Enjoy watching choreographic pieces by Sally Hare and Tiana Joubert.

Also featured on the day will be the Centre's performance groups, Urban Youth Project, Urban Dance Project and Urban Dance Project Two. These performance groups provide talented dancers with the foundations of Hip Hop and urban styles, and the potential to develop their performance skills further.

Elton John concert for World AIDS Day

SSH

Started on December 1, 1988, World AIDS Day is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. The World AIDS Day theme for 2009 is Universal Access and Human Rights. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that despite significant advances in medical treatment, there are many things still to be done.

According to UNAIDS estimates, there are now 33.4 million people living with HIV, including 2.1 million children. During 2008 some 2.7 million people became newly infected with the virus. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25, and die due to AIDS-related complications before they are 35.

The red ribbon is an international symbol of AIDS awareness worn by people all year round and

particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV and AIDS, and to remind others of the need for support and commitment. The red ribbon started as a "grass roots" effort. As a result, there is no one official AIDS ribbon manufacturer, and many people make their own.

If you want to take your awareness raising a step further then try finding a local event to take part in.

The 2009 World AIDS Day Concert will be held for the second time in Sydney – at the Seymour Centre on December 6. As a tribute to the legendary Sir Elton John, Ricki-Lee Coulter headlines a talented cast of performers including Paul Copsis, Rhys Bobridge, iOTA, Rob Mills and David Harris all backed by the 30-piece Sydney International Orchestra. Proceeds will help fund vital services for people with HIV as well as assisting the ongoing battle to find a cure.

Bookings: www.seymourcentre.com.au or (02) 9351 7940

Ticketmaster is CarriageWork's official ticket supplier for the event. Prices are \$40 for an adult and \$35 for concession. To watch

the Urban Dance Centre full-time students and performance groups in action, visit www.ticketmaster.com.au or call 1300 723 038.

The Reviews

Music Review by Julie Patterson



For The Birds The Mess Hall Ivy League, 2009

Ah, The Mess Hall, Sydney's best live band (in this reviewer's humble opinion), are back with their third album, *For The Birds*. As a long-time fan of this duo I'm pleased to report that this record is good. Very good.

I first saw Jed Kurzel and Cec Condon play at the Annandale in 2004, and was instantly taken in by their frenetic, mesmerising, raucously energetic rock performance.

The sounds they produced were incredible and you'd be forgiven for thinking there were five musicians on stage, rather than these two totally in-synch guys. I followed them all over Sydney for the next three years, and every single show was the same – raw energy backed up by great rock songs, delivered with an on-stage chemistry and charisma that's palpable.

Their first album, *Notes From A Ceiling* (2005) is awesome, capturing their live energy and combining it with colourful, creative, poetic lyrics. The single, 'Metal And Hair', is a brilliant, racy, rocking track and standout on this album.

Their second album, *Devils Elbow* (2007), won the prestigious Australia Music Prize (AMP), but for me doesn't compare with the first, and actually left me feeling disappointed.

For The Birds changes all that.

The boys have refined their sound somewhat. It's more stripped back, slightly more relaxed, but no less raw. The opening track, 'My Villain', is very Mess Hall – strong guitar sound

drawing you in from the first few bars. You can't help but move your feet. The distorted guitar riffs, and strong drumbeat hold the song together, and the female backing vocal floats through the song beautifully.

The song I keep singing long after listening to this new record is the second track, and first single, 'Bell'. In keeping with the ornithological theme of the album title, Jed sings his praises to a bird: "From your nest I hear you sing / sounds like a bell built for a king." The piano in this track is a nice change, and the melody stays with you. "My soul starts aching for the sounds escaping from your chest."

'Tijuana 500' is lyrically cool – think Johnny Cash singing about Folsom. "I ended up in a mess on the boarder / the kinda place they take the lambs to the slaughter."

'Bare' is a great rock song. The repetitive bass line and solid drumbeat build in tempo to peak in a frantic Nirvana-esque guitar solo that, frankly, could have gone on a lot longer.

'Marlene' is a curious track – "The Bible in your hands is just for show" – soulful and sweet sounding, with a soft brush drumbeat.

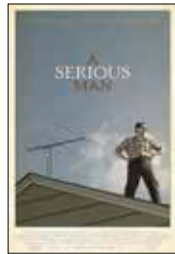
'Swing Low' is hauntingly beautiful, a slow, sensitive and sad song that's ultimately optimistic and positive: "If I swing low / Know that I'm going home / To fall on my feet / This world complete."

The final track is the most beautiful thing The Mess Hall have ever recorded (yes, better even than 'Red Eyes And Sunshine').

Without a doubt, The Mess Hall are back with a fantastic record definitely worth buying. You should also go to their website – www.themesshall.com.au – to check out Cec's hilarious rant against an English department store.

» music@ssh.com.au

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



A Serious Man
Directors: The Coen Brothers
Starring: Some actors, but really, it's about the Coen brothers
Genre: Not your usual Coen

Only the Coen brothers could turn a film with a theme along the lines of "life's not as bad as you think and then you die" into an amusing and occasionally very funny semi-autobiography. Mind you, *A Serious Man* is no *Big Lebowski* or *Burn After Reading*, or pretty much any other Coen film for that matter. It takes a serious look at human relationships and the various roles of religion, education, gender, and physical and mental health in society. But especially religion.

It is no secret that the Coen brothers are Jewish. They are also very amusing and that may be no coincidence. Indeed it begs the question, "Are Jews inherently funny or is Judaism inherently funny?"

You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy *A Serious Man* but it probably helps. Unless you've had a Barmitzva, battled wits with a Rabbi or hated your Hebrew lessons you probably can't truly appreciate some aspects of the film. But everyone's family is dysfunctional to some extent so there is something here for everyone, especially if you're a Coen Brothers fan.

Mind you, despite my Jewish heritage I still have no idea what the scene at the start of the film set in a shtetl (19th century Eastern European Jewish village) in Yiddish had to do with the rest of the film.

So just like a Coen brothers film this review is all over the place, asks

more questions than it answers, and has no ending.

Rating: Full price admission, 1½ choc tops, large popcorn and a medium drink with a bowl of your mum's chicken soup afterwards.

» films@ssh.com.au

Theatre Review by Jane Barton



Cabaret
New Theatre
Nov 19-Dec 19
Lyrics: Fred Ebb
Music: John Kandor
Dir: Louis Fischer
With: Stephen Anderson, Sheridan Harbridge, Matt Young, Colleen Cook, Barry French, Crystal Hegedis, Nate Gilkes
Musical Director: Sarah Gates

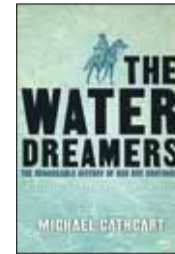
Life is a ... The challenge of doing *Cabaret* is to avoid the clichés. Louise Fischer and co. have managed that in this very enjoyable production at the New Theatre. It's a good choice for the New who are always needing a big box office draw to complete much needed upgrades, and the sultry sleaze that *Cabaret* inspires fits the King Street milieu like a leather glove. The singing is universally strong, the interpretations of the Kit Kat Klub girls – cowgirl, baby doll, dominatrix, Russian soldier and nurse – are contemporary and cute, even if the choreography is a little too fixated on doggy style – less really can be more! The acting, particularly Sheridan Harbridge/Sally Bowles, Colleen Cook/Fraulein Schneider and Barry Young/Herr Schultz is excellent, although Matt Young's interpretation of Clifford Bradshaw is disturbing – he slaps and grabs Sally with more frequency than the original script demands. This action undermines the warmth of the relationship with the result that Sally Bowles appears more tawdry than usual. The Fraulein Schneider/Herr Schultz love story, somewhat unusually, steals the show. Connoisseurs of *Cabaret* will also be intrigued by Sheridan Harbridge's interpretation of the big show-stopper number. Harbridge is vulnerable and shaky during *Cabaret* – most Sallys put their troubles aside for the big number – that being the point of the song, life being a cabaret and all that ... The set looks good. Tom Bannerman has done German expressionism well – but the doors (!) are shaky and difficult to manage. Overall, it probably inhibits rather than enhances with the tilt of the stage stunting the full range of dance – it is a song and dance number after all – into a weak down stage, straight line position. However, the production is manfully wrangled by Stephen Anderson, your MC for the evening, and with strong direction, good singers, fun choreography and solid acting, criticism is academic. Not much can stop you enjoying this show.

Happy Festive Season and thanks to everyone who read or contributed

ideas to the Theatre Review section this year. See you again next year for more local, national/international theatre.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Book Review by Graeme Grace



The Water Dreamers:
The remarkable history of our dry continent
Michael Cathcart
Text Publishing, 2009

The drought is over in inner Sydney. We can tell by the easing of the water restrictions. But it continues elsewhere, and Michael Cathcart's history connects us with the rest of Australia and with Sydney's own dry past.

It is deliberately a book of contrasts: colonists from a green and unforgiving environment; agrarian settlers vs hunter/gatherers; the dreams of plentiful water and the unfortunate reality.

Cathcart takes us from hydro-engineering feats, like the Tank Stream and the Ord River scheme, to the modern day sale of irrigation licenses and consequent distortion of water conservation and river health issues. Along the way are the many clashes of Aborigines and colonists (over water and well-watered land, of course) and an overview of an entire genre of forgotten, early-20th Century Australian novels of imagined civilisations and seas set in the then unknown middle of our continent.

He spends the first half of the book debunking long-held popular beliefs: there was no general conviction that Australia must contain an inland sea; Burke and Wills did not die of thirst (starved to death in the mud, apparently); and Busby's Bore, from Centennial Park to Sydney Town, was anything but an engineering triumph.

Cathcart also brings in the theme of the silence of this flat land (much commented on by the early explorers from noisier climes – not for us the crashing waters of the European spring thaw), and the explorers' "American" expectation of divine guidance to the lands of milk and honey awaiting within. Australia is a land of oft-disappointed water dreamers.

The author, too, is a dreamer, hoping that the sight of a few thin rainwater tanks slapped on the side of terrace houses indicates a burgeoning desire by Australians to live with the land. However, water dreaming continues. Witness the constant calls to pipe excess fresh water thousands of miles and other plans to "drought-proof" the nation. As well, we continue to buy spa-baths, water features and backyard swimming pools. And next year, the state government's own water dreaming becomes reality when the Kurnell desalination plant pumps converted seawater into our taps. Enjoy!

» books@ssh.com.au



El Perro del Mar (Sarah Assbring) at the Enmore Theatre Photo: Roanna Manlutac

Father of the forest



The Green Man Photo: Mike Harding

His tradition is very old and is thought to predate Christianity. Scholars and historians think that this mystical pagan figure represents the cycle of life and death in the ancient world. He can be regarded as the "father of the forest", that is, an archetypal image of the guardian of our natural environment.

Mike Harding has searched for Green Men all over the world, and has found them in far flung places such as Paris, Kathmandu, Ranakpur in Rajasthan, and in New Delhi. He has found them in Borneo above doors, on walls, and woven into their baby backpack style of basket. But nobody seems to know the story of their beginnings.

Mike Harding tells us: "What we do know for certain is that figures called Green Men went about in procession during the Middle Ages and were covered in foliage and greenery."

Perhaps the time has come for us to embrace this old tradition and extend it!

Our natural world needs us to both celebrate and educate so we all understand our place in our world. That is, we are a species which must connect with, and protect our environment.

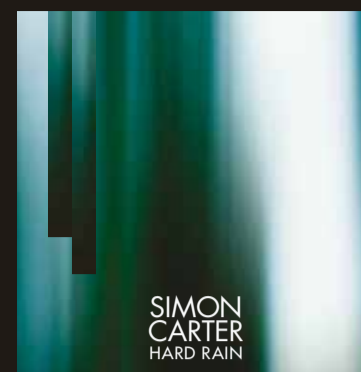
Maybe a Green Tent-Embassy is needed on the slopes of our Federal Parliament!

This delightful little book is probably hard to obtain in Australia – but not to worry – there are many images from the book on Mike Harding's website. Just go to the Green Man tab and click on the Mystery button.

.....
 Mike Harding
 A Little Book of the Green Man
 Aurum Press
 www.mikeharding.co.uk

MARG VAZEY

Who is the Green Man and why is he important? He can be seen in many old cathedrals and churches in Britain, looking down from the ceilings, on the side or in the centre of the roof bosses, or halfway up the pillars. The Green Man is always recognisable, for he has leaves and shoots growing out of his mouth or ears or eyes.



HEAR
 HARD RAIN
 NEW SONG FROM
 SIMON CARTER (THE COPS)
 ON THE RADIO
 EARLY DECEMBER 2009

NEW ALBUM THE BLACK BOOK
 OF THE UNIVERSE OUT 2010

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SIMONCARTERAUSTRALIA
 WWW.ILLUSTRIOUSARTISTS.COM



New shows at Wilson Street Gallery



Deborah Beck, Dated, Mixed Media on Paper on Board 118 x 109cm

Text: Paintings, works on paper, artists' books by gallery and invited artists
 Exhibition dates: December 5-20

Gallery and invited artists use words as a springboard to visual expression in an eclectic gathering of paintings, drawings, books and sculpture.

Graham Kuo, Heather Ellyard, Robyn Gordon, Adrian Lockhart, Deborah Beck, Diana Davidson, Katrina O'Brien, Peter Pinson, Virginia Ryan



Michelle Collocott, Three Ponds Series C No. 29, Acrylic and mixed media on canvas 107 x 107 cm

Michelle Collocott - Three Ponds Series C: the final works
 Exhibition dates: January 23-February 14

The artist's absorption in the climate, topography and ecology of this special place reaches its climax in this exhibition of profoundly distilled work.

WILSON STREET GALLERY | 30-34 Wilson Street, Newtown, NSW 2042
 | Phone: 9516 3144 | Gallery Hours: Wed-Sun 11am-6pm

SEEKING BENEFACTOR:

Precious and unique collection of Indigenous Contemporary Art



'Civilising the Natives' by Gordon Syron, 2009

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

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

For more information please visit: www.blackfellasdreaming.wikispaces.com

Can we save them, Kevin?

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



Bev Cockburn (secretary/treasurer of the ACC), Ian Williams (editor of Crozworld), and David Stickley (author of the Stickler crossword, Daily Telegraph) at the Cauliflower Hotel. Photo: Andrew Collis

Looking for clues at the Cauliflower

SSH

The Australian Crossword Club was established in 1990. Today, with a strong membership base across all states in Australia, the Club is a non-profit organisation that aims to provide enjoyment and stimulation to the devotees of the crossword puzzle.

Members meet on a regular basis in each state, but the Annual Get-Together is always in Sydney and has been held for the past six years at our very own Cauliflower Hotel in Waterloo.

Cauliflower owner, William Ryan, fifth generation hotelier, a Club member since 1991, says the lunch held last month was very informal with many members traveling from all over Australia.

"It's a barrel of laughs," he said. "We got over 100 members including several of the Australian newspapers' crossword writing luminaries."

Ryan said, "A customer walked in for the first time – think his wife was on a factory outlet shop-a-thon – and said to one of the staff, 'This hotel is famous'. The Cauliflower

team member replied, 'Yes, oldest pub in South Sydney, established 1838, lots of old-school colourful history, preferred Rabbitohs waterhole, publican, William Ryan, is a man about town ...' 'No, no no,' the customer interrupted, 'This is the crossword pub!'

Ryan, owner of the Cauliflower since 2004, is also a Chippendale resident and keen crossword solver.

His favourite crossword clue? Hard to pick one from the thousands, but how about these two!

Gegs (9,4)

Friday giveaways? (10)

The Club's monthly magazine, *Crozworld*, is filled with prize crosswords of all types, together with lively discussion between the members. "The magazine also publishes setters' crosswords – it's a great way for setters to establish themselves," said editor Ian Williams.

For further details about the ACC contact the Secretary Bev Cockburn on (02) 9635 7802 (e-mail: bevco4@bigpond.com).

Answers: Scrambled eggs and Footprints.

How much MORE could you save?

According to charity research firm, Givewell, charitable giving in Australia has grown in popularity in the past decade as individuals and businesses have come to realise the benefits it can bring. The list of ways to donate to help others is seemingly endless, and the rewards, both emotional and financial, can be great.

- 36% of Australian taxpayers make a difference through tax-deductible donations to charities.
- In 2007, \$1.88 billion of donations were claimed as tax deductions (a 21.1% increase from 2006).

Despite this effort, Australia ranks #13 behind Kenya, Uganda, & Tanzania in donations as a % of country GDP.

We can do better, but how?

The answer is simple:
GIVE MORE BY GETTING MORE

To help you to help others, we are holding free information seminars and YOU are invited. Come and take the first step toward becoming part of the Donors without Borders philanthropic community.

At this seminar you WILL learn:

- How to leverage low or no interest loans for donation purposes.
- How to use your standard tax deduction to pay off your purchase and leave extra tax dollars in your pocket to pay off your bills or donate further to charity.

The Donors Without Borders philanthropic initiative will show you how your donation will actually improve your own financial position (do well) and enable you to give more (do good).



Low/no interest, long-term loans for donations to Australian charities.

Now you're really saving.

Low/no interest, long-term loans for donations to charity may be the most powerful financial strategy that you have never considered.

The best part is that you can actually be ahead financially by donating!

Sound impossible? Think you always have to lose money when donating? Read more to see how the time-value of saved taxes can pay off donation debt AND put you ahead financially TODAY...

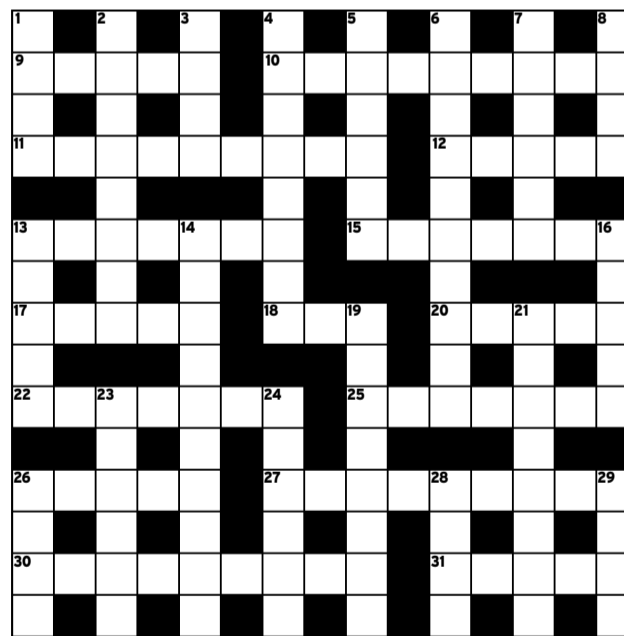
FREE INFORMATION SEMINARS

Dates: 1st, 3rd, 7th and 9th December 2009
Time: 7.30pm-8.30pm
Venue: Level 1, 397 New South Head Rd Double Bay, 2028
Phone: (02) 9006 1525
Fax: (02) 9006 1010
E-mail: info@leafcapital.com.au

Space is limited – Please contact us to reserve your seat. Refreshments will be served.



South Sydney Crossword



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

ACROSS

- 9 Escape from crashing jet etc. wasting little time (5)
- 10 Confront change surrounding unprincipled Elle (9)
- 11 De-spatch two-timer (9)
- 12 You think you're indestructible at the outset (5)
- 13 Time warp (7)
- 15 A magnificent beast manifesting a growth (7)
- 17 Cowboy antics within bedroom confines! (5)
- 18 Swim in tzatziki (3)
- 20 Untilled up to a point (5)
- 22 Shaw is a non-event (7)
- 25 Avoiding dog with a wild dingo heart transplant (7)
- 26 Amid but not entirely amongst (5)
- 27 The endless big bull expressing a bright idea (9)
- 30 A serving of humility (6,3)
- 31 The first sign of Dawn's addiction? (5)

DOWN

- 1 Army officers might make one here (4)
- 2 Gobbled up our victory sign indeed (8)
- 3 Wots up? Pack it in (4)
- 4 Doused with whisky? (8)
- 5 Chew as if some sort of nut (6)
- 6 A dramatic setting for swings and slides? (10)
- 7 One hug is all it takes (6)
- 8 Hey! It's about a casual affirmation (4)
- 13 Turn warts into fodder or thatch or a hat (5)
- 14 Through and through tho' approximately (10)
- 16 Mislaid luggage e.g. lost, in Siberia perhaps (5)
- 19 Breeding displayed devouring pie with greed (8)
- 21 Court of justice witnesses a bread roll during trial (8)
- 23 Turbulent story about the origin of mankind (6)
- 24 Dutch bloomers making up list (6)
- 26 Whether of the head or the heart, each is bad (4)
- 28 Half a second Correct (4)
- 29 Prepare kebab mostly in the oven (4)

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

REFUGEE LANGUAGE PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

The RLP has been operating now for six years with volunteer teachers who teach small classes on campus, including an Intermediate English and Academic Writing class on Wednesdays, and a Creative Writing class on Saturdays. The Creative Writing class is co-taught by a published writer, Anna Dell'osa, and a documentary filmmaker, Lesley Seebold-Freedman (www.changefocus.com.au).

Classes are free for asylum seekers.

An integral part of our Saturday class is the light lunch. Conversation volunteers join the lunch to chat and to provide social contact and cultural information to the students.

Further information about the RLP and donation form at www.arts.usyd.edu.au/centres/cpacs/research/rlp.shtml

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2010

ABSTRACTS AND STILLS

GROUP EXHIBITION AT SOUTH SYDNEY UNITING CHURCH (56A RAGLAN ST, WATERLOO). SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: WWW.SOUTHSYDNEYHERALD.COM.AU OR PHONE EVE 0406 680 336.



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

Advertise in the SSH

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

Partner with the SSH and 30,000 readers who are:

- savvy on a diverse range of issues
- passionate about the area in which they live
- looking to support local businesses and people

Affordable rates • Booking Sheet online • www.southsydneyherald.com.au adverts@ssh.com.au or 9319 1373

This Christmas many families in our community are in dire need of assistance.

The 12 local St Vincent de Paul Conferences meet this need all year by visiting homes and giving all kinds of help to those in need. And at this time of year the Society distributes well over 1000 Christmas hampers to local families and individuals as well. If you would like to contribute toys,

foodstuffs, cakes or sweets to these hampers, drop them in to your local Vinnies shop or at 317 Cleveland St Redfern.



Feel the Christmas Spirit, donate generously and join us in spreading Christmas Cheer.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN REDFERN-WATERLOO?

Get the latest from www.redwatch.org.au
email RWIU@turnbulls.au.com for free email updates
or call Geoff on 9318 0824

Seniors Christmas Concert

Hosted by the Crystal Set Choir

Friday December 4, 2009

From 1-3pm

Tickets \$4 at the door
Redfern Town Hall

Waterloo Recycling Workshop

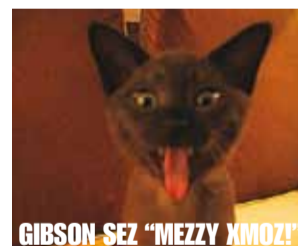
Workshop and market open
Fridays 9am-12pm.

Turungah Flats, 1 Phillip St,
Waterloo (lower car park).

Affordable furniture and
household goods.

Donations gladly received
(no white goods or electrical
appliances).

Volunteers welcome (phone
Naomi on 0407 576 098).



The Big Red Book Sale

Get your reading
for Xmas at good prices

- New Books
- Second Hand Books
- DVD's
- Records
- Stickers, Soviet Style Badges and much more
- For the kids – Stamps



Organised by the
Port Jackson Branch of the
Communist Party of Australia.

Peter Symon House 74 Buckingham St. Surry Hills
Saturday November 28, 10 am till 4pm
Mobile phone: 0418 290 663

YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS



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NSW 2010

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Marrickville@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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.

Tongan Uniting Church

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

Glebe Cafe Church

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

Newtown Mission

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

Paddington Uniting Church

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

Pitt Street Uniting Church

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

Ultimo University Church

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

Wayside Chapel

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

WANT TO GET FIT?

WORK OUT AT REDFERN'S WORLD FAMOUS
TONY MUNDINE GYM
WHERE GIANTS ARE MADE SINCE 1985



COMMUNITY GYM - BOXING
WEIGHT TRAINING - CARDIO
KICK BOXING - FITNESS & DANCE STUDIO
OPEN MON-FRI 9AM-2PM & 5PM-9PM
CORNER EVELEIGH & VINE STREETS REDFERN
9319 0316

ATP signs sponsorship deal with Souths

SSH

The Australian Technology Park (ATP) has entered into a two-year agreement to sponsor local community service provider Souths Cares, as well as take on the naming rights to the Australian Technology Park Performance Centre at Redfern Oval.

South Cares is the charitable arm of the South Sydney Rabbitohs that assists disadvantaged youth and their families in the South Sydney district through the delivery of education, training and employment programs. In the financial year of 2009 Souths Cares contributed over 1,600 hours to schools such as Alexandria Park Community School, Green Square, La Perouse Primary and Matraville Sports High School and their communities, as well as workplace mentoring programs and other activities in the South Sydney district and beyond.

"Souths Cares is an enormous asset to the community," ATP Managing Director Roy Wakelin-King said. "The reach of Souths Cares is immeasurable. These players and volunteers make fundamental differences to the lives of kids and their families with little recognition. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the crucial work

they perform in this vibrant and dynamic part of South Sydney."

Under the sponsorship arrangement the ATP will also receive naming rights to the Rabbitohs' Performance Centre at Redfern Oval, which will now be referred to as the Australian Technology Park Performance Centre.

The ATP will become a senior partner of the South Sydney Rabbitohs and ATP signage will appear at the Australian Technology Park Performance Centre at Redfern Oval and at South Sydney Rabbitohs' home games. In addition select South Sydney Rabbitohs events will be held in the Redfern-Waterloo community at the Australian Technology Park.

"ATP is looking to become a stronger community member," Mr Wakelin-King said. "We are a major employer and key part of the economic engine room in the Redfern-Waterloo area, and we want to make sure that we also give help to those in need within the community. Our relationship with Souths Cares will be a key part of this strategy."

Rabbitohs CEO and Souths Cares board member Shane Richardson said partnering with a fellow member of the South Sydney business community makes sense

when assisting the local community.

"The Australian Technology Park is one of the leading organisations in the heart of the South Sydney district, so for Souths Cares to have an opportunity to partner with them was an opportunity that we jumped at," Mr Richardson said. "Our players and staff have made a big impact on the local community and having the backing of the Australian Technology Park will allow Souths Cares to take the next steps with the Teachers' Aide and Workplace Mentoring programs which are touching our people now."

"Redfern Oval will now house the Australian Technology Park Performance Centre, with our first big event for 2010 at Redfern Oval coming up on Sunday February 7 when we play the Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles in our first trial match of 2010. Last year our game against the Wests Tigers was sold-out to our Ticketed Members and we are on track to sell-out again in 2010."

"We started training for the new season at the Australian Technology Park Performance Centre on Monday and we're looking forward to providing our players with the best training facilities, as well as our community with the best support through Souths Cares' programs, all with the backing of the Australian Technology Park."

SSH

Join Today!

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The National Centre of
Indigenous Excellence is
opening late 2009!

Be part of history
by securing your
**Foundation
Membership**
available now for
a strictly limited
time.

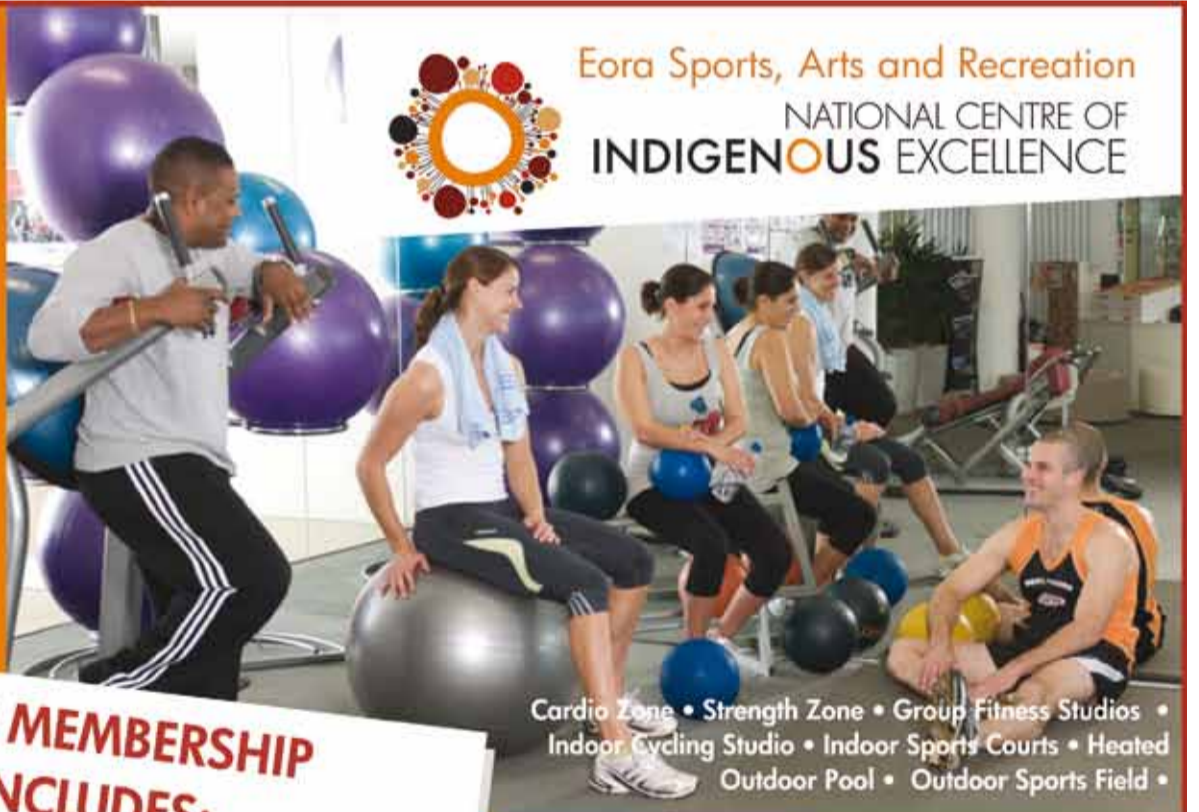
**CONTACT US
TODAY!**

LIMITED MEMBERSHIP OFFER INCLUDES:

- No start up fee
- New member induction program of:
 - Initial Consultation
 - Training Experience
 - Training Refresher
 - Nutrition Information Session
- Four Personal Training sessions
- Start up pack including NCIE bag and water bottle
- Chance to win a 40" Samsung LCD TV valued at \$1750 (courtesy of AV Media Systems) or a 2009 signed Rabbitohs Jersey (courtesy of Souths Cares)



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INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE



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www.ncie.org.au