Almost two decades later, the statistics are shocking: Aboriginal people representing only four per cent of the whole Australian population account for 80 per cent of the prison population nationwide. Forty per cent of Aboriginal people are on disability because of chronic health problems, and the list goes on.

In the meantime, Andrew Forrest – who heads Australia’s biggest mining empire and who is the force behind GenerationOne and its sister initiative, the Australian Employment Covenant – hosted a media launch at Redfern’s Bedfell’s Yaama Dhiyaan Indigenous Hospitality Training Centre on August 11. The Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott MP, and Tanya Plibersek MP (representing the PM) were present amid a number of business and community leaders. Welcoming his guests, Mr Forrest spoke about what he calls the insidious impact of welfare and the politics of reduced expectations in the Aboriginal communities. He said: “GenerationOne has sought to overturn these expectations – and prove that our first Australians are at least as capable as every other Australian. That their expectations of themselves are rightfully justified in this belief and that the door to freedom from welfare is open to them too.”

He said: “GenerationOne has now received letters from the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, the Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, and the Leader of the Australian Greens, Bob Brown, in response to our proposing industry specific training and employment for Indigenous Australians.”

However, it appears that a row is erupting between the three leaders about the strategy needed, the responsibilities and whether this is the right approach. Mr Abbott, an advocate of mateship, said: “I am committed to ensuring that the Coalition works with Indigenous leaders to ensure that more young Indigenous people have the opportunity to take up meaningful employment that builds a career, self-esteem and sustainable communities. As a demonstrated

continued on page 2
Redeveloping Cowper Street

GEORGINA FLYNN

GLEBE: In a deal brokered between Federal Minister for Housing Tanya Plibersek and her NSW counterpart, Frank Terenzini, $43 million will be expended in order to redevelop Sydney’s public housing sector. Of the $43 million war chest provided under the Rudd Government’s Housing Affordability Fund, $9 million will be spent in Cowper Street, Glebe.

The Glebe Cowper Street Affordable Housing Redevelopment seeks to provide affordable housing to members of the local area on low to moderate incomes. What is unique about the redevelopment, however, is that it is not driven merely by the desire to provide affordable housing, but also because it seeks to provide a mix of public and private housing. As a result of this audacious plan, the face of Cowper Street will change significantly. Fifteen of the brick apartment blocks will be demolished – to be replaced by 82 affordable properties.

On July 1, NSW Minister for Housing, Frank Terenzini, announced the lease auctions of 20 Housing NSW properties at Millers Point. Earlier this year, two historic houses in Millers Point were sold for $2.25 million at auction under the 99-year lease terms.

“This program is expected to raise a further $20 million in revenue with the funds raised from the program going to partially meet the cost of the Cowper Street Glebe Affordable Housing redevelopment project,” the Minister said.

The redevelopment in Glebe is just one manifestation of an expansive plan embodied by the Sustainable Sydney 2000 program, which seeks to guarantee the sustainable development of Sydney in the next two decades.

News consultant joins SSH

Jonathan Bogais: Photo: Supplied

SSH

We welcome Jonathan Bogais (PhD) to the news team. Jonathan is a lecturer, script writer, producer, activist, adventurer and principal of Third Wave Consulting, involved in the public release of historical research.

An advocate of indigenous movements in the Pacific and east Asian regions, Bogais has worked as a foreign correspondent for international media organisations including the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Canada International (Asia & Pacific correspondent) and Agence France Press (AFP). He has a considerable experience ranging from front line investigating and reporting in South East Asia, Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor, PNG, among other locations. He covers and reports on the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and Stolen Generation reports in 1996.

Bogais was a regular correspondent to the London-based international edition of Art News, the Montreal and National Geographic. He contributed to a number of publications including the Australian Art Collector and绝对不会 in the Aboriginal arts in 1998, in which he introduced urban Aboriginal artists.

Jonathan can be contacted via email: jonathan@thirdwaveconsulting.com.au

Jonathan Bogais Photo: Supplied

Social housing for sale

DOUG DENGWALL

MILLERS POINT: Social housing tenants fear they’ll be evicted, after Housing NSW misinformed them when announcing plans to sell 20 of its heritage-listed properties in the area. Housing NSW sent a letter to these residents in June, saying some tenants might be moved as it sells the properties over the next few years.

Housing NSW said this statement was incorrect and sent a second letter to tenants in July correcting the error.

A spokesperson for Housing NSW said it has never intended to force its tenants to move under the sales program.

NSW Minister for Housing, Frank Terenzini, said tenants will not be moved to let Housing NSW auction its properties. “I can assure every Housing NSW tenant living in Millers Point that no one will ever be asked to vacate their homes under this lease sale program. Tenants can not easy tonight, that is my guarantee,” he said.

Norm Snowden, spokesperson for Save Millers Point Community, said Housing NSW has not met with its social housing tenants to discuss the sales program. “In one fell swoop, Housing NSW and the minister have left the whole community,” he said.

Tenants would like to know more about the sales program, including which properties will eventually be sold, he said. “They’re not keeping us in the loop. They don’t care about the residents or the community.”

Housing NSW expects to raise $20 million from the sales and will put this money towards redeveloping social housing homes in Cowper Street, Glebe. It has sold off 16 other Millers Point social housing properties since November 2008.

Mr Terenzini, said Housing NSW’s Millers Point properties don’t meet the needs of its tenants, many of whom are elderly and disabled. He said returning the properties to the NSW Heritage Council’s standards could cost around $350,000 per property. This money would be better spent on building social housing homes more appropriate for Housing NSW’s tenants.

CLOVER MOORE, Lord Mayor of Sydney City, said previous Housing Ministers promised no more Millers Point social housing properties would be sold after the NSW Government announced it would auction 16 properties in 2000. “Residents are alarmed that their tight and caring community is being progressively broken up under a long-term plan to sell off properties,” she said.

Mary Perkins, executive officer of Shelter NSW, said that financial constraints have influenced Housing NSW’s decision to sell these properties. “It’s been given a budget by [State] Treasury and it has to operate in it, but it can’t,” she said.
A home for hope

DOROTHY MCKEAL-MCMAHON

DARLINGTON: It’s not surprising that MP Tanya Plibersek loves to visit the Shepherd Centre, especially when some of the children concerned are there with a parent or carer. It’s the home for an agency which provides early intervention programs and resources for children who are born profoundly deaf. Talking with CEO, Anthea Green, I learned something of its history.

It was established 40 years ago and named after then President of the Australian Medical Association, Dr Bruce Shepherd and his wife Annette. They had two profoundly deaf children, neither of whom benefited from the founding of the Shepherd Centre, as they were past the age when help was most effective by the time of its establishment. The Centre was modelled on the John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles. The first branch of the agency was housed further down Abercrombie Street in Chippendale. Now it is adjoining the Darlington Public School and Pre-School Centre.

These days all new-born babies are tested for hearing deficiencies, as early intervention is the most effective. New South Wales pioneered this service. The aim of the Shepherd Centre is to have every deaf child, not only attended to in terms of hearing aids and cochlear implants, but also with full language development.

The years between one and three are the most “plastic” and therefore more receptive to language learning – whether or not a child is hearing-impaired. The Shepherd Centre has an 80 per cent effectiveness in achieving normal school level language skills by the time the child concerned begins school.

After careful diagnosis, the Centre offers all sorts of resources and support for both the child and its parents or carer. Once a week a playgroup is held in a delightful environment at the centre. There children enjoy each others’ company while they receive appropriate therapy. The adults can receive guidance in how they enhance the learning at home and are also helped as people build supportive relationships with each other.

If the children receive cochlear implants, the Centre keeps in touch with them after they begin school to monitor the implant and overall progress.

Thankfully, we are well past the days when deaf children were referred to as “deaf and dumb” and when it was assumed that there would be no options but some simple physical work in their future. The Shepherd Centre receives only 22 per cent funding support from the NSW Government. The attendance at the Centre has risen 230 per cent since its inception but there has been just a 30 per cent rise in government funding over that period. Due to the representations of Tanya Plibersek, the Labor Government has recently offered $12,000 over two years to each family involved. This will undoubtedly be of significant assistance to the families. However, a case could easily be made for increased funding from all levels of government, both on the grounds of appropriate support for families facing this challenge and on the fact that the cost to the community for the care of each child will rise if there is not early intervention.

The Shepherd Centre is indeed a home for hope and that can be felt as soon as you enter its doors.
Boarders at Barangaroo

AMANDA PARKINSON

Skaters and local council have united to push for a state-of-the-art skate park in the $6 billion Barangaroo redevelopment. But local opposition has forced the proposal to be refused twice now amidst fears it would spark antisocial behaviour and noise complaints. Locals fear their community will be ‘tagged’ with graffiti and a local hangout for juvenile delinquents.

However, Rebecca McLoughlin, a resident of Waterloo and parent of a skater says: “I see people in suits out at the skate park. It’s a complete fallacy that it’s only rat bag kids on skateboards.” Waverley Council has minimised the graffiti by encouraging local artists to create murals on the side of the skate park. This has also encouraged the skaters to take pride in and responsibility for their park.

Currently the proposed site is a wasteland but it is preparing to undergo a 5km harbour side face lift. Proposed for the site are several theatres, an Aboriginal art gallery, commercial tower, residential apartments, numerous retailers, a passenger terminal and now a skate park. Recently local skaters sat with developers from the Barangaroo Development Authority to plan a state-of-the-art skate park that would attract international and interstate tourism.

SkateHQ says: “Sydney has long needed a skate park near the CBD due to the poor design of those already in existence.” He went on to say: “We completely support the Barangaroo skate park, it looks really nice and still meets the needs of today’s skaters.” Those who also agree with the proposal are all Sydney’s local councillors: Irene Doutney, Phillip Black, Marcellle Hoff and Meredith Burgmann. Cr Doutney has said: “With 56,000 skaters living within a 20km radius of the CBD, it’s obvious that there is plenty of interest in a CBD skate park.”

Barangaroo is also a highly accessible site and, due to its urban location, would entice people to use public transport when heading into the city. With the ease of being able to take skateboards on the buses and trains and the soon-to-be-implemented cycleways, skaters will be able to access the site without creating any more city congestion.

Skateboarding is a community based sport. It encourages us to be active, builds self confidence and teaches sportsmanship.

Indigenous work program generates debate

continued from page 1

measure of my determination, the Coalition will commit $8 million specifically for the Australian Employment Covenant.”

In her answer to Mr Forrest, the Prime Minister, Ms Julia Gillard, suggests the Government should be in charge to ensure accountability. She said: “As the Government has indicated to you previously, the Government is happy to give in principle support to this initiative provided it stands up to the rigorous scrutiny to which all policy proposals should be subject, to ensure effectiveness and value for money.”

Speaking on the behalf of the Australian Greens, Emma Bull takes a different view, looking at social justice in general rather than just employment. She said: “The Greens believe that all Australians, including those living in remote communities, have an equal right to essential government services such as health, education, training, housing, community infrastructure, employment support, and policing. We advocate for the equality of outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on all major indicators of living standards, including employment, within a framework, which acknowledges the diverse aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”

Almost two decades after Mr Dodson’s statement, it appears that the divisions are great. The lack of mention of the Northern Territory Intervention and its true impact nationwide shows how distant our leaders are from reality.

Contact Mark for details:
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When and where: Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 October 2010, 9.30am to 4.30pm (sharp), Erskineville Town Hall, Erskineville Rd, Erskineville. Cost & Registration: $320 + GST = $352

Local resident Rebecca McLoughlin with skater Jack Photo: Ali Blogg

September 2010

N E W S
Fresh farm produce for inner Sydney

MIRIAM PEPPER

Food Connect Sydney is now delivering affordable and fresh, certified organic and chemical-free produce direct from local farmers to Sydney residents. Boxes packed with tasty produce (on average grown 200km from Sydney) are dropped off weekly to a local host or “City Cousin” who acts as a local collection point for customers. Boxes are priced from $35 to $65.

Chippendale resident Michael Mobbs is a City Cousin. He says: “for people who don’t have their own gardens or are living in flats, Food Connect is a good way of getting fresh and local produce without chemicals and to support local farmers at the same time”. Food Connect is a new type of organisation that trades for a social purpose – a social enterprise. Food Connect Sydney started in February of this year and delivers to 25 locations in Sydney – including Chippendale, Darlinghurst, Glebe, Newtown, Ultimo, and now Waterloo – where the South Sydney Uniting Church has become the newest City Cousin, with deliveries commencing on September 8. Food Connect Sydney follows in the footsteps of award-winning Food Connect Brisbane who have been trading for over five years and deliver to over 800 households per week.

“The vision is to make locally produced organic and chemical-free food accessible to anybody in Sydney,” says Food Connect Sydney Coordinator, Julian Lee. “To connect farmers with city folk.”

“Food Connect provides unique boxes of fresh, tasty and seasonal produce that is almost 100 per cent organic or chemical free, local and delivered directly from the farmer.”

“This is important because it is well known that eating plenty of fruit and veg has a big positive impact on health. By getting locally grown produce you know it will be very fresh and reduce the carbon footprint at the same time. And direct purchasing means the farmer gets more of the profit. For every dollar Food Connect subscribers spend on their fruit and veg box, 40 cents goes to farmers.

Food Connect not only connects farmers with city folk – it also connects city folk with each other. Michael Mobbs says that “what I love about being a City Cousin is that it gives me a chance to meet people in my local area when they come to pick up their boxes.”

“I joined Food Connect because I wanted to support local farmers and to access fresh fruit and vegetables that have been produced with maximum care for the environment. I have had the pleasure and privilege of visiting organic and biodynamic farms in the central west of NSW, and was inspired by what I saw. I am keen to do whatever I can to support such farming and to encourage its adoption more widely in our region. I am also passionate about community food initiatives, like community supported agriculture, cooperatives and community gardens, because they connect people together in the city in a common endeavour to eat well, share with each other, and care for the earth” MIRIAM PEPPER.

Sign up to get your fruit and veg boxes at: www.sydney.foodconnect.com.au

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New health centre, but not all is well

LEE RHIANNON

Where there’s a pressing problem, there’s always an opportunity to cash the quick fix. When the HIV/AIDS epidemic first hit Australia, many advocated the apparently simple solution of mandatory workplace testing. But before too long public health experts won the day. They argued that mandatory testing provided a false sense of security and that the smart direction lay with education and prevention. Thealogies with the net censorship debate are strong. Safeguarding children and young people from the risks in cyber space led the Federal Government to propose a mandatory ISP level internet filter. But the gaping deficiencies in the net filter approach, which has been suspended by the Gillard government, but not yet... dumped, soon became clear. It would provide parents with a false sense of security, erode free speech and slow down the web. It would do little to prevent the dissemination of child pornography, which is mostly done via file sharing not on websites. And it would be a backward step for Australian children to grow up in a world where their government controlled an internet “blacklist”. Having said that, we do need to protect children and young people from exploitation and distressing and harmful online experiences.

The Centre for Applied Research in Multi- faceted, with a plan that involves PC-based filtering, further research into cyber safety risks, strengthened law enforcement, and net literacy education. PC-based filtering can play a valid role in preventing young people being accidentally exposed to inappropriate material. The Gillard government’s now suspended plan would filter a very limited range of material, not catching, for example, X-rated pornography or gambling sites.

A better solution is to ensure ISPs offer home-based filtering to customers, to help them activate and customise a filter best suited to their individual situation. Further evidence-based research to better define the problem and how to fashion the most effective protection, is also important. Ultimately the best beastie a parent can provide for their children’s internet journey is to closely supervise and educate their kids about the risks as well as its potential.

“While the best beastie a parent can provide for their children’s internet journey is to closely supervise and educate their kids about the risks as well as its potential”

Lew Rhiannon is a former NSW Greens MP and widely tipped to win a Senate seat for NSW.

The new Health Centre is the latest instalment of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority’s Human Services Plan.

No simple fix for a safe net

DANIEL WALSH

REDFERN: The State Government has hailed the opening of the new $9.8 million Redfern Health Centre as a huge improvement to Redfern’s health services, but locals are not convinced the community’s needs are being met. The new centre is located at the refurbished Redfern Court House and Police Station, and was officially opened by NSW Premier and Minister for Redfern-Waterloo, Kristina Keneally, on August 5.

Speaking at the official opening, Ms Keneally said: “This is about responding to the changing needs of the local Redfern and Waterloo communities – and providing a range of clinical services in one location.”

Provided at the centre are services relating to mental health, HIV/AIDS, drug and rehabilitation facilities and a harm minimisation program, as well as consultation and treatment rooms. Also at the opening was Health Minister Carmel Tebbutt, who emphasised the centre’s home care resources. Ms Tebbutt said: “The new service will provide community-based nursing care and assistance, which helps patients access treatment at home and avoid time in hospital.”

A number of residents are concerned, however, that the new facility will not address the most pressing of Redfern’s health issues.

Geoff Turnbull, spokesperson for community group REDWatch said: “What we’d like to see is community health and preventative programs, rather than a centre that is purely service delivery. What is needed is a health centre that is actually involved in community discussions on health, but there’s no indication that the new place will do that.”

Also of concern is that facilities have been transferred to outside the Redfern area. These facilities included a hydrotherapy pool which has since been moved to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Camperdown.

Local activist Ross Smith said: “We have an ageing demographic here and yet a facility [the hydrotherapy pool] specific to the elderly has been removed. Exactly how are the frail and elderly supposed to use the pool now?”

The Sydney South West Area Health Service, the organisation that will run the new centre, has stated it plans to work closely with existing local service providers, including the Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) and local GPs. However, when contacted, numerous Redfern GPs declined to comment on the new centre or the basis on which they know little about it.

Bradley Freeburn, Co-ordinator of the Drug and Alcohol Unit of the AMS said: “There probably hasn’t been enough communication. I mean we’re directly across the road from them and we’ve heard nothing to next. There’s still a lot of confusion over what services are actually provided there.”

The new Health Centre is the latest installation of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority’s Human Services Plan.

Nimbin Poetic Cup

Back in the 70's I spent a couple of weeks at Turaian Creek, which from memory is north of Lismore, then to Byron Bay and places like Crab Creek. Memories of the northern parts came flooding back as I saw a copy of another local free paper called The Nimbin Good Times. On the front page was a story about the recently held Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup. The result was a split decision between two poets, Tom Befus and Lisgrock, and one Tug Dumbly. Tug is not only a well known resident of the southern end of Abercrombie St, Darlington. He was the Triple J poet then moved to 702, but, alas, no more. You can catch him perform his stuff with his band the Heel Song Blues.

Housing NSW staffer tells it like it is

On August 11 a senior Housing NSW staffer told a group of its tenants that Housing NSW had not listened nor the ability, to deliver the Human Services its tenants needed, despite Housing NSW’s Human Services Accord. This revelation occurred during a Housing NSW presentation on Social Mix and Estate Redefinition. In Waterloo this same senior staffer told another meeting about 12 months prior that the estate was about to improve because of the social tension.

Millers Point – one of Sydney’s oldest continuous communities

In this issue, Doug Uggow Darling reports on the current status of Millers Point. So, Holder, a heritage specialist (amongst other things) gives more background to the battle. “Millers Point is one of Sydney’s oldest continuous communities. In 1990 the National Trust proposed that the entire area be added to the National Estate for World Heritage listing. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said he was ‘actively pursuing the possibility of adding the entire area to the National Estate for World Heritage listing. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said he was ‘actively pursuing the possibility of adding the entire area to the National Estate for World Heritage listing’. The new Minister for Housing, Cherie Burton, undertook to ‘only’ sell-off of sixteen more heritage properties in Millers Point. The new Minister, Cherie Burton, undertook to ‘only’ sell-off of sixteen more heritage properties in Millers Point. The new Minister, Cherie Burton, undertook to ‘only’ sell-off of sixteen more heritage properties in Millers Point. The new Minister, Cherie Burton, undertook to ‘only’ sell-off of sixteen more heritage properties in Millers Point.

Millers Point was one of Sydney’s oldest continuous communities. In 1990 the National Trust proposed that the entire area be added to the National Estate for World Heritage listing. Prime Minister Bob Hawke...
Funding’s the issue for community paper

BRENDA WONG

NEWTOWN: Last year, the Newtown community welcomed its first local paper, The Newtownian, but financial difficulties forced it to close earlier this year. The Newtownian’s general manager, Pat Brennan, said, “Although community acceptance and desire for a publication such as The Newtownian was self evident, the ability to fund it in an ongoing way was the issue.”

“There are set costs associated, such as printing, distribution and so on. These all have to be paid for on the back of advertising.” Ms Brennan said the publication would have survived had there been an increase of classifieds during its early stages. “We were desperately disappointed in having to bring things to a stop, but there is only so much charity you can extend, before the reality of needing to derive a real cash flow takes over.”

“It’s also a very hard business trying to extract even comparatively small sums of money from some of the small retail community, and not all feel the need to honour their commitment – that didn’t help either,” she said.

As well as being delivered in print and online formats, the newspaper utilised social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, which were a success. Ms Brennan said her biggest disappointment was terminating the work of the newspaper’s contributing journalists. “We had provided an excellent platform and were allowing local talent to flourish and then – stop.”

Coordinator of the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Lisa Burns, said The Newtonian’s closure was a loss for the Newtown community. “We were really disappointed and they were a really good bunch to work with. They were really responsive to local issues.” Ms Burns said local papers covered local issues that were often ignored by the mainstream press. “They can take on a diversity of issues which we find really helpful. I think the smaller media aren’t put in a box as much, and their boundaries aren’t as structured.”

“The paper was very supportive. They launched their paper at the Newtown Festival. They came along and made sure that they helped to clean up in case there was litter. You would never get a big media outlet to help you do that.”

Although the print publication of The Newtonian was discontinued, Ms Burns said it could potentially make a comeback in the future.

Singing the sesquicentenary in Newtown

KELLY LANE

NEWTOWN: Newtown Mission Chapel overflowed with visitors celebrating its 150th anniversary on the weekend of August 14 and 15. In recognition of the significant milestone, members of the church and wider community worked together on a collaborative art project titled ‘150 Songs of Celebration’.

A formal service was held on Sunday morning, led by Senior Pastor Doug Clements. “I would like to welcome you all to Newtown Mission’s 150 years of progress,” Pastor Clements told the congregation. “We’re going to remember the past and look forward to the future.”

Pastor Clements said the anniversary was an opportunity for younger generations to learn the history of the church, because most of the congregation was aged between 20 and 40.

On the anniversary weekend, people of all ages and walks of life gathered for the milestone.

Extra seating was brought in to accommodate the large number of people at the service, who in jubilant song could be heard from outside on King Street.

Several former pastors and members of the church also attended the celebrations. Eddan Giddy was a former lay pastor who married in the chapel in 1952. “I haven’t been back here for about 50 years,” said Mr Giddy, of Forestville. “The congregation was bigger in the 50s. The place would have been comfortably full. It was habitual to come (to church).”

Miriam “Myrtle” Boyce, Newtown Mission’s former cook, travelled from the Hunter Valley for the occasion. Ms Boyce lived in church accommodation in her late teens and married and raised her children in the church. “This place had a huge impact on my life,” she said. “I wish I had never left.”

Pastor Clements said one of Newtown Mission’s greatest challenges was to continue to meet the needs of people in the community, particularly the homeless. “The challenge is to be relevant to all diverse groups at the same time which is not the easiest thing in the world to do. And to get those groups to commune – be those who are committed Christians in the congregation to cross over and relate to those with needs in the community who may not have an understanding of anything to do with the Christian gospel.”

According to church records, the origins of Newtown Mission can be traced to 1840, when a group of families held services in two small cottages on the corner of King and Eliza Streets. The current chapel was built 20 years later in response to a need for space as the congregation grew. Originally a Methodist church, it became a mission church in 1928, and has a strong focus on serving the wider community.

Now part of the Uniting Church in Australia, the evangelical church’s vision is “Growing up, and going out, in Christ”. It provides community services including an arts centre in Annandale, healing services, small groups, legal advice, counselling, and supports a number of overseas missionaries. The Drop-In Centre has been operating for about 20 years, providing meals and friendship for the needy.

It has 95 volunteers and caters to about 450 people a week who walk through its doors.

Compassion Pastor Brian Underheiner, who oversees the welfare ministry, said the drop-in was not just about welfare or charity but fostering a feeling of family and community.

Redfern residents will now have access to improved health services, following the official opening of the $9.8 million Redfern Health Centre – a new facility to provide a range of community health, drug and alcohol, and mental health services to the local community.

I was joined by the Minister for Health, Carmel Tebbutt to officially open the centre, located at the former courthouse and police station in Redfern. The Centre includes:

- Community health nursing services to provide at home care;
- Mental health services including assessment, treatment, case management, psychiatric consultation and crisis intervention;
- A harm minimisation program integrated with a primary health care clinic; and
- Patient consultation spaces, treatment rooms and office space.

The Centre is about responding to the changing needs of the local Redfern community and providing a range of clinical services in a single location for residents.

The new service will provide community based nursing care and assistance to help patients access treatment at home and avoid time in hospital. Registered nurses, social workers and psychologists will also be on site.

The Redfern Health Centre can be contacted on (02) 9395 0444.
Winners are Greeners

REBECCA LE MAY

Bob Brown has called it a “Greenslide”. The Greens have the balance of power in the Senate and, for the first time, a presence in the House of Reps.

It was always going to be a tough call to beat popular, high-profile incumbents Tanya Plibersek and Malcolm Turnbull. Even though they didn’t win, local Greens candidates, Tony Hickey and Matthew Robertson, had plenty to smile about, managing to beat their 2007 record. In Sydney, Tony Hickey got 23 per cent of the primary vote – a 3.8 per cent swing towards the Greens, and in Wentworth, despite the 1.0 per cent swing to Malcolm Turnbull, the Greens polled strongly at 17 per cent – a 1.8 per cent swing.

Disappointment with the shift to the right by the major parties on issues such as climate change, same-sex marriage and the treatment of refugees, featured high on the list of priorities for Greens voters.

“I’m voting Green because the other two parties are too far to the right. I’m very passionate about education and health and equal rights and unfortunately the right [wing] just think they are entitled to more and they have the money to persuade people,” said Caroline Turner, Paddington.

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Labor of love?

NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

The line was one hour long outside Erskineville Public where Jack, stack of Labor how-to-votes in his hand, was confident his party would easily hold Sydney. Though he was also aware that Abbott had been closing in on PM Gillard. “I’ve seen a big shift toward Abbott in the polls and certainly at a lot of the betting agencies,” Jack said about the electoral soothsayers. Sydney. It manned 39 of the seat’s 40 polling booths. “That was a really strong message to Labor that they can never take Sydney for granted again... You can’t take the electorate for granted and not concentrate on issues that are the right ones and ensure that people are moving in, and they’re not voted out of Labor.”

When asked if the Liberal Party’s promise to stop asylum seeker arrivals made it hard to campaign in the Sydney electorate, Maxine McKew smiled: “Maxine McKew”.

Gordon Weiss, the Liberal candidate for Sydney, said Labor had underestimated Tony Abbott in this election. “During the campaign, more and more Australians saw him as very genuine, very honest and would be a very good leader,” he said. Mr Weiss said the Liberal Party’s presence has grown in the seat of Sydney. It manned 39 of the seat’s 40 polling booths. “That was a really strong message to Labor that they can never take Sydney for granted again... You can’t take the electorate for granted and not concentrate on issues that are the right ones and ensure that people are moving in, and they’re not voted out of Labor.”

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Established at 66 Darlinghurst Street, opposite King Cross station, the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) has been a focal point – and the subject of much controversy – since it opened its doors in May 2001.

Nearly 10 years on, according to long-term residents MSIC has become a symbol of change in the area. Jo Holder has lived in King Cross for more than 20 years and runs Cross Art, a contemporary art gallery near the Wayside Chapel where it all started. She said: “Before 2000 it would have been like walking down the street and crunching on snowflakes, there were so many needles. Now it’s rare if you see one.” According to Holder, the injecting centre has cleaned up that problem. “Initially there was a significant opposition but the majority was against the idea and those issues were addressed. However, they lost their court case and we got the licence in 2000 just before the Olympic Games, but as soon as the government announced it, the King Cross Chamber of Commerce, the local residents and businesses in King Cross, especially those in the main street in Darlinghurst Road, would love to redevelop their properties. So there is no surprise as to what the underlined motivation is for the opposition. Sadly, most of those people who are into the redevelopment process are those who are bringing the alcohol problem, which for us is far more serious that anything we have ever faced.”

Rev. Herbert sees another social crisis in the making with the rapidly increasing alcohol consumption in the streets by young people. He said: “Bingo-drinking is a bigger social problem than illicit drug-taking. Hotel owners who profit from the sale of alcohol should have more responsibility, not just in their hotels but also in the street beside where they are. I don’t think the rest of the community should be responsible for the problems created by those who own the hotels.”

King Cross is one of Sydney’s newly mandated ‘entertainment precincts’ and has exponentially increased in term of the capacity of drinking units, which according to Holder constitutes State sanctioned binge-drinking. After nearly 10 years the centre remains a pilot program and the residents would like to see a final decision. The State Government has commissioned management consultants KPMG to compile a report that may decide the future of the MSIC. In the meantime, long-term Kings Cross residents and those who support the injecting centre want the issue to remain a social and community matter. They don’t want it used for political advantage, as is the past.
EDITORIAL
Art interacts with life

Milk Crate Theatre (MCT) is Australia’s only theatre company dedicated to working with people who have experienced homelessness and disadvantage. According to Artistic Director, Beck Ronkson, its programs aim “to nurture creativity as a way to connect, question, inspire and empower.”

Intersection is the latest MCT production, staged over four nights at various intersections near Taylor Square and starring professional and first-time performers – Figures, Shadows and Chorus (the wonderful Sydney Street Choir).

The story revolves around two characters, James and Sally, who met at Edward Edgar Lodge. It’s about their courage to be vulnerable. Ultimately, it’s about “those moments in life where you change course, jump tracks and a new direction begins”.

Congratulations to MCT and to all the performers, crew and assistants. The show was superb – creative in all the aforementioned senses. One audience member was led to reflect on how she had “negotiated intersections and survived.” At times her emotions were undermined and she doubted her ambitions... “or I overcame [doubts] with hope, trust and confidence in my own abilities so that whatever choices I made... with or without significant others... I was able to negotiate the consequences of my decisions... and thrive!”

This kind of creativity is so important. There should be more of it.

DAVID LECKEY

FAITH
Daring to dream

DOROTHY MCCRae-McMAHON

If there was one depressing feature of the financial crisis, it was that none of our “leaders” really dared to dream. Instead they invited us do do the impossible, they believed we would see safe ground on almost every issue of our life, obviously hoping to be re-elected. That would be giving them our vote.

What would your dream be? Maybe some of us do dream of living with people who are exclusively dedicated to us. Maybe religious or none, same sexuality? Maybe there are those who simply seek prosperity and no issue about climate change or infrastructure as their highest of all dreams? Rainbow! Listening to, and looking at, our responses during the election campaign, I could believe that.

Here is another dream. Imagine if we learned to truly live globally – not just in our country and world, but in an area where we could travel and play, and where our dreams were shared with everyone in the country, so that we could all acknowledge that none of us can ever “know” for certain. We may only search and believe and explore what brings greater and deeper life into the world.

Imagine if we could every elect leaders who could lift us up?

Could we ever elect leaders who respected each other, as well as those who were non-religious? We could have genuine dialogue, listening to each other without reflecting on where they overlapped and where we challenge each other to go on to seek what is good about life and faith. We could look at each others’ lives alongside those who are non-religious and note where we find integrity, a commitment to compassion and justice and creative and responsible relationships. Maybe we could all acknowledge that none of us can ever “know” for certain. We may only search and believe and explore what brings greater and deeper life into the world.

Imagine if we were all truly... just like us – same ethnicity, same background?

Could we ever elect leaders who were non-religious? Residents in Rosebery’s largest apartment complex campaigned hard against allowing other similar sized developments, arguing the lack of traffic management and public transport should preclude making the situation worse. Even the high-rise enthusiasts from Green Square who blog on the skyscrapery website, urging ever taller buildings, also complain about the increasing traffic congestion (apparently oblivious to cause-and-effect).

Meanwhile back on the Rosebery Estate we take the occasional gasp for air against Big Development while awaiting the seemingly inevitable, a return to the unsustainable congestion of the 19th century.

Graeme Grace is a member of the Rosebery Residents Action Group

READERS’ LETTERS
“When will they ever learn?”

Without too much simplification, Kevin Rudd’s career can be traced from an ‘07 high of taking on the greatest moral challenge of our time (climate change mitigation) to a lethal low of backing away from a double dissolution election following the defeat of his ETS bill in a cowboys Senate. Rudd, always the democrat, believed the polls reflected a collective change of mind on climate change. He could have led us back to that moral challenge for which we elected him – but did not have the ticker “Fellowship” is not leadership. An earlier mistake was to think his ETS would solve the global warming problem publicly. His supporters said – “Make the polluter pay” (meaning those dirt poor power generators). But the cost of climate change must be paid by fossil fuel users. The dirty-coal power stations only operate to allow us to run our air conditioners or heaters. In the short term, while national politics will concentrate on park-barring websites that had the wit to elect independents, climate change mitigation will depend on our action to switch off. The increasing price of electricity will remind us anyway. When the parties get beyond their campaign survival mode, they can do something for pensioners who can’t afford to pay more for electricity, and they can ensure (however) that any new power stations don’t run on coal – gas is half a-hundred option. I would even exempt industrial users from electricity price rises. As Barnaby says – that’s whose jobs come from. A hopeful development is that we no longer believe in a big population. Rudd did – but Gillard quickly changed that to sustainable population. No one wants to argue. We haven’t yet linked this to climate change – but any mitigation can only work with a stable global population.

Barrie McMahon

Darlington

Commonwealth of Australia: What is the matter with the miners?

I thought that we belonged to the Commonwealth of Australia. I thought that this would mean that all of us would have a share in the natural resources of our country, by way of sharing the amenities that such resources would fund. I understand that in Norway 39 per cent of the final profits from mining are shared with everyone in the country, so that Norway has outstanding schools, hospitals, universities, and transport systems. We seem to be heading towards renaming ourselves as members of the Commonwealth of Australia.

M.A. Vazeey

Maroubra

Protecting the poor and marginalised

The Federal election was decided by the high number of Christian groups bringing so-called “pro-life” values. Their questionnaires were mainly about personal morality, such things as pornography and prayers in schools. Notably, the Greens are not a Christian party. UnitingCare, an arm of the Uniting Church, which drew attention to the vulnerable in our community, especially youth, the elderly and the marginalised. I congratulate the Uniting Church on keeping on message about what is really essential for a just and equitable society in Australia.

Denis Dobhey

Surry Hills

My one concern about the religious intervention in the election was that it did not deal with the issue of Development and Opposition Choices. There is enough money to ease much of the stress on the marginalised, but we have not chosen other priorities. Australia spends over $30 billion per year to support war and bushfire recovery, and choose other priorities. Australia spends over $30 billion per year to support war and bushfire recovery, which is determined mostly by the power of the few in every realm.

Even worse, the issue of poverty, level of faith, then it has faith that has truly lost its meaning. For what is it, if it has lost what seems like an impossible dream and trying to live as though it could come true? What is it, if we have lost what seems like an impossible dream and trying to live as though it could come true? What is it, if we have lost what seems like an impossible dream and trying to live as though it could come true?

What if we began to see ourselves as simply a small part of the whole creation – creatures among others, living organisms alongside trees and plants, water, earth and air, rain and sun? We might look at the whole picture and see how we could facilitate the wellbeing of everything so that, far from being isolated, all is sustained and nourished. We could study more carefully all the connections and interactions so that we protect life in every form.

Imagine a world which was committed to non-violence as a way of resolving disputes – where countries who disagreed managed to look at their own systems and to try to work out the most just way of living, while others grieved their time to Foreign Affairs. What if we began to see ourselves as simply a small part of the whole creation – creatures among others, living organisms alongside trees and plants, water, earth and air, rain and sun? We might look at the whole picture and see how we could facilitate the wellbeing of everything so that, far from being isolated, all is sustained and nourished. We could study more carefully all the connections and interactions so that we protect life in every form.
As the night falls

The Jewel and the Falcon

SSH

The Jewel and the Falcon is the “happy-go-lucky side-project” of Patrick Matthews (Youth Group, the Vines) and Sarah Kelly (threndingband), named after a beloved Gaslight Radio song.

Patrick and Sarah met over 10 years ago. At first, Patrick wouldn’t speak to Sarah because, in his eyes, she was just a kid. One day, when they were both staying in a house by the beach around Christmas-time, Sarah offered Patrick a chocolate. Patrick’s rather impolite reply was “Chocolate gives you colon cancer.”

Sarah is quick to point out, lest we panic, that this isn’t actually true. But back in those days, Patrick was a very serious fellow, intending to be a doctor. Many years later, while Patrick was drunk at the Town Hall, and Sarah was significantly less drunk but stationed at the same table, Patrick decided to start bellowing his new songs at her. That was late last year. Now they have a repertoire of eight songs, six of which feature on their self-titled EP, recorded by Tim Kevin in a shed with a view in Waverton (launched at Spectrum on September 3).

Just in time for Spring, this is warm and pretty pop with poetic punch. “The lyrics are simple but never lazy – track four, ‘Lazy’, is deceptively simple. Guitars with distortion, sweet vocal harmonies with reverb. The single, ‘No More’ is a lo-fi classic. A dirty about falling in love, falling out of love, and being really glad you don’t have to see that person anymore: ‘I’m so glad I met you’ / And I’m so glad I don’t have to be with you no more.”

Sarah says she was tired of sad songs and Patrick was bored with the bass guitar, so they formed the band around singing harmonies and getting Patrick’s songs all worked out and into band form. Both sing and play the guitar and are backed by Ben James (Talons) on drums and Sam Cross on the bass.

Limited edition EP available online www.myspace.com/thewamperson-with-reverb and at Red Eye Records. The SSH has two copies of the EP to give away. Email: editor@ssh.com.au

As the night falls

REBECCA LE MAY

Imagine nightlife in the Sydney of the 1930s. A walk through the jazzy hbo of Deco Darlinghurst and the Cross, along dark, dirty and dangerous gas-lit lanes to the mysterious dark, gas-lit alleyways described in ‘Choker’s Lane’, and even to the murky bottom of Sydney Harbour, with the impassioned depths of ‘Fire Bells’ – an elegy written for his friend who drowned after falling off a ferry.

Composer and musician, Ashley Chatto, has created the score for the piece which has transformed the verse into songs. “I’ve tried to stay in tune with the city at the time using references to ranging, but combining it with contemporary jazz influences,” he said. “The music gets pretty funky in parts, like in ‘The Green Rolls Royal’, which Kath just rips apart, but there are also some tender moments for some of the more subtle, reflective pieces.”

The band will incorporate well-known Sydney jazz guitarist and bassist Scott Leishman (Jackie O’s), the Godmothers’, accomplished Flamenco guitarist, Marc Van Doorn (Diana Reyes) and trumpeter Jeff Crawley (Astro Tabiano, the Whirlaama). Vocalters include the soaring and saucy Kath Ellis (Hobbin, The Church of Kathaltheast) and new addition, Andrew Bokernya (Chaka Khan, Sheila E, Vusi Mahlasela), whose versatility and range of experience will add a touch of excitement to the show.

Slessor’s voice is immortalised by poet and actor, John Carey, whose resounding delivery of ‘Five Bells’ anchored the audience last time. And artist/director Angela Stretch provides interpretations of the verse which are spot on.

To add to the atmosphere, a sonic visual landscape from the modern city he loved and its people in all their grit and glory of that time. Audiences who already love Sydney Darlinghurst is provided by visual artist Dave Young. His images combine with illustrations by Virgil Reilly taken from the book of verse to provide audiences with a setting that references both the present day, and the style of the 1930s era.

Awards who already love Sydney Darlinghurst will relish this piece and those who are still searching for its soul, will certainly find it here. The show will be put on September 14 & 22 at the Seymour Centre in Chippendale, by Laureate Productions as part of the Sydney Fringe Festival. Tickets available from: www.thesydneyfringe.com.au
Winter’s Discontent
Written & Performed by William Zappa
With Jeannette Cronin
Director: Maeliosa Stafford
Daringhurst Theatre
August 10-22
Veteran actor William Zappa has been performing this solo show, "Winter’s Discontent," for over 10 years. It is a rich, immaculate piece of theatre-making designed to showcase Zappa’s considerable acting ability, and it is richly pleasurable fare. Zappa creates a complete universe that gives lovely insights into the struggles of a working actor and raises bigger questions about the meaning of life. In this world of the interminable dressing, breaks down, cracks up, arrives, prepares, warms up, gets onstage and off, we watch as he living from his craft. In his dressing room incarnations. Zappa’s comic skill, hitting all the right notes. There is a slight structural weakness in the inclusion of his son’s suicide letter – it’s an unnecessary addition. The universe he has created is profound enough to hold all the places Zappa explores in his dressing room incantations. Particularly wonderful is his performance of a history of the world in two minutes, a grotesque poignant mime that transforms his face and body while Michael Nyman, never better used, belts away as a bizarre accompaniment.

Book Review
Nomad: A Personal Journey Through the Clash of Civilisations
Ayan Hirali Ali
Fourth Estate, HarperCollins, 2010
In this book, the author continues her autobiography. In her first book, Infidel, she told of her harrowing journey from a fairly normal childhood in Somalia to a haka (traditional Maori dance), whereas tribal people, or people governed by the tribe or collective, in this case, the values of Islam. Western Christian religion, since that period in its history known as The Enlightenments, has had to accede not only to the scientific discoveries but to the scientific way of thinking, in which everything has been, and is, questioned as to its infallibility, and in which, by and large, reason prevails. Now the really curious thing about this book, is that the author, a professor atheist, calls on the Christian churches to "do all to their power to win this battle for the souls of humans in search of a compassionate God." (p. 213). This is a book for the thinking reader.

Film Review
Boy
Director: Taika Waititi
Starring: Michael Jackson (sort of)
Genre: Not All Black
Once were warriors but might be. All Blacks, Boy is as new Zealand as it comes. The accents are so thick you almost need subtitles at some points. But the themes tackled are universal and interestingly are almost identical to those in Once Were Warriors, the exceedingly violent but shockingly realistic Kiwi film of 1994 about domestic violence, family dysfunction and alcohol abuse amongst struggling Maori communities. That’s where the similarity ends though, Boy is more smile out loud than scream out loud. The humour is generally subtle but there are doses of slapstick and good old-fashioned pisstakes. Just about every character in the film cops it at some time, which is important as Boy is also very much a coming of age film, and let’s face it, coming of age is hilarious as long as it’s not you that’s coming.
Boy is set in 1984 for no apparent reason other than it provides for more comic relief. Michael Jackson references are scattered throughout the film. Just about every kid and some of the adults in the film want to dance like him or dress like him, and during the closing credits they all get their chance as to they perform a ‘Thriller’ version of a haka (traditional Maori dance), or should that be vice versa?
The haka is a brilliant conclusion to the film in a similar way that the Bollywood routine summed up Slumdog Millionaire during its closing credits. Indeed even if you don’t get to see Boy make sure you catch the Thriller haka on YouTube.
Rating: Three-and-a-half lamb chops.
Consider the parsley!
An interview with Robyn Catchlove

MARGARET VAZey

Author Robyn Catchlove collects ammonites, op-shop paintings, mirror-ships, and retro clothes. She is also the writer of the gutsy autobiography, *Someshore Dawn & Crazy River – A Spiritual Life Catching Love, Fish and Wisdom*, wherein she confesses to a life lived searching for adventure and meaning.

She teamed up with a tough, brave, capable man. Together, they built their own boat, and went fishing in tropical North Queensland. This partnership lasted for eight exciting, frustrating, rewarding years, as her partner, the love of her life, had big problems, which they both, at the time, did not understand. Eventually she realised that the great adventure was over, she would have to move on. The years that followed were spent as a “heart-nomad”, doing many jobs, including being a used-car saleswoman on Farmatta Road. In searching for the meaning of life, by fortunate coincidence she met the Dalai Lama, and became a practicing Buddhist. On politics: “While we do not have a proper debate over each important issue, the system is stacked against intelligent outcomes: our present two-party system requires that the outcome serves the needs of the party rather than the needs of the people. For example: the federal government should fund all domestic (not investment) home buyers, giving them a flat 5 per cent home loan for 15 years. Stock markets should be brought to heel by outlawing hedge funds, super funds, and large corporations that bring countries to their knees.” On religion: “Australia is a God-Realm. (But) Here, we do not understand how ephemeral life is. We do not see suffering and death on the streets every day, as people do in India, and many Asian countries. We are shocked by death, we don’t see it as a wake-up call, not to waste a second of every minute of our lives. Buddhists teach that we must be mindful, re-born even, in every second of our lives, and every action should be done with compassion and loving-kindness. We must try to live life to the full, and must try to do all the things that we want to do. Each person should try to live on the edge of their character so they come to know and understand who they are, and what they stand for.” On other people: “Put yourself in other people’s shoes, and always listen to your heart. Don’t be afraid to fall. This is the way to acquire compassion about circumstances and experiences. All of us need the heart’s practical wisdom.”

Margaret Vazey

Like a rolling stone

SSH

The Rock Show is an exhibition of exquisite artworks by two highly acclaimed artists. Renee French is an award-winning American comic book artist and graphic novelist. Shelley Burnham is an Australian painter and masterful with colour. Together they are presenting the most beautiful drawings and paintings of rocks and stones in this charming and delicate exhibition. There is a book of their work for sale at the gallery also.

The Review September '10

The Rock Show
Renee French, Drawing & Shelley Burnham, Painting
Darlinghurst
Thurs-Sat 11am-6pm Sun Noon
4pm or by Appointment
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PHOTO: ANDREW COLLIS

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Olive’s Blessed Lino

The Glass Bead Game

Hugh Brannum, for wickedly funny stories (Eccentric girls get the blues), the Dalai Lama, for His Universal Wisdom (anything that he writes!), Hugh Lunn, for true-blue Aussie humour (Frid and Oliver Blissed Out), and Herman Hesse (The Glass Road Game) for seeming beyond worldly success, and into the true nature of mind.”

On art: “Anything that costs less than $2! Seriously though, we live in an extraordinary world: a world, a universe, of great natural beauty and artistry. Consider the humble herb parsley! It is amazing!”

On selling art: “To be a good used-car saleswoman you must be truthful. Blokes tend to say what they think the customer wants to hear. Truth is needed. People want honesty. Any success in business is gained by being honest. I just told the truth. Even if you are selling a bad product, you must be truthful even though it may be hard. Truth is a good thing. (In the next life, I will be walking everywhere)”

Last thoughts: “On this planet, we all bleed red blood, we all breathe the same air, in the end we are all here to help each other. So I try not to judge. I forgive easily because it lightens up my life.”

On Mother: “My mother is an amazing woman: she is very strong. When we were kids she taught us to pick ourselves up and get on with it no matter what. She had an open heart to what occurs in this life. If anyone was mean to us, she would just smile and say, ‘It could be you one day, so don’t be rude, be kind.’ ”

On writing: “Sit still and wait, it will come... the mind is an iridescent floppy disc, holding conversations, images. In writing this autobiography, it felt like I was channelling an inspired stream of consciousness. All I had to do was to write it down. I hope that the reader will take away from my book a sense that everything changes, that there are always rises and falls, to never give up, and that there is joy and humour in life.”

On books: “My favourite authors are Tom Robbins, for witty and wickedly funny stories (Eccentric girls get the blues), the Dalai Lama, for His Universal Wisdom (anything that he writes!), Hugh Lunn, for true-blue Aussie humour (Frid and Oliver Blissed Out), and Herman Hesse (The Glass Road Game) for seeing beyond worldly success, and into the true nature of mind.”
Good morning to you, Savanna, from Gadigal Country …
I hope you are well … and enjoying life amongst the Kulin People.

I’m writing because I have been to a Forum on the impact of Trade on Health and Development on Pacific Islands in near-by Pacific Island Forum countries that include Papua New Guinea, The Solomon, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Nieu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru and Samoa.

In particular I was interested in the talking on lower tariffs (taxes) in a proposed Free Trade Agreement that Australia and New Zealand want with these Pacific Island States, called Paces Plus.

Philip Morris, an international leader in the Tobacco Industry, has already sent a submission to the Australian Government proposing the importation of its alcohol and tobacco products into Pacific Forum Countries on low tariffs. This would mean that they could flood, even dump their tobacco products at cheaper prices.

This means that with what little cash they have, islanders will be able to purchase not only cigarettes and other tobacco products which are known health hazards, particularly cancer-related diseases, but alcohol which is also a health hazard, and we see the effects of alcohol abuse in daily news bulletins … spanning liver disease, death and illnesses in alcohol-related vehicle accidents, public and domestic violence, STDs and other social problems across the spectrum of all these benefits of trade in industry and society.

Already in the islands, some of these problems might be rife in the capitals and towns where tourism has made inroads, but most islands in villages have traditional substances which have been culturally regulated and would not be as harmful as foreign, introduced alcohol and tobacco-based products, many of which are dumped in Australia, New Zealand and other so-called industrialized First World Countries, because of the harm they cause either directly or indirectly.

As you know, I don’t smoke cigarettes or any other substance; even prescribed medication. I learnt my lesson when I was a bit younger than you are now. I started work as a Law Clerk with a local Solicitor in Bowen when I was fifteen-and-a-half years old; and I not only earned the money I needed to enjoy other new opportunities in life. So I decided that I would try smoking.

I noticed that Dadda (Your Great Grandfather, Sir Arthur Sidney Corowa) smoked, not all the time, but when that he did, he rolled his own ‘smokes’ from Log Cabin tobacco in a rectangular tin with red writing, or his second choice, Capstan tobacco in a round blue tin. I would find these cards and pages that he drew out of a white satchet with bold red writing.

But he never smoked in the house, and I have never smoked when he was fishing or when he seemed worried about something … that is, to relax, but under different circumstances.

One of the happiest days of my life was when I learned to read, during my first year at school, when I was four-and-a-half years old. From that day I read everything I could lay my hands and eyes on. Once I had to sit, as punishment, and read all the labels on the containers on the breakfast table, after I had started reading the freshly opened first line of Lemon and Ginger jam tin, instead of eating my breakfast … before cleaning the table and doing the washing up!

So, one of my indulgences when I started work was to buy magazines from overseas. Mumma (Your Great Grandmother, Eva Beatrice Corowa née Yasso) got the Women’s Mirror and The Australian Women’s Weekly from the ladies whose houses she cleaned each week; and I had out-grown comics, like Black Hank and Felix the Cat, but I used to thieve ‘Stinky Weekly’, a kid’s magazine … and started buying and reading Sky, the English Magazine and Stoli, a Swedish magazine.

It was in Stoli that I read an article all about smoking tobacco, the benefits, and because it was the 1950’s there was no reference to smoking being harmful. Nor was there quite a lot of information, however, on the differences between cigarettes and cigars, the recommendation being that the best smoking was to be had from hand-rolled Cuban Cigars.

Mr Ruddle, the Cobbler in town was also a Tobacconist, so the next day I took my purchases, including a box of long matches and went straight to my bedroom. Dadda must have come home early from work that day I could hear him and Mumma chatting in the kitchen while Mumma was preparing dinner.

My bedroom was small but I had a three-quarter bed that was against one wall, and faced a Jessica with a big bevelled mirror, on the opposite wall, was a cabinet. I lit a cigar lit up after a few goes, then puffing as I reclined on the coverlet and watched my reflection in the mirror. I lied in bed about two minutes of this when I began to feel violently ill, noticing at the same time that my naturally shining, brown face was turning a dull greyish-green.

I gasped the cigar in my hand, flew out of the bedroom, through the kitchen, out the back door and to the local history. ‘In the past, South Sydney Uniting Church.

Mumma laughed a warm and highly informative Welcome to Country. Rev. Andrew Collins traced the development of the parish art gallery in relation to local history. ‘In the past, South Sydney has been home to a Flour Mill, Waterfall Farm, Strawberry Hills, Raspberry Fields, market gardens and dairies. This Church was once called the Mount Lachlan Methodist Church,” he said, “and Mount Lachlan was renowned for its Coral Trees, Paperbarks, Brush Box, fruit and vegies.

We are gathered at the site of the Eden Garden (a community garden designed by volunteers of the Lunchbox Club in Waterloo). Our new artist-run space is called The Orchard, for good reason.”

The works are dreamy, earthy, eclectic, electronic and evocations of home. Hough was born in Bowral and spent her early childhood living on a property out the back of the small township of Berrima (Gundungurra country), before moving to Canoweleigh. The watercolours of Hocotatey evoke strong yet subtle connections to the landscapes of Africa and Australia. Over all, the colours are vibrant, translucent; the landscapes, cityscapes and still life scenes finely wrought, spirited.

Curator, Hayley Morgan French, discerns a delicate and unifying thread – deep spiritual connection to the land and rich, captivating depictions of home.

Compliments to the caterers (especially Bethany’s Nan) and to Mark Bridgett for assistance with framing.

The Orchard Gallery
56a Raglan St, Waterloo
Tue-Fri 4.30-6.30pm till Oct 22
Contact: 8399 3410

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Contact: 8399 3410

Diners can choose from a daily selection of fresh fish, cooked the way they choose, for both lunch and dinner. In addition, each type of fish comes with valuable cooking suggestions from the chef. The Batty’s fish is delicate, full-flavoured, and itsnameake batter is light yet crispy. A full range of salads complement the fish, as do the hand-cut chips. Try the crispy school prawns with aioli and lemon. The chickepa chips are as deliciously different and guilt-free as the spice crusted pasiphae with tartare. The Battery
St Margarets, Shop 16/425 Bourke Street, Surry Hills
Ph: 02 9357 3000
Scott Winter courtesy of
www.bestrestaurants.com.au

The good old marriage between fish and chips was developed in the post- and pre-war slums of East London and considered, back then, a gourmet dish for the lower working classes. Since then, fish and chips has pretty much maintained its deep-fried, low-quality reputation. Many have attempted to ‘glam up’ the popular duo and many have failed to take gourmet-style fish and chips into the mainstream … until now.

Chef Paul McMahon of the award-winning Catalina Restaurant in Rose Bay has successfully “sexed up” the traditional dish, which you can now enjoy in a stylish and relaxed setting instead of a tacky take-away restaurant. As you enter the restaurant you are hit with an array of aromas, and a menu that keeps to Paul’s reassuringly high standards.

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SSH advertising works:
“Since our ad has been in the SSH, it’s been phenomenal. It has really raised our profile in the community. Interest has increased ten-fold from the old way of letterbox dropping.” Wayne Bindeman, Food Distribution Network, Waterloo

Advertise in the SSH
“Celebrating the lives of the diverse people of South Sydney, inviting discussion on issues of concern and interest, encouraging addition to possibilities for community.”
Partner with the SSH and 30,000 readers who are:
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THE REDFERN-WATERLOO LIONS CLUB PRESENTS:
THE WARATAH SPRING BALL
Dinner & Dancing live music)
Saturday September 11, from 7pm
Redfern Town Hall
Tickets: $50/$60 concession
Contact: John 0451 829 092
Proceeds to: The Wunanbiri Kindergarten, Alexandria & The Garden Shelter
A joint project of the South Sydney Uniting Church and Cama Communities. Providing an overnight community space for men who would otherwise be on the street.

JUVENILE JUSTICE - THE WAY FORWARD
Public Forum October 12, 7pm
Venue TBA (see SSH October & southsydneyherald.com.au)
Speakers: Graeme West (former Minister for Juvenile Justice), Rep. of South Sydney Youth Services, and others
Supported by the SSH
Contact Trevor Davies: 0400 008 338

BABANA Aboriginal Men’s Group
Next meeting Monday 24 September
12:30pm PCYC, Redfern
Contact: Mark Spinks 9243 3546

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN REDFERN-WATERLOO?
Get the latest from www.redwatch.org.au email RWI@redwatches.com.au for free email updates or call Geoff on 9318 0824

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Uniting Churches

South Sydney Uniting Church
56a Raglan St Waterloo
Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday
Rev Andrew Coley 8399 3410
Welcoming people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and identities.
Peace with justice, integrity of creation.

Glebe Cafe Church
Cnr St Johns Rd & Coburgo Ave, Glebe
Worship Sun 7 for 7.15pm 'Coburgo Ave' Intimate Concerts 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
Office 9331 2646

Ultimo University Church
Cnr Bulwara Road and Quay St, Ultimo
Worship 6.30pm Sunday
Rev Dr John Hirt
0408 238 117

Wayside Chapel
29 Hughes St Potts Point
Worship 11am
Bible Study 5pm Sunday
Ps Graham Long 9358 6996

YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS

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F: 02 9379 0701
Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au

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Marrickville@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Happy Clappers and Death Riders

MICHAEL PAGE

Football can be much like politics. At one end of the spectrum lie the Happy Clappers. This group of supporters can see only the good, no matter what the situation. They can “overlook” the pain of losing and missing finals. They see light in the darkness. When the losses mount they talk about how hard the team “tried” and what “bad luck” they had. When talk turns to the six narrow losses, they talk up the massive injury toll and how much the team has improved and how much more competitive they have been this year.

At the other end are the Death Riders. Exasperated by the Happy Clappers, they point to the Table and say, “This team should be in the Eight – no excuses”. They grumble about lack of effort, accountability, and the absence of a “winning culture”. They call for “heads to roll” and gnash about games lost that should never have been.

And in the middle are the Swingers, an ever wavering body of supporters who move up and down the continuum, depending on form from one game to the next. The month started with a subdued sideline. Many supporters arrived at the ground doubting their ability to win with a makeshift team and a weak understrength bench.

Down 28-12 after 50 minutes, these pessimists seemed absolutely on the mark, until a remarkable comeback. On the back of debut hat trick by Dylan Farrell and a final try in the dying seconds of extra time, Souths snatched an astounding win. A big swing back to the Happy Clappers – as strangers hugged and supporters drummed again of a Top Eight finish.

The next game against Melbourne was, alas, another story of what could have been. In spite of the excitement and promise that followed the Tigers win, Souths were lacklustre and found themselves 18-4 down after 55 minutes. The late comeback failed to deliver an unlikely win and Souths suffering their sixth narrow loss of the season.

The next game against Penrith was a Bulldogs side that started slowly, performance and a loss against the Tigers. Apart from the efforts of a workhorse lock Ben Lowe breaking numbers swelling by the minute.

At the middle of the spectrum lie the Happy Clappers. This group of supporters began to face the near certainty of a T op Eight finish. Knives were sharpened by half time as supporters began to face the near certainty of a Top Eight finish. As we go to print there are two games left. The Death Riders will again join together once again for that all-too-strange hug and supporters dreamed of a win, Souths were lacklustre and found themselves 18-4 down after 55 minutes. The late comeback failed to deliver an unlikely win and Souths suffering their sixth narrow loss of the season.

As we go to print there are two games left. The Death Riders will again join forces with the ever hopeful Happy Clappers either screaming as Souths sneak miraculously into the Eight or join together once again for that all too familiar chorus. “There’s always next year.”

Pay NOTHING until October!

Whatever your motivation or fitness level, the team at National Centre of Indigenous Excellence support you all the way through our four step getting started program, regular fitness consultations and through a culture of connection between our staff, our members and our community.

Feel great this Spring and free yourself from your Winter blues, join today and pay nothing until October 2010* (conditions apply).

Eora Sports, Arts & Recreation Centre
180 George Street, Redfern • Ph: 1300 866 761 • www.ncie.org.au

Born to run ... The New York Marathon

ZIMMY WAFF

On November 7, SSH Managing Editor, Andrew Collis, will run the New York City Marathon for Covenant House, the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas serving homeless, runaway and “throwaway” youth. Covenant House provides food, clothing, emergency shelter, job training, high school education, healthcare, counseling, programs for parents and their babies, street outreach, and a national hotline for kids in crisis. The centre that has invited Andrew to take part is in New Jersey. “When I think of New Jersey, I think of Bruce Springsteen,” Andrew says. “And ‘Born to Run’ is about being young, being free. No young person should be trapped in homelessness or without hope.”

Having run the Melbourne Marathon last year (his first), Andrew is excited about this year’s challenge. “Regular training with the Ravens is a good thing,” he says, “and it’ll be so great to run in New York, from borough to borough. The race finishes with a big party in Central Park.”

You can support Andrew’s fundraising efforts by donating at www.firstgiving.com/andrewcollis

Closer to home, Cana Communities offers accommodation and support services – and much more – to “street people” in the Redfern area. Those with least options and those most alienated are the special concern of Cana, which receives no government funding. Sister Anne Jordan says, “Our task at Cana is to create a community where every person knows the affirmation and forgiveness of God.” Please support the good work of Cana by donating (include “Born to Run!” www.cana.org.au

RAVENS RUNNING GROUP

The Ravens meet each Saturday at 7am on the corner of Botany Road and Raglan Street in Waterloo.

New members (and beginners) always welcome! Phone Adrian on 9690 1427.

Fitness Membership of NCIE includes:

• Unlimited access to Health Club
• Free Ongoing Personalised Goal Setting
• Free Fitness Programming
• Free Group Fitness Classes
• Free use of Pool