

A great dame of history

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the South Sydney Herald

NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND TWO APRIL '12 CIRCULATION 22,000 ALEXANDRIA BEACONSFIELD CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON ERSKINEVILLE EVELEIGH GLEBE KINGS CROSS NEWTOWN REDFERN SURRY HILLS WATERLOO WOOLLOOMOOLOO ZETLAND

Ashmore Estate update

KATE TEXILAKE

On March 12, Council passed the draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) but voted to defer the Goodman site at 57 Ashmore Street and 165-175 Mitchell Road from it, on the grounds that the controls for the area warrant further consideration and/or public consultation. This means the City's draft LEP that will now proceed to the State Government for approval excludes the Goodman site in the Ashmore precinct.

The precinct is also the subject of a draft amendment to the Development Control Plan (DCP), which was on exhibition until February 29 this year. The amendments allow for 1.75:1 floor space ratio, building heights up to nine storeys and 1950 car parking spaces.

In 2010, the former State Government directed Council to increase height limits at the site from nine to 19 storeys and allowable residential floor space by nearly 60 per cent. On March 14, 2012, the current government's Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard, reversed this direction, noting that a 19-storey height limit would be "completely out of character with the nearby area". Mr Hazzard also indicated his support for Council's resolution to defer the Goodman site in the Ashmore Estate from the LEP.

The planning sub-committee's report to Council on the draft LEP recommends preparing and exhibiting environmental controls for Ashmore that are consistent with those development controls that are ultimately adopted for the site, following consideration of submissions on the draft DPC amendment. The sub-committee's report on the draft DPC exhibition and Council's response are eagerly awaited by residents who have been actively campaigning around proposed development at the site.

Local community group Friends of Erskineville (FOE) made a submission on the draft DCP that raised the overarching concern

Continued on page 4



Indira Naidoo in the garden at Wayside. Photo: Sandra Beeston

Rooftop garden a respite from hustle and bustle

SANDRA BEESTON

POTTS POINT: The Sydney suburb of Potts Point, with around 12,000 inhabitants per square kilometre, boasts the highest concentration of people in Australia, a density only surpassed by that of Manhattan Island, says journalist/writer Indira Naidoo, who has lived in the area for 14 years. Ms Naidoo says she loves the constant change of the area, brought on by a mix of people from all walks of life. Although the hustle and bustle is part of what makes Potts Point a sought-after place to live, the creation of a fruit and vegetable garden on the roof of the newly renovated Wayside Chapel will offer visitors a welcome respite.

Indira Naidoo, whose Walkie-Talkie speaking events already raise funds for the Wayside Chapel, was recently asked to become an Ambassador for the organisation, a role she was proud to take on: "Their principles are principles I hold dear as well. I think it's important to care for the underprivileged in the society, we all have to take our responsibility in caring for everyone in our community. I don't come from a religious point of view, that's just my ethical and spiritual commitment."

After a successful career as a broadcast news journalist, Ms Naidoo now dedicates her time to a field she has been passionate about for more than 10 years: food, environment and sustainability. She spent a year on the balcony of her 13th-floor home growing

food and writing recipes for her first book, *The Edible Balcony*. Against her expectations, the book proved a real library success last summer and had to be re-printed. This success showed her there was a real thirst from the public to learn about growing food: "People were struck by how much you can actually do on a little balcony. People who see it as concrete and tiles and steel, now look at it and think: 'I can have a lemon tree here, I can grow strawberries.' It showed me that people do want to grow some of their own food and they like the idea that not having a garden does not limit them."

She explains that her role as an ambassador will be to "form a network, a group of dedicated people who are going to look after this garden". A team of volunteers will be trained to maintain,

weed and water the garden once a week. Ms Naidoo would also love to see horticulturalists and gardeners get involved and share their knowledge, and she says that donations of potting mix, plants and soil are always welcome.

While describing the project, she checks the big pots of herbs and vegetables populating the Wayside roof and is delighted to spot two lady bugs, a telling sign the plants are healthy, she says: "We've also got a kitchen attached to the garden, and we'll be doing cooking as well as gardening classes. We'll be showing visitors how they can prepare the food, the fresh produce, into lovely sustainable meals, organic fresh meals." But, she says, the 200-square-metre space, which will also include rainwater tanks,

Continued on page 2

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Clover Moore, Graeme Innes and campaigners for equal access at Redfern station Photo: Andrea Srisurapon



Laura Kelly from South Sydney Community Aid collects signatures for petition Photo: Bill Yan

Campaign ratchets up pressure for lifts at Redfern

CHARLES TURNBULL

REDFERN: Campaign organisers and local residents gathered outside Redfern station on Monday March 19 to mark the official launch of the Lift Redfern campaign, as frustration over government inaction grows. The campaign is lobbying for lifts to be installed at Redfern station, as current access options are unsafe and unusable for many public transport users with mobility issues.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore, members of the local council, and the Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes attended the public meeting and threw their support behind the movement. Mr Innes congratulated the crowd and said the community action had begun to "raise the focus on Redfern station" which has been "sidelined" in successive government agendas.

The campaign also received backing from the University of Sydney, which sees large numbers of students using the station. "This is a really important issue for the university and we stand here in support for this campaign," said Professor Stephen Garton, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

In response to parliamentary questions to the Transport Minister from Clover Moore about the time frame for station development, the Minister Gladys Berejiklian said: "The government is in the process of determining where future upgrades to stations will take place and Redfern station will be considered as part of this review." This response has

angered campaigners who believe that the state government has ignored the issue for too long.

The campaign is now aiming to force the issue into the spotlight by focusing on a petition drive in and around Redfern station. Ten thousand signatures would see the issue debated in state parliament. Geoff Turnbull, spokesperson for Redfern community group REDWatch, said that gaining the right numbers was only the start of the fight. "We don't think that 10,000 signatures is going to be the be all and end all, it's just basically part of getting pressure on the government ... It's really about trying to just ratchet up the pressure so it's just embarrassing not to deal with such a large and important conversation," he said.

Equitable access to Redfern station has been raised for the last 20 years but successive state governments have brushed aside the issue. "We have heard so many promises," said Greens Councillor Irene Doutney. The issue has regained momentum recently after a Mayoral Minute supporting the campaign was fully endorsed by the City of Sydney. The Council will also ask the soon-to-be established Central Sydney Traffic and Transport Committee to make equitable access at Redfern a priority issue.

Petitions will be collected in and around the station until April 18 and community members and transport users are encouraged to support the campaign to help collect the 10,000 signatures. As of Friday March 30 the count was 5,768, with two weeks to go. **SSH**

Rooftop garden a respite from hustle and bustle

Continued from page 1 beehives, solar panels and a worm farm, will not be restricted to gardening only: "The visitors who come to the Wayside can use the garden as a relaxation space if they want, they can help with this garden or they can just pick the strawberries, sit there and munch away."

Ms Naidoo hopes that the garden will be a way for the whole community to come together: "It's not just for people who've fallen between the cracks, it's for every community member to come here and engage in a space where we can all come together as a community." She also hopes that this new project will inspire people to grow their own food: "It's very

rare to find this much garden space in Potts Point, or anywhere in the city, so it's going to be a really prized area, where people are just going to be amazed at what you can achieve, and hopefully it will encourage all the other people you see here with balconies and gardens to look down onto this garden and say: 'Hey maybe we can do something on our balcony or our roof as well!'" **SSH**

There will be a street party on May 19 to celebrate the unveiling of the Wayside Chapel redevelopment, including the garden. Check the Wayside website www.thewaysidechapel.com for more information!

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Trevor Davies commemorative gathering – for your diary:

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Mark Roberts with conference delegates at the NCIE Photo: Andrew Collis

LIBBY HOGAN

REDFERN: Twelve young leaders from each state and territory met in March at a youth forum to discuss constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The forum was held at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) and aimed to engage younger audiences to develop new frameworks about constitutional reform.

Member of the NCIE National Youth Advisory Council, Hannah Donnelly, enjoyed taking part in this open forum, hearing different opinions and voicing her own views. She said: "The idea that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were the first people of this nation needs to be recognised in our Constitution as it is lagging behind where we are now as a country."

Guest speakers, including

Co-Chair of National Congress, Jody Broun, social commentator Luke Pearson and leading constitutional lawyer George Williams, spoke about building a safe space for a dialogue, what it means to honour history, and ensuring that voices are heard in the media and in the community.

George Williams spoke about the sections of the Constitution that permit racial discrimination, such as sections 25 and 51 which

allow the Commonwealth to legislate in regard "to any race for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws". He said: "This debate has been running for decades and [the sections] should have been removed years ago."

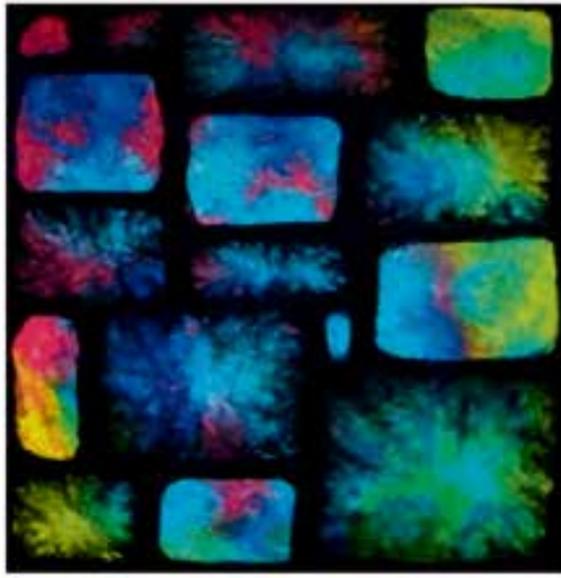
Delegates were given opportunity to pitch ideas about how they could get their word out into the community and on different platforms. Smaller discussion groups used the time

to come together and develop social media campaigns using blogs, twitter and facebook.

Individuals also had the chance to offer their ideas to Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who attended one of the workshops.

Hannah Donnelly said: "It was exciting to be heard and see young people get their heads around the complex legal topics and then turn it into their own campaigns about the need for constitutional reform." **SSH**

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city of villages

Youth Week in the City



SSH

The City of Sydney's Youth Week in the City celebrations run from April 13-22 as part of National Youth Week (NYW) 2012. The 2012 theme for Youth Week is "Imagine. Create. Inspire."

Thousands of young people aged 12-25 from across Australia get involved in NYW each year. City of Sydney Youth Services collaborates with various other organisations to deliver a diverse program of events throughout NYW.

The main events for Youth Week in the City for 2012 are: "Centre Stage" under-18's dance party at the Sydney Opera House; Imagine-Create-Inspire Short Film Showcase at the Museum of Contemporary Art; the Betty Makin Youth Awards; and Youth Week in the City Sports Day.

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www.whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/13155-youth-week-in-the-city

"Centre Stage" Under 18's Dance Party

On Friday April 13, marking the beginning of National Youth Week, the City of Sydney and the Sydney Opera House are presenting a huge, drug- and alcohol-free dance party for under 18's. Young People 12-17 years old \$10. From 7-11pm.

"Imagine-Create-Inspire" Short Film Show Case

The City of Sydney, supported by the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), is holding a short film showcase. Short films made by young people and about youth issues are being called for submission. Sunday April 15. Free event.

Betty Makin Youth Awards

The annual Betty Makin Youth Awards ceremony honours the life of Betty Makin, a dedicated community leader, by acknowledging the contribution of young people aged 12-24, youth workers and police from across the City of Sydney. Tuesday April 17, 6-9pm, Redfern Town Hall. Free event.

Youth Week in the City Sports Day

The Youth Week in the City Sports Day will provide young people with the opportunity to compete in sporting competitions against other youth people, youth workers and local police from across the City of Sydney. Thursday April 19, 12-5pm. King George V Recreation Centre, Cumberland Street The Rocks. Free event.

Beginner's Calligraphy

Try your hand at the fine art of calligraphy. Learn the basics of how to hold a calligraphy pen, how to shape letters in a beautiful calligraphic script and how to write your own name with a lovely personal flair. For ages 12-16. Thursday 19 April. 11.00am-12.15pm. Ultimo Library. Book online or call 9298 3110. Bookings Essential. Free Event.

Loud in the Library

Emerging musicians Rachel Eldon and Bryce Cohen play live in the Surry Hills Library Cafe. Passionate songstress & self-taught guitarist Rachel will perform strong pop ballads, while 'up and coming' Blues guitarist Bryce breathes new life into the Blues/Rock Classics. Wander through, sit back and relax or browse the Library collection to the sounds of Sydney's own hot young musical talent. Saturday 14 April. 1.00pm-3.00pm. Surry Hills Library. Bookings not required.



Tanya Plibersek
Federal Member for Sydney

Skills for All Australians

Major reform of the VET (vocational education and training) system is well overdue.

The jobs of the future will be high skilled. Australians need to have access to training now to get the qualifications they need to fill the jobs of tomorrow.

We will need more skilled health and community workers, engineers, IT specialists and construction workers.

Skills Australia estimates that in the five years to 2015, Australia will need an additional 2.1 million people in the workforce with VET qualifications.

In response to these challenges, the Gillard Government has committed \$1.75 billion over five years for a new skills reform National Partnership Agreement with the states.

We are working to deliver access to a government subsidised training place, at least to a Certificate III level, to all Australians in order to improve their skills and help them get a job with a brighter future.

The entitlement will mean there are more providers out there offering training with government subsidies. On the ground, this means there will be more training options in more places.

We want to give VET students the same opportunity that university students have had for years – the chance to defer their upfront payments through student loans.

These critical VET reforms will be put to the states and territories at the April meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

They will help break down the barriers to training so all Australians can access the qualifications they need to create a brighter future for themselves – a better job, a better pay packet, and better job security.

Farewell, Marcelle

SSH

Independent Councillor Marcelle Hoff has resigned due to health reasons, effective March 22.

Cr Hoff writes: "It is with great humility and pride that I have held the post of Independent Councillor of the City of Sydney for the past seven years.

"First and foremost I would like to pay tribute to the many committed people who work in our communities and in various organisations in our local government area. These rich and diverse communities span wide-ranging social, religious, economic and racial divides and I have had the immense enjoyment

and great honour of working closely with them.

It has been a privilege to serve on behalf of all who make up this vibrant city and I leave knowing that community has become an essential part of government at a local level. I have met many delightful people and formed warm friendships.

"I must also thank the hard-working men and women of the City of Sydney Council, who strive each day to serve the City and its residents. Their efforts have led to some remarkable outcomes. Personally, I have received amazing support and loyalty from Council staff.

"The City has won awards for environmental sustainability,

architecture, tourism, and landscaping of magnificent parks, gardens and playgrounds. And I'm proud to say that the City commits more resources to addressing homelessness than any other council in Australia.

"I acknowledge and value the work of my fellow Councillors and wish them well. The decisions I made did not always enjoy the support of all my colleagues. However, my actions reflected my belief in what was right and I am grateful in the knowledge that not one of my colleagues would expect me to apologise for that.

"I entered politics and the Council because I wanted to be a truly Independent Councillor. I feel that I have remained true to my values throughout." SSH

Ashmore Estate update

Continued from page 1 that the proposed development does not foster livable, sustainable community. It also specified a set of problems that were echoed across many other submissions received from residents.

While scaled down significantly from the previous State Government's concept, the draft DCP amendment raises the 2006 DCP site density by 75 per cent on the western side of the Estate and 40 per cent on the eastern side. FOE are concerned this increase has been proposed without serious regard for the transport, urban design and servicing needs of such a development.

The amendment also increases the building height to a maximum of nine storeys, instead of the five stipulated in the 2006 DCP. There is widespread concern that this scale of development stands to reduce amenity and social wellbeing of the community, impacting on children in particular. FOE argues that

buildings of this height also destroy the townscape and are expensive and energy intensive to maintain.

Conscious of an existing shortfall in public transport services and of traffic congestion, FOE consider that a full transport network analysis investigating impacts on traffic, parking and public and alternative transport is required. They also argue that major water pipe upgrades are needed and should be made prior to commencement of work. FOE are calling for a thoroughly researched and socially sensitive design for the new village that considers what infrastructure is already in place and what would be required to support new residents.

Local residents also used the submission process to convey their dissatisfaction with City's decision to accept a development application from the developers when the DPC governing the site has not yet been finalised and while uncertainty remains around whether the

Department Planning & Infrastructure or the City will be responsible for the development.

FOE has the support of local member for Heffron, Kristina Keneally, who has called for the O'Farrell government to listen to local residents' concerns and to come good on its election promise to hand over planning control to the City. Greens member Councillor Chris Harris welcomed Ms Keneally's expression of support for local residents' concerns, but described it as late and hypocritical when it was during her own premiership that then Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, instructed the City to increase the building heights and floor space ratio. SSH

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 Details of the City Plan are available at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Development/cityplan. More info on FOE and the community response to the Ashmore development can be found at www.erskinevillage.org

Authorised by Tanya Plibersek MP
Labor Member for Sydney

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No consultation, no confidence

MICHAEL TEXILAKE

On March 7 a vote of no confidence in the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Dr Michael Spence, was passed by hundreds of staff and students who gathered outside his office to protest staff cuts announced earlier this year.

The job cuts come as the University seeks to further increase student enrolments, and the necessity of the cuts has been argued by university management on the basis of an unexpected \$50 million drop in profit. Management had forecast higher fee income than has been the case, and is now seeking to reduce academic

and general staff numbers to recover the budget. In the same period the University awarded Dr Spence \$220,000 in bonuses.

Despite posting a \$100 million profit, the University asserts that the \$20 million resulting from the staff cuts is necessary to fund \$250 million of construction and infrastructure development this year, including the much disputed Abercrombie Precinct project. That project, encompassing 1.9 hectares of land adjacent to Darlington Public School, has been fiercely criticised by residents and the school community, particularly as it includes creation of a major vehicle entry point across a footpath used by the majority of pupils in order to access the school.

In July last year the Vice-Chancellor published a statement assuring the community that these concerns had been heard and the vehicle entry point would be relocated, however the project has since been further revised and the previous vehicle access reinstated. **SSM**

STOP PRESS: Following a hearing by Fair Work Australia on March 16 and 22, the University of Sydney has agreed to postpone its planned job cuts while an additional round of consultation is conducted with staff, including those targeted for redundancy and colleagues whose workloads will be affected by those redundancies. The University expects to inform relevant staff of final decisions by May 7.



A striking photo of two friends sitting out the front of their terrace on Lawson Street has won the first Smile, You're in Redfern photo competition (an initiative of Roll Up Redfern). "I work in Redfern and love the area," said Ms Pix, "I love its history and what it has to offer today. I wanted to show the positive side of the suburb with friends coming together and enjoying living in the community." Competition finalists were announced as winners at the Eveleigh Farmers' Market on Saturday, March 3, after finalists were shortlisted via voting on Facebook and then forwarded to a judging panel of five Redfern Ambassadors. Thanks to the generous support of the City of Sydney, Souths Cares, the South Sydney Business Chamber, Pitt Street Diner and the SMMA, winners received some fantastic prizes. Photo: Jaqui Pix



On March 23 Babana Aboriginal men's group hosted a harbour cruise and Close the Gap event on Clark Island. Elders and community representatives (from agencies including Quit for Life, Generation One and NSW Health) shared hopes and strategies towards improved health and equity for Aboriginal people. Photo: John Lanzky



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Small Business Support Educational and networking events for small business owners and operators

The City's successful Let's Talk Business seminar series continues in 2012 with seminars designed to help businesses learn from successful operators, connect with experts and peers, and get real tools to enable action. Hot topics for this year's seminars include social media; better customer value and growth as well as data strategies and getting your business online. More at letstalkbusiness.nsw.gov.au

Sydney's Late Night Economy Workshops to help businesses find their way through challenging processes

From early 2012 we're offering a series of '101' workshops designed for small business owners and operators, giving an overview of common issues in setting up and running a business. Themed around food and beverage, small bars, live music and pop up events, these workshops will feature presentations from City staff, industry representatives and NSW government agencies. We'll also provide case studies of businesses which have successfully gone through some of these City processes, providing useful advice. More at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Business/CityEconomy/101Workshops.asp

Redfern Shopfront Grant Program

The Redfern Shopfront Grant encourages building owners or tenants to make improvements to a Redfern shopfront which, without financial assistance, may not be able to occur. The matched grant aims to create renewed interest and vibrancy along Redfern and Regent Streets in Redfern and Abercrombie Street in Darlington. The program is an initiative of the Roll Up Redfern Group comprising Redfern-Waterloo Authority, City of Sydney, South Sydney Business Chamber, South Sydney Rabbitohs and REDWatch. For further details contact Elizabeth Waser, Council's Business Precinct Coordinator for Sydney South on 9265 9850.

Visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/business or call (02) 9265 9333

city of villages

A city farm for Sydney

MIRIAM PEPPER

Melbourne has CERES (Centre for Education & Research in Environmental Strategies), Brisbane has Northey Street City Farm, and Perth has the Perth City Farm. These large city sites aim to engage communities in sustainable living, and include gardens and orchards, animals, spaces for community arts and events, composting facilities, interactive educational displays, farmers markets, cafes and more.

Now Sydney is to have its own city farm. Originally the brainchild of non-profit incorporated association Sydney City Farm, plans are now underway for the development of Sydney City Farm in the inner city. An "articulated model", which combines a number of sites, is proposed, comprising Sydney Park in St Peters and a disused Powerhouse Museum car park in Ultimo.

After commissioning a feasibility study and canvassing community views, the City of Sydney is in the process of recruiting for a City Farm Project

Manager and is also establishing an Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will include staff from the City of Sydney and Powerhouse Museum as well as community representatives, and will provide advice and direction for the development and management of the project. Meetings are due to start in a couple of months. SSH

More information is available from the City of Sydney, Powerhouse Museum, and Sydney City Farm websites.



Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes (left), and Julie McCrossin, Patron of FRANS Inc. (Making a Difference for People with Disabilities), taking part in the Amazing Chase in King Street Newtown on Saturday March 24. Eight teams raced around the Inner West completing challenges, raising over \$18,000 for FRANS which supports people with disabilities to work, learn and enjoy a social life. Challenges included guessing the flavour of gelato with "blind" tasting, whipping egg whites and holding them upside down above your head and hitting a pole with a Frisbee. Photo: Peter Schneider



Actor and filmmaker Dean Daley-Jones (front centre) with members of the Gamarada Aboriginal men's group. Photo: Andrew Collis

Gamarada's peaceful warriors

ANDREW COLLIS

REDFERN: On the night of Friday March 23, an intimate film screening and forum was held at the NCIE (National Centre of Indigenous Excellence). The free event was organised by the Gamarada Aboriginal men's group, a Redfern-based association of volunteers committed to "Indigenous healing" and life skills programs for men and youth.

A Welcome to Country was offered by

Uncle Charles "Chicka" Madden, who emphasised the value of community support.

Guests were drawn to the warm spirit of generosity. "I'm always looking to make connections within the community," said Dr Mari Rhydwen of the NSW Board of Studies. Local teacher, Jodie Swan, said, "Indigenous cinema is so important, I think - and I'm keen to know about other events to be held here".

Following a screening of the award-winning *Mad Bastards* (directed by

Brendan Fletcher, 2009), the film's co-writer and male lead, Dean "Koodah" Daley-Jones, told of how the story's anti-domestic-violence message is enabling boys and young men, including those in prisons and remote communities that have hosted screenings, to see what words such as compassion, courage, respect, love and dignity look like in action. "It's my story. It's our story, and there's a lot of blood, sweat, tears and laughter ... It's about regaining balance, the balance of a warrior," he said.

The film, we learn, took eight weeks to shoot, and at least eight years to write and plan. It's a gritty evocation of life in the Kimberley region - hard men battling to do the right thing by their families.

The Gamarada Indigenous Healing and Life Training organisation, through its men's groups and programs like Biyanga Naminma ("Father to Share"), encourages fathers (and father figures) to be more aware of the root causes that lead to the breakdown of relationships and isolation. Using culture as an underlying theme,

the men are disciplined in expressing negative emotions. Through small-group discussion, mentoring and meditation (or Dadirri, an Aboriginal practice of contemplation and connection to spirit) men are empowered to reclaim their rightful place as carers and peacemakers - "peaceful warriors" in the community.

For more information about Gamarada visit www.gamarada.org.au/. Contact: Program Manager Ken Zulumovski (ken.z@gamarada.org.au).

Happy Veggie Meals

by Angelique Watkins

such as ear infections and diseases such as diabetes.

Thankfully, in many respects being a vegetarian kid now is easier than it used to be. With the benefits of vegetarianism and veganism being well documented as good for one's health, pressures on vegetarian and vegan children to conform with the pack have backed off a little.

However, there are some hurdles thrown their way, particularly from the occasional adults, who pass on ill-informed prejudices to their own children which can result in teasing or bullying. Some adults can be well meaning in expressing their concern, while at the same time being ill informed.

As with all children, vegetarian and vegan kids' needs and calorie intakes change from infancy to their teen years. With a well-thought-out diet, however, vegetarian and vegan children thrive and will generally be healthier than their omnivorous counterparts and suffer less of the common ailments

The main challenge for children arises not from what they eat, but how they are treated by those around them. Whether it be other children, or adults, who may not understand or appreciate concepts of compassion towards other animals or the health benefits of vegetarian eating, the way kids are treated by those around them can have a big impact on their happiness.

What can we do? Positive reinforcement on the good these kids are doing for their own health, the environment and the welfare of animals. If vegetarian and non-vegetarian adults emphasise the positives of a vegetarian/vegan lifestyle around children rather than criticise or focus on the "can't haves", they will not only be contributing to the happiness of these children, but will be working towards a more happy, peaceful and tolerant world. And who doesn't want that?

Column sponsored by TAPEO CAFÉ

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Many local cafes are expanding their menus to cater for vegetarians. Tapeo Café & Tapas Bar in Redfern has several delicious veggie options. Come in and ask!



Seniors enjoy a candle-making workshop. Photo: Laura Kelly

Harmony of cultures, seniors in harmony

LAURA KELLY

With NSW Seniors Week (March 18-25) and Harmony Day (March 21) falling in the same week, South Sydney Community Aid decided to combine the two celebrations and host Seniors in Harmony on March 20. The Seniors Week slogan is "Live Life!" and this year's theme for Harmony Day was "Sport - Play, Engage, Inspire" which recognises the important role and positive influence that sport has in our multicultural nation.

The day's program kicked off with SSCA's very own Tai Chi group giving a spectacular demonstration, including

sword and fan performances, followed by a gentle exercise lesson with local Karate duo Gayle and Mario Borg. After a short break, all the participants got on their feet to enjoy the Alexandria Park Community School Year 6 choir singing "Advance Australia Fair" in both Aboriginal and English.

Then ballroom dance teacher, Yoppy, who holds free lessons at the Redfern Community Centre every Monday, gave our seniors a taster session with a beautiful routine (with the help of a dance partner). A light lunch was served before The Ethnic Communities Council held a workshop on Saving Energy and taught the group how to make beeswax candles.

The important and profound message behind Harmony Day is that "everyone belongs". It's about community participation, inclusiveness and respect. SSCA-MNC aims to foster a welcoming and friendly environment that promotes all that Harmony Day represents, not just one day of the year, but all year round. We are proud to say the event was successful in bringing together approximately 45 seniors from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

To find out more about our groups email communitydevelopment@ssca.org.au. Laura Kelly is a Community Development Worker with SSCA-MNC.

Eveleigh Heritage Plan finalised

GEOFF TURNBULL

The SMDA has released on its website the Eveleigh Railway Workshops Interpretation Plan following Public Exhibition in April 2011 and Ministerial approval. Also released was the 2010 Eveleigh Field Day Project Report which included some great stories of ex-workers. Together they provide some good stories, and an overview of the heritage significance of Eveleigh, how it can be preserved and celebrated.

The SMDA provided no summary of submissions or any indication of why some suggestions made in submissions were taken up while others were not. REDWatch has produced on its website a comparison of the draft and final reports highlighting the modest changes. With the disbanding of the Redfern Waterloo Heritage Taskforce (RWHT) in mid 2012 there was no longer a heritage reference group to discuss the submissions or the changes to the final report.

The Interpretation Plan is a "non-statutory policy framework" which contains a Project Implementation Schedule setting out areas of responsibility of each landowner. Worryingly it provides no mechanism to replace the RWHT or to co-ordinate heritage activities across the entire site into the future.

Comments on a study of Aboriginal Connections with Eveleigh by Dr Michael Davis are being sought by the SMDA until April 12.

HAF funded non-public Masterplan?

GEOFF TURNBULL

Housing NSW has finished the advertised Preliminary Masterplan (PMP) design workshops for Redfern and Waterloo. HNSW will now take this material away and firm up the PMP in light of other research and studies that have happened away from the public discussions. No indication was given to those attending the final sessions about if and when the background studies and resultant work would be brought back to the community for comment.

REDWatch requested HNSW to undertake a non-statutory exhibition of the federally funded PMP, as was done for BEP2, so that the community can see how its input has been interpreted, see the detail of the expert background studies and make comments before the PMP is used to guide the development of further government policy. HNSW has declined and advised that "the preliminary masterplanning is an internal working document exploring options ... and is not suitable for sporadic release".

HNSW staff say HNSW need to know the SMDA planning controls to finalise its report, however, both HNSW and the SMDA have earlier argued that the HNSW work will inform the SMDA planning controls. REDWatch has now written to the SMDA asking it to release the PMP material that informs the planning controls when the SMDA releases all the other studies.

Issues for long-suffering tenants

GEOFF TURNBULL

Not a meeting with public tenants goes past without hearing horror stories about preventable problems in public housing.

At HNSW meetings a staffer takes people aside to discuss their problems away from the broader discussion but seldom do even these conversations make any difference. Almost universally tenants say that if HNSW could address basic problems, like maintenance, safety issues, troublesome neighbours and appropriate allocations, many of their concerns would disappear.

One safety problem is removal of discarded syringes. Currently NSW Health has concerns about going onto HNSW land to clear away sharps reported to them and until this is resolved needles lie around longer than need be or are shoved into cracks and vents. Many syringe dumping spots have been highlighted in the Redfern and Waterloo Safety Audits.

While the discussion goes on about the proposed Redfern needle dispensing machine, public tenants are pushing HNSW and NSW Health to put sharps bins into Redfern and Waterloo public housing replicating the successful introduction of sharps bins at Northcott public housing. The main problem seems to be Redfern Waterloo is in a different Area Health Service to Surry Hills.

Geoff Turnbull is Spokesperson for REDWatch.

ADVERTISEMENT



Kristina Keneally MP

MEMBER FOR HEFFRON

Recently I met with representatives of the "Lift Redfern Campaign" regarding Redfern Railway Station needing urgent disability access.

On Monday 19th March "Lift Redfern" rolled out a month long signature collection campaign with the launch of their first social media campaign entitled "Platforms and Carriages Week".

This social media campaign encourages people to download and print a petition to collect signatures particularly on platforms and in carriages as they travel the rail network during the course of their day.

You can download a copy of the petition at www.liftredfernstation.wordpress.com or visit my office at Shop 117/747 Botany Road, Rosebery to support this local initiative.

Redfern Station is a major key station on the rail network as all lines, bar the airport line, run through it. With 12 platforms, Redfern Station is second to Central Station for inter-change possibilities. Since 2006 entrances and exits at Redfern Station have increased from 31,000 to over 42,000 in 2011 – from tenth busiest station in the network to sixth. Growth is expected to increase. Redfern Station services major educational facilities including a leading global university, significant national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander institutions, and, with the creation of CarriageWorks, a major new cultural hub for the City and the Inner West. People with disabilities, older people, parents with young children, pregnant women, people with short term mobility issues through illness or injury, and people with luggage or shopping have great difficulty in accessing or cannot access the Station as there are no lifts to any platform.

I will be presenting the final petition in Parliament for debate. I urge everyone to get behind the "Lift Redfern" campaign and sign the petition supporting the upgrade of Redfern Railway Station.

I would also like to mention my annual NSW Housing Forums; each forum is attended by me, staff members from my office, Police and Housing NSW employees. The forums are a place where you can find out the latest information about what is happening in your area and voice any concerns or ideas you have for where you live.

The dates for 2012 are:

REDFERN

Our Place Community Centre,
Poets Corner, 45 Moorehead Street
2-4pm Friday 30 March
2-4pm Friday 7 September

WATERLOO

The Factory, 67 Raglan Street
2-3.30pm Friday 11 May
2-3.30pm Friday 19 October

Kind Regards
Kristina Keneally, MP

Kristina Keneally MP

Member for Heffron

Phone: 9699 8166

Email: heffron@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mail: Shop 117/747 Botany Road, Rosebery NSW 2018





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Meet the villagers

PETER WHITEHEAD

SURRY HILLS: Not all City of Sydney community meetings afford delicatessen sandwiches, fruit platters and muffins but this writer had high hopes as he followed the trail of City of Sydney 2030 sails into Adina on Crown.

A smiling City employee directs me into the lift to the first floor where I find this is not a round-tables-and-butcher's-paper-creative-problem-solving-exercise-in-frustration like some previous repressed memories of City of Sydney consultations.

There is a sign-in table with City publications. "State of the City 2011" is a colourful 16-page pamphlet deploying graphics, photos, artist's impressions and bold CAPS etc! "Barani Barrabugu Yesterday Tomorrow - Sydney's Aboriginal Journey" is a handsomely presented slim paperback with coffee table aspirations. "Slices of Sydney

- a taste of our villages", a 64-page paperback, "makes up a ten-course experiential meal, a degustation. Taste the distinct flavours of each village ... the design-skewed sheen of Surry Hills; the indie scent of Newtown; the modern tribalism relished in Redfern or the non-stop liberal heat of Kings Cross".

The other two tables in this room have occupied chairs and citizens waiting to confer with City employees under "2030 In Your Village" signage. It is unsurprising that "Traffic Operations and Parking" and "Cycleways in your Area" are busiest at a Surry Hills Village meeting.

The adjoining larger room is set up like a posh school's Parents and Teachers evening with "2030 In Your Village" signs papering the walls.

The table for Councillors (Di Tornai and Phillip Black) is tucked behind the door to the left. Friendly City officials sit under signs: "City Projects", "City Projects and Property", "Planning

Assessments", "City Access and Transport", "Health and Building" ...this seat is empty so I take the opportunity to be very well informed about how my apartment building may wriggle free from the Draconian Fire Orders placed on it by the disbanded South Sydney Council back in the 80s.

My odyssey resumes - past "Rangers", "City Plan LEP and DCP", "Economic Development", "Sustainability", "Customer Service", "Office of the CEO" to the tables of Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP (where the Lord Mayor herself is exchanging pleasantries and accepting commiserations on O'Farrell's plot to budge her from Macquarie Street) and out the door past "City Operations" and a table where a woman sits alone under "2030 In Your Village City Culture and Community".

There are no refreshments. SSH

For detailed information and directions to venues, go to 2030inyourvillage.com.au

High demand for student housing

ANNA CLARK

With the number of international students on the rise, and university prices on a steep incline, the demand for affordable student housing is at an all-time high. Whilst the Aboriginal Housing Company's Pemulwuy project plans to provide beds for 150 students, those living in Sydney are still struggling to find suitable housing.

Sydney is not only Australia's most expensive city, but also boasts the title of fifth most costly in the world. As such, there is an understandable struggle by students to find reasonably priced accommodation close to the world-class universities they travel from around the globe to attend. For most international students, who already pay full fees for their studies, this means an immense accumulation of debt.

Reine-Soria Ho, who came to Australia from France to study business, said: "At the end of my stay in Australia I could barely afford to eat. The rent of my shoebox-size room on campus at UTS cost me twice as much as my Paris home." If international students, who by definition can afford to pay full up-front university fees, are feeling the challenge of Sydney housing costs, then surely local students are also sensing the weight of independent living. It is an additional weight to be added to their ongoing university HECS debts. Lucy Adams, 19, who lives with her parents near Manly, said: "I would love the freedom of living independently, but for the time being I cannot afford it, and I already have enough debt in my uni fees."

Chippendale and Redfern are amongst the cheapest inner-city suburbs in terms of average rental costs, but they still only offer real estate beyond the budgets of most independent students. This is a problem, in that it's these inner-west suburbs that are deemed most attractive to students, due to their location in walking-distance of

Sydney University, Sydney Institute of TAFE, Notre Dame, UTS and various other independent colleges.

One other option is renting an apartment in one of the many multi-storey building blocks such as UniLodge or Urbanest, which are aimed only at students and decorate inner-west suburbs. While less expensive than Sydney University's college-style accommodation, apartment rental can still take its toll on the student budget, with UniLodge charging as much as \$387 per week for a single room.

On the corner of Cleveland and Abercrombie Streets in Redfern lies the site for the newly proposed Urbanest building. The project proposal outline states that: "Inner city suburbs like

is just a miniscule improvement considering Sydney's three major universities attract over 30,000 international students each year. While a small number of individuals find affordable living through friends or scholarships, most are left with very limited options, with many being forced to resort to on-campus housing, which can do severe damage to the average student bank balance. St Paul's College, part of Sydney University's on-campus housing, costs \$477 per week for rent alone. Without some sort of continual support from parents or government, maintaining this lifestyle would be near impossible.

Angus, a UTS film student, recently moved into a share house in Chippendale: "I found searching for

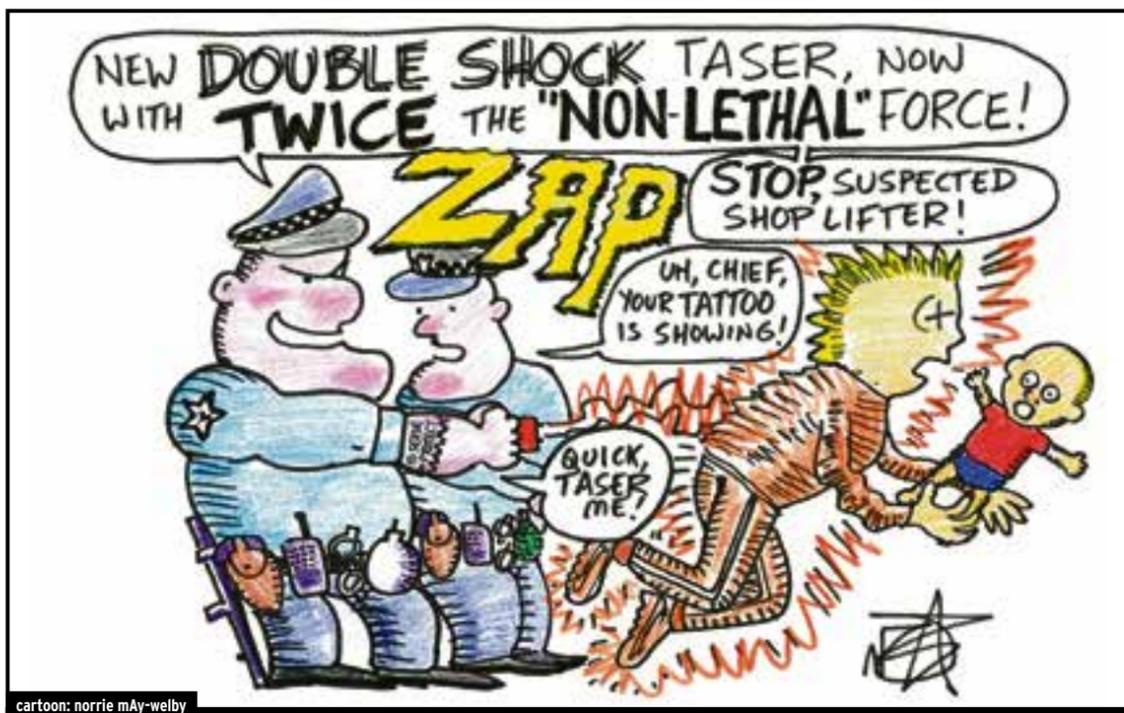
Many students are finding it very hard to get well maintained and safe accommodation within a reasonable distance to the universities

Redfern are experiencing very strong demand compounded by a city-wide shortage in rental accommodation and housing supply. The growing number of students coming to Sydney is adding to that demand. Many students are finding it very hard to get well maintained and safe accommodation within a reasonable distance to the universities." While the Urbanest proposal acknowledges Sydney's severe shortage in student accommodation, it does very little to suggest that rent costs will be any more affordable than its Quay Street, Ultimo counterpart, whose cheapest room is \$344 per week. The City of Sydney and the Redfern Waterloo Authority are yet to approve the proposal.

Even with the development of the Pemulwuy project, an offset of the Aboriginal Housing Company, there

affordable housing really difficult. And for students it's practically impossible unless your parents chip in, because even if you qualify, rent assistance probably won't cover it. And then you have to factor in bills as well ..." Angus came to Sydney from Tasmania where the average rent is nearly half that of inner Sydney. If living costs continue to rise, it is safe to assume that Sydney will start to attract fewer and fewer students. SSH

To find out more on the Pemulwuy project, email the AHC at info@ahc.org.au or the project planner Jane Flanagan at jane.flanagan@planning.nsw.gov.au. For more info on the Urbanest proposal visit www.urbanest.com.au/157cleveland/urbanest_clevelandst_oparday_displayboards.pdf or call the project's enquiry line on 0435 830 868.



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

EDITORIAL

Help prevent Aboriginal deaths in custody

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still 14 times more likely to be in prison than non-indigenous Australians, a key factor in the high number of Aboriginal deaths in custody. Each death in custody is a national shame. It destroys families and communities and undermines faith in the fairness and transparency of our justice system.

This month, please give generously so that ANTaR (Justice, Rights and Respect for Australia's First Peoples) can pressure

and persuade state, territory and federal governments to reform policies and laws that cause a serious over-representation of Aboriginal imprisonment.

ANTaR has been working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and leaders on rights and reconciliation issues since 1997. Donations will boost ANTaR's campaign, launched in April 2011, calling governments to account for inaction.

A blueprint for change to turn the tide

on Aboriginal imprisonment includes: independent inspections into custodial facilities (currently WA is the only state with an independent inspector) and external investigations into deaths in custody or allegations of police violence or abuse; social support, diversionary and rehabilitation programs in disadvantaged communities.

Contact ANTaR: PO Box 568, Dulwich Hill NSW 2203; www.antar.org.au/donate

COMMENT

Open letter to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney

Dear Dr Spence,

When the original plans for the Abercrombie Precinct Development were published in June 2011, one of the major objections of the local community was to the location of the access road to the site on Abercrombie St, close to Darlington Public School.

It seemed that our concerns had been heard because in July 2011 you made the following statement to the people of Darlington -

"In response to concerns from residents and parents of school children, we have relocated the entry point to the basement carpark from Abercrombie St to Darlington Lane and our traffic consultants are examining the traffic loading." (South Sydney Herald July 2011)

The University has since revised its plans and now intends to lodge a new development application for the Business School. The access road to the site is still on Abercrombie St, however,

despite your promise last July. The local community's concerns about the location of this access road on Abercrombie St and the dangers of it being so close to the entrance to the school still hold true. The local community would not want to be swamped by the University traffic of the proposed Business School with its additional 7500 students, not to mention the commercial and industrial vehicles during the construction phase.

The local Darlington community is extremely disappointed that you have broken your promise.

This seems to be yet again a case of the University not respecting the local community. You yourself admitted on 20 April 2010 at a community meeting at The Settlement in Chippendale that "One of the things that has come back again and again is that the University, quite frankly, is ashamed of not being very good neighbours." This enormous development will only build a barrier between the University and the Darlington community.

You also said at The Settlement on 20 April 2010: "And if we are going to talk about being an institution that has community roots then those community roots ought to begin with those communities around the campus."

We would like you then to begin a dialogue with the Darlington community and explain to us in person:-

how a community of 2000 people is benefited by building a Business School on its doorstep which would swamp that community with 7500 new students;

why such a massive development of this scale is being proposed for the edge of the Darlington Campus where it would have maximum impact on the surrounding community, whilst the large main campus of the University with its many open spaces would remain unscathed;

how a massive development of this scale built out of glass and steel fits in with the heritage streetscape of Darlington;

how a massive development of this

READERS' LETTERS

Community health?

Professor Haber uses an interesting version of the phrase "community consultation" ("Needle dispensary in public interest?" SSH March 2012). He bases his claim of "a clear majority of people support the machine being installed" on the outcome of two recent community consultations - without supplying any details of these consultations. He refers to a third meeting of stakeholders for the purpose of creating a marketing campaign for the needle dispensing machine. He said that the public would not be able to attend that meeting. He also has an unusual method of deciding "the public interest". There was no indication of any public involvement in the forming of the public

interest announced by Professor Haber in the article. The hypocrisy displayed by Professor Haber when referring to "the community" became more visible when he said that there was no intention to consult with the greater community of the area. The sincerity of the local harm minimisation practitioners can be judged by the Community Drug Action Taskforce's decision to not take part in a public forum on the dangers of using the illicit drug Ice. The rationale cited was that their appearance/involvement could appear to indicate support for the usage of Ice. That some members of the CDAT are responsible for the provision of needles to inject the illicit drug Ice raises the issue of selective viewpoints on

their part. The Community Drug Action Taskforce's strong support of the needle dispensing machine has brought them into open conflict with the community of the area and various longstanding community-based organisations.

Ross Smith
Waterloo

NSW Health continues to miss the point in Redfern Waterloo. It is not just about blindly servicing their clients, it is also about working with the Redfern Waterloo communities. We did not get the Community Health Centre we were promised. When it arrived the Community had been dropped in both name and in the services operated from it. Community

concerns about health issues keep coming up at meetings but NSW Health has no one designated to deal with the community over those issues. The result has been increased polarisation on issues like harm minimisation, drug and alcohol issues and mental health. In 2004 the Parliamentary Inquiry into Redfern Waterloo recommended NSW Health and Council undertake a community education campaign on harm minimisation. Instead of doing that NSW Health polarised the community further by refusing to talk to locals about their needle bus concerns. If NSW Health needed a DA for its Redfern dispensing machine, as they did in Surry Hills, they would have to explain the issues, there would be a community

discussion and NSW Health would have to address the questions thrown up. Both Council and NSW Health say the Surry Hills process was a good one. But NSW Health already has approval as part of building the Redfern Health Centre so they can just put it in if they want to. NSW Health should not repeat the needle bus blunder. There needs to be the community discussion it would have if a separate DA were required. Out of that there might be a less polarised community and greater understanding by both NSW Health and the community about this complex community health issue.

Geoff Turnbull
Redfern

FAITH

Same-sex marriage and faith

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

About a decade ago, the Uniting Church in Australia agreed to ordain gay or lesbian people who were in same-sex relationships. That made us the most radical church in Australia on such issues, although just one of the churches around the world who take that position.

Since that time, we have been informally discussing same-sex marriage but have not yet made a decision on that matter. As the President of our church, Rev. Alistair Macrae said during an interview with Andrew West on ABC Radio National, the Uniting Church still holds the traditional view of marriage, between a woman and a man. Having said that, he agreed that in some radical parts of the church, congregations and clergy might enact a blessing ceremony for a same-sex relationship. This would not be formally recognised by the Church. The debate and decision on the issue is yet to come.

When the discussion takes place, conservatives in the church often announce that same-sex marriage would in some way affect the status of heterosexual marriage. They rarely explain why they hold this view. If traditional marriage is somehow adversely affected by same-sex marriage in the direct sense, then heterosexual marriage must be, in some way, very vulnerable. After all, the fact that different sorts of people are honouring their loving and committed relationships alongside you, should hardly pose a threat to you doing the same.

Of course, the truth, which is rarely shared, is more likely that conservative heterosexual people feel that marriage will be undermined by being shared by people whom they don't respect - that these "sinful" homosexual people will degrade the nature and status of marriage.

Most conservatives appeal to the Bible as a validation of their positions. In fact, if you look at the Bible, you can see all sorts of evolving in relationship to marriage. Christians no longer have more than one wife, unlike some early Jewish leaders. We do not support the idea that a woman should be assigned to a certain man and most of us wouldn't uphold the thought that "wives must obey their husbands" - an instruction in the New Testament which lies alongside the rule that "slaves

must obey their masters".

All sorts of things have changed in our view of good human relationship - something which is evident in the Bible itself. So, why shouldn't they keep on changing as we look more deeply into the diversity of God's good creation and explore what is life-giving and creative in human community? Even the majority in the general Australian community are seeing things differently on this issue.

Same-sex attracted people are evident in life going back thousands of years. If you explore the word for these people in the multitudes of early tribes of Africa, for example, sometimes it is positive and sometimes negative. Sometimes we are seen as those with special gifts and sometimes to be condemned. Let us face it, whether we look at race relations or class relations - the treatment of blacks by whites or slaves by those who are free - we would hardly hold as holy many of the relationships of the past.

Of course, no-one is forcing any religious body to celebrate same-sex relationships - there are many positions held dear by those religions. All that we ask is that the community at large agree to support such celebration and it looks as though the majority of that community is open to that.

Those of us who are in committed same-sex relationships can only bear witness to the depths of our love and its life-giving force within our lives together. When I faced the truth about my sexuality and met the love of my life (even as I celebrate those with whom I journeyed to that time) I remember feeling as though I was truly alive at last and that my whole being could fly free into the heights of joy - whatever that might cost me in terms of approval by others.

How can anyone be threatened by two people longing to make formal a faithful and loving commitment to each other - to share all that comes and to hold each other as we go? My heart breaks as I watch my love dying of brain cancer. Life will never be the same for me without her and I believe that the God whom I love and serve embraces us both and weeps with us in our sorrow. I can only give grateful thanks for the community of the Uniting Church in Waterloo, to which I belong, whose members love and care for us both and lift my heart to face the next week each Sunday. Thanks be to God for their faithfulness!

SSH

scale fits in with the City Of Sydney's vision for Darlington as a pedestrian and cycle friendly village;

how such a money-making, commercial endeavour for the University would benefit the local community;

and finally why you have broken your promise to the people and community of Darlington. If you are truly serious about the

University "being a good neighbour" and "being an institution that has community roots", we invite you to come and speak to the local community to respond to the matters we have raised in this letter.

Yours faithfully,
RAIDD (Residents Acting In Darlington's Defence)
RAIDD2008@gmail.com



George Augustine Taylor, Taylor's wife Florence, Edward Hallstrom and Mr and Mrs Len Shultz took this Glider to the sand hills at Narrabeen on December 5, 1909 and flew it first as a kite to make sure it was stable and would support a person. Photo: State Library of NSW



Florence Mary Taylor Photo: State Library of NSW

A great dame of history

JANE BARTON

Australia's first professionally qualified, practising woman architect, Florence Mary Taylor, was also an engineer, town planner, journalist, publisher, social climber and notorious right-wing feminist. To celebrate International Women's Day, City of Sydney Council sponsored a talk by historian Dr Bronwyn Hannaford about Taylor's remarkable and controversial life.

She was born in Bristol England in 1879 to working class parents who migrated to Sydney when Florence was four years old. At 16, she was left an

"adult orphan" with younger siblings to support. Although domestic work beckoned, she managed to get a clerical job with an architect in Parramatta.

This short stint led to an apprenticeship in the city with architect Edward Garton, night classes at Sydney Technical College and study at a private college where she gained engineering qualifications. She soon got a job at the prestigious architectural offices of Burcham Clamp, where she rose to the position of "chief draftsman". None of her buildings bears her name, as the convention was for the firm to take credit for all in-house design.

In 1907, Taylor attempted to join the NSW Institute of Architects but

was rejected, ostensibly because she was a woman. Despite Burcham Clamp's considerable backing – "she could design a place while an ordinary draftsman was still sharpening his pencil", he once said of her – it signalled the end of her architectural career.

In 1907 she married George Taylor, an extraordinary innovator, inventor, advocate for town planning, builder, journalist, nationalist and visionary for Sydney's built environment. The Taylors became a modern bohemian power couple; but they were awkward additions to the Sydney social strata. Seen as nouveau riche – both from working class backgrounds – they had also professed embarrassing right-wing

leanings. Legend has it that Florence, touring Italy in 1922, enthusiastically greeted the pomp and splendour of Mussolini's ascension to power in Rome.

Later, back in Sydney, it was reported widely, she congratulated Francis De Groot of the ultra-right New Guard, after he upstaged NSW Premier Jack Lang at the opening of the Harbour Bridge, dramatically riding forward on horseback and slicing through the ceremonial ribbon with a sword.

After the death of her husband, in 1928, Florence kept her businesses afloat throughout the Great Depression. She published some seven technical magazines, including the influential Building Magazine. She was an

iron-fisted employer and put down an employee revolt, insisting hard-line employment practices were necessary to keep the magazines going.

Florence died in 1969, largely forgotten by history, but has left a staggering and controversial legacy; she designed more than 50 domestic homes around the lower North Shore and Eastern Suburbs and published the influential Building Magazine for 54 years. She was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 1939 and a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in 1961. These awards never satisfied her, however; apparently she thought a Dame of the British Empire would have been much more fitting!

Suicide postvention

PETER MAHER

She was only 18 – a beautiful, vibrant young woman with a wonderful family and many friends. The church was full at her funeral and there were many tears mixed with gracious words reminding us of her many wonderful gifts and qualities. She had taken her own life. Something was not right. As an acquaintance, I still don't know what that was.

I suspect many much closer than I was to her were also baffled. What doesn't make sense to people generally seems to make perfectly good sense to the person who takes his/her own life.

Generally speaking, people commit suicide because they feel there is no other solution and no hope left. A mental disorder may contribute or lack of purpose in life can add to a feeling of hopelessness. Whatever it was for this young woman it left much pain amongst family and friends precisely because they couldn't understand why.

You may have had a close brush with suicide at some time in your life. Maybe a friend, a member of the

family, a workmate or an acquaintance has died this way or attempted suicide. Maybe you have attempted suicide or at least considered the option.

I suspect it is far more common than we like to imagine. Those who attempt suicide or think about suicide sometimes are quite confused about why when they think about it later. What seemed hopeless then, with hindsight, seems not so hopeless.

Thus we are advised to reassure suicidal people that we care, we will listen to them and we are to try to calm the person with assurances that these feelings will pass and we will stay with them and/or seek help.

But what happens to those who survive suicide attempts or deep suicidal feelings? They often feel ashamed, guilty, angry and/or full of self blame. They can be perplexed because of the "trouble" they have caused or go into denial that they were suicidal at all. How can we assist these people as friends, family members or acquaintances? This is sometimes now referred to as "postvention".

Strategies for postvention include talking honestly with a friend; going slowly and being patient through the

healing process; seeking assistance with friends or professionals; and maybe joining a survivor group. Having someone to cry with can be part of the healing process also. People who have survived suicide are often confused about why they attempted to end their life and can cry with confusion, pain and embarrassment.

A non-judgmental attitude is very important because they often blame themselves morally for what is a temporary or long-term depression or mental illness. It is not an ethical failure, but a personal crisis. They need compassion and reassurance they can get through this time in their life, not judgment on what is essentially an emotion rather than a transgression of personal values. In fact, they may even be reasoning that the action of suicide is a good thing because it will "save" others from being distressed by what is troubling them.

Another group to consider in postvention are those who grieve the loss of a person who suicides. These people can be left confused, unsure, distressed and in denial. This will be on top of the normal grief of losing a loved one. Once again family

members, friends and pastoral careers can assist by being aware of this added confusion, listening to their grief, shock and fear, and reassuring them that they are not to blame. Those closest to the person who suicides will blame themselves because they think they should or could have done more, especially if they sense they could see it coming. It is not often understood

that suicidal people who have a plan are very rarely dissuaded from their attempt. We can assure loved ones that the data shows people intent on suicide will attempt suicide even where there is good intervention.

Fr Peter Maher is Parish Priest at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Newtown.

Some resources that can help

Emergencies:
Call 000

Lifeline:
www.lifeline.org.au or call 13 11 14

Intervention and Postvention:
Commonwealth Government:
www.livingisforeveryone.com.au

State Government:
www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2007/care_support_pack.html

Support after suicide – Jesuit Social Services:
www.supportaftersuicide.org.au

Become a Sydney local in a day

LIBBY HOGAN

Two men sit casually sharing a conversation, enjoying a clear summer night. A lighting display burns the word "Redfern" on the balcony above. A stranger driving past pulls over and sees it as a perfect Kodak moment to document "Redfern inhabitants". She takes the photo and continues on. If she'd returned the next night she might have found the same men in the same place – with one difference. If she had spent the time to learn about the people, who they were and what Redfern was about, she may have taken a slightly different photo.

To spend time in a place, to get to know the locals and learn the local history, was the idea that drove Richard Graham to build his business. He has been running his My Sydney Detours for three years, offering alternatives to the main Sydney attractions, through the eyes of a local person. "It's not a walking tour, vintage vehicle tour ... it's a detour into the suburbs to learn about Indigenous history, local art and music, and catering a tour to the individual's interests."

The idea for his detours was sparked during a 13-month trip to Latin America in 2008. A tip-off from locals, to visit a sanctuary which they termed a

"poor man's Galapagos", led to a group of strangers piling into an old Cadillac and venturing down a narrow dirt road to the coast. This unplanned route was the basis for Graham's business. "I wanted to recreate this one-off moment, being shown a rare sight that I wouldn't have seen if it wasn't through conversation with locals."

Sitting in the plush seat of his 1964 Holden, Graham takes travellers to visit studios of local street and contemporary artists, through The Block to learn about Indigenous and colonial history, and stops off at local cafes.

At his 1876 Victorian terrace home Graham also has a treasure chest of local artworks. One can learn the history through hearing Graham's own stories and through a series of photographs documenting how one street in Redfern can change from housing street fruit vendors and hipsters to a terrace selling for over one million dollars.

Graham also runs detours to the Hawkesbury, from the airport, and Lookout Detours around Sydney Harbour. He is constantly designing new tours for different tourists and areas. "I aim to keep the tours fresh, building around each individual's interests and new developments or events in the area."

.....
www.mysydneydetour.com



Two friends (revisited) Photo: Richard Graham

Great art from Ground Up

JULIE McCROSSIN

Ground Up is a grass-roots community network that was established in 2010 to raise resources for the Gelengu du Gelenguwurra project at Warmun, an Aboriginal community in the East Kimberley in WA.

The project supports local elders to pass on knowledge to younger people. Young people are taught to film, edit and broadcast stories and create radio and television programs for the community's broadcast system.

Ground Up is committed to raising independent money for projects initiated by and run by Aboriginal people. It promotes mental health and

social and emotional wellbeing.

On March 8 at the Damien Minton Gallery Annex in Redfern, the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, opened an art exhibition. Many well-known artists donated work and Aboriginal artists from Warmun, also known as Turkey Creek, sent paintings for the event. Turkey Creek is the largest community on Gija country and the birthplace of a vibrant art movement.

The opening of the art exhibition attracted over 200 people. It was organised by friends and family of Chris Mason, mother of Ned Sevil, who worked for several years in Warmun with his partner, Anna Crane. Sadly, Ned died prematurely, so this art show to support the community and the work he loved was tinged with sadness.

Anna and Ned learnt the Gija language and formed close relationships with local people. At the opening of the exhibition Anna spoke about the artwork from the community with a depth of understanding and respect that was deeply moving.

The Governor, Marie Bashir, described her own visits to the community and the elders she had met. She also charmed the audience with memories from her childhood with her grandmother who lived in Redfern in the house next door to the art gallery.

A remarkable addition to a great night was a sequence of athletic pole dancing by Matty Shields (pictured) demonstrating a degree of fitness and muscle control that had the audience gasping and roaring with applause.



Matty Shields performs Photo: Tony Sevil

Saucepan



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Still from Cairo 678 Photo: Supplied

Combating harassment

SANDRA BEESTON

The 8th of March has been celebrated as International Women's Day all over the world since its creation in the early 1900s. To mark this year's International Women's Day, Amnesty International, in partnership with Amnesty Newtown, organised a screening of a controversial 2010 Egyptian movie, in order to remind the public that in some parts of the world women are still being abused and treated as second-class citizens.

Mohamed Diab's debut feature, *Cairo 678*, tells the story of three Egyptian women from different social backgrounds who face sexual abuse. One is groped daily on the Bus 678, the second is gang-raped and the third is assaulted in the street and has to deal with verbal sexual harassment at work as well. Limited to no help is found with the police, and relatives are more worried about the embarrassment caused by sexual harassment than seeking justice. Their lives take a radical turn, however, when the three women meet and decide, each in their own way, to fight against this abuse.

Cairo 678 is an important and eye-opening movie about what daily life looks like for Egyptian women, and its release just a few months before the assault and rape of CBS correspondent Lara Logan in February 2011, as millions of Egyptians were celebrating in Tahrir Square the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, was quite prophetic. Sexual harassment, although omnipresent in Egypt, is still a very taboo subject, and despite a recent draft law looking at criminalising it, victims seldom press charges against their assailants, for fear of bringing shame on themselves and their families and being judged by society.

Guest speaker at the Amnesty Newtown screening, Lucia Sorbera,

Lecturer of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Sydney, says that "today, women are standing up against this violence, increasingly organising themselves to combat harassment".

HarassMap is one example of women fighting against sexual harassment. This website, launched by four young women, pinpoints on a map all the Cairo "hot spots" that women should avoid. Ms Sorbera says that HarassMap is "a new social initiative aimed to help restore Egypt tradition of public safety for women using an SMS reporting system for sexual harassment to change its social acceptability, spread awareness and recognise the public movement".

She says that Egypt used to have "a tradition of cohesiveness, secularity, open-mindedness and equality between men and women", but that this tradition is not mirrored in the figures from a 2008 survey by the Egyptian Centre for Women's Rights (ECWR) showing that 83 per cent of Egyptian women say that they have been sexually harassed. To her, "they mirror a sense of general insecurity, of general frustration, which is the result of decades of regime, and which today is going to be changed ... at least we hope".

Cairo 678 will be part of the Sydney Film Festival, June 6-17, 2012.



Stuart is a South Sydney postie and photo artist (<http://stupoostals.tumblr.com>). Send us your photos of local characters and scenes: editor@ssh.com.au Photo: Stuart Silcox

Zef rap rave

Die Antwoord
Enmore Theatre, 9/3/2012
Live review by Layth Saeed

It's the 9th of March, a Friday night, and I'm just getting settled into the idea of hanging out at home and having a few beers with the housemates. Little do I know that in an hour or so I will be trying to find myself a decent spot on the dance floor of the Enmore Theatre, drinking a beer in anticipation of seeing South African "Zef" – which, according to Wikipedia, "is a South African slang term that describes a unique South

African style which is modern and trashy and also includes out-of-date, discarded cultural and style elements" – rap group, Die Antwoord. (Having seen these guys perform at Big Day Out last year, I almost hit the roof when a friend called and offered me the ticket.)

Ever since their debut in 2009, with their self-released album *\$O\$*, Die Antwoord have been growing as steadily as their fan base. Their newest release, *Ten\$ion*, earlier this year, marks the creation of the group's own record label, Zef Recordz.

As the lights finally dim, the excitement of the crowd reaches breaking point, and the atmosphere is perfect for Die Antwoord to explode on stage with the beat heavy DJ Hi-Tek Rulz. The rest of the show never drops below fourth gear. Between Yo-Lani Vi\$er's dance moves, which lie somewhere between crumping and a striptease, and the Ninja spending half the show crowd surfing, the crowd remained right in pace with them. Their set included most of the heavy rave-rap tracks off both albums including, "Hey Sexy", "Money and Da Power", "Rich Bitch" and their new hit single, "I Fink You Freaky".

About halfway through their show the Ninja stops to treat the crowd

to a freestyle rap. Now this is freaking cool as, unlike some rappers, Ninja pulls off his strange pitch and lightning-fast speed live, so understandably the crowd is cheering and getting heavily into it as he builds speed. What I found funny, and I'm sure the Ninja did as well, was that the rap was mostly about how Australians are "wankers" and was performed in a faux Australian accent. After his freestyle hit its peak Ninja proceeded to jump into the crowd, at which point he was promptly dropped. After screaming from the ground

for a while, "Nobody drops the Ninja!", the crowd manages to pick him back up and get him back on the stage, where the group finish off their set with the breakout hit of 2009, "Enter the Ninja".

After the show the only thing I'm left wanting is more, as their set was only about an hour, but I'm still massively impressed with Die Antwoord's ability to bring their larger-than-life summer festival show to the confines of the Enmore.

» music@ssh.com.au

The Reviews

Theatre Review
by Jane Barton



The Table of Knowledge
Version 1.0
Carriageworks
Devised by: Kym Vercoe, David Williams, Arky Michael, Jane Phegan, Yana Taylor and Sean Bacon
Performed by: Arky Michael, Jane Phegan, Yana Taylor, Kym Vercoe, and David Williams
Video Design: Sean Bacon

The actual "table of knowledge" is a plastic table outside a kebab shop in a Wollongong seaside suburb. It was where developers and employees of Wollongong Council met to do dodgy deals in an effort to fast-track grossly inappropriate and illegal developments for the City.

In 2008 an ICAC investigation uncovered the scale of the corruption. The transcripts and other public documents are the basis of this production. Version 1.0 has developed their reputation for verbatim theatre in Australia over the last decade, focussing on scandals such as "children overboard" and the Australian Wheat Board cash-for-contracts debacle. The verbatim method takes the original words of the participants and brings them to life, giving voice directly to the protagonists. It is a highly effective way of doing political theatre.

The Wollongong Council scandal contains all the necessary dramatic elements: bags full of cash, sex, fake ICAC investigators, death threats, late-night meetings in empty car parks and a beautiful blonde at the centre in the shape of council employee Beth Morgan (Kym Vercoe) who had relationships with at least three of the developers, fast-tracked their applications and received money and gifts in exchange, all under the knowing gaze of the Wollongong Council GM, Rod Oxley.

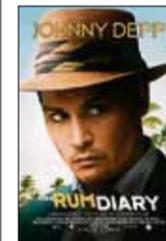
There is a lot of technical detail to explain which could easily have bogged down the piece. However, cunning and inventive blocking, audience participation and multi-media projections ensure the audience doesn't have to struggle with dry concepts such as LEPs and planning regs.

The opening scene has Rod Oxley's character (David Williams) making the point that this is an issue that has occurred in many councils around Australia; there are wide resonances for governance.

Incisive, funny and poignantly illuminates much about the human condition.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Film Review
by Lindsay Cohen



The Rum Diary
Director: Bruce Robinson
Starring: Johnny Depp, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Rispoli
Genre: Descent into booze

In the spirit of gonzo journalism I attempted to get drunk and then write this review. Alas, the review didn't work. But I succeeded in getting drunk.

Clearly, it takes a very special talent to write while off your face. I have now, though, managed to insert myself into this review, beat-generation style, something I would hope Hunter S. Thompson, who wrote *The Rum Diary* based on his booze and drug addled experiences in Puerto Rico in 1960, would approve of.

So instead, here is a review written while sober.

Some films are made for a very specific audience. So, if you didn't like *Withnail and I* (the only other film of note that Bruce Robinson has directed – and that was in 1987) or couldn't "get" *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, the most well-known book by Hunter S. Thompson, then you're not going to like the movie adaptation of his least-known book, *The Rum Diary*.

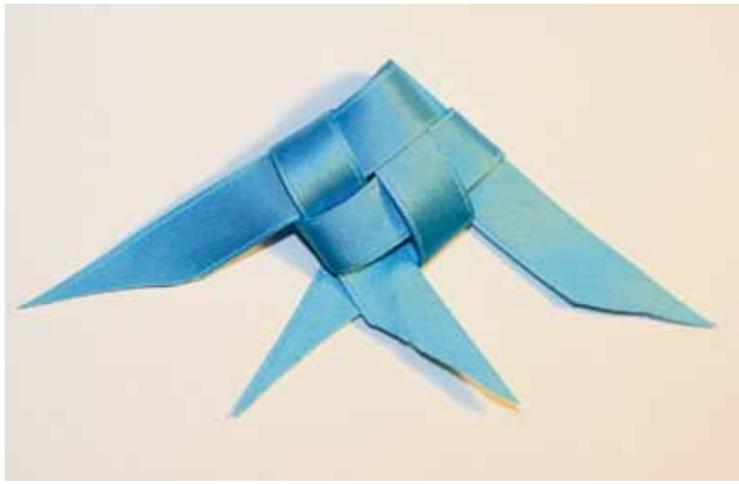
While *The Rum Diary* is alcohol- and drug-fuelled at no time is it judgemental. The substances are more a prop to stimulate mayhem and chaos. Some of it works and some of it doesn't. Some of *The Rum Diary* soars and some of it falls flat, and there are moments of great laugh-out-loud humour and others where the jokes just don't work.

But that's OK, it seems to suit the nature of the writer, the performers and the times.

The Rum Diary, ultimately, is Johnny Depp's homage to Thompson. Sure, Depp overacts in his enthusiasm to embrace all that is Hunter S. Thompson, but take it or leave it, Depp and Thompson wouldn't give a damn.

Rating: Three mini-bottles of rum.

» film@ssh.com.au



Swimming Upstream

SSH

Would you like to participate in a storytelling and weaving artwork initiative for ASCA's national day 2012?

South Sydney Uniting Church in association with ASCA (Adults Surviving Child Abuse) is planning a special presentation in addition to its usual November prayer service. This initiative seeks to facilitate members of the community coming together to

help untangle the knot of child abuse. There are different ways in which you can be involved:

come along and weave blue ribbons into origami fish including any words or messages at SSUC, 56a Raglan Street Waterloo, on Saturday May 5, 2-5pm share aspects of your story for anonymous presentation by calling Alana Valentine 0416 003 798

The telling of stories and weaving together of communities helps us unite in bringing messages of hope and recovery.

Valuing a true artist of the avant-garde

SSH

The Tim Burns survey exhibition at the Tin Sheds Gallery spans over 40 years – from his early work of the 1970s when Burns was producing explosive art actions, to performance installations such as “A Change of Plan” (AGNSW) together with his pioneering work with Super-8 features, to a series of works on paper and archival material documenting his performative and conceptual work.

Burns – underground, underappreciated, controversial filmmaker/printmaker/photographer/performer – is currently working on a facebook project titled “DIATrIBE_interacTIV”, supported by the Australia Council, which will be launched during the exhibition. The artist will be in-situ daily in the gallery space.

The exhibition comprises 300+ A3 sheets consisting of records and images of works, most of which have been lost or have disappeared, the screening of four films that have survived, and a series of digital prints on paper. This exhibition has been shown in part at Uplands in Melbourne, Fotofreo in Perth, and at the AEA in Adelaide.

The collection of artefacts, images, photographs and films, grows with each exhibition. This is a historically important and fascinating opportunity to experience the work of one of Australia's most important, avant-garde and socially-active underground artists. It's not to be missed.

The low-budget 16mm film, *Against the Grain*, takes the writing of Jean Genet on terrorism and state control and places it within an Australian context. The work has been translated into Japanese and Spanish.

The artist is currently in litigation with the town of York over the attempted censorship and banning of a work he created for the 175-year celebrations of white settlement, where he looked at court cases involving Aboriginal defendants. The controversy is indicative of an engaging and fearless artist. There has been little written about his work and he has been overlooked in most Australian art history records.

“What unites the hugely varied set of projects Burns has worked on over the last 40 years,” says Lucas Ihlein, “is a constant desire to set up situations which critically reflect on our hypermediated, industrialised western society. His interventions are usually created live, in the public sphere, rather than being quietly crafted in the privacy of a studio setting. More often than not, they result in some sort of dramatic surprise or shift in the participants' attention” (*Artists Profile*, Sydney).

Against the Grain: Survey Exhibition
 Tim Burns
 11am-5pm Tues-Sat, till April 15
 Saturday April 14: Screening
Against the Grain (1980)
 Tin Sheds Gallery
 Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning, University of Sydney
 148 City Road
www.tinsheds.wordpress.com



Jess Holland Photo: Supplied

High-voltage country Artist Profile: Jess Holland

MICHAEL PAGE

Jess Holland is a talented singer-songwriter with solid musical roots and a booming, passionate voice.

Despite taking up the piano at the age of three, Jess laughs at the idea that she was some kind of child prodigy. Her grandfather and father both played in bands, and music was always in her life. “It was quite natural, all of my family is musical and playing music never seemed anything out of the ordinary.”

As well as playing the piano and guitar at an early age Jess also mastered an array of interesting and uncommon instruments. “I play a lot of old-school instruments like the squeeze box, the mouth organ and the piano accordion, and on my new album I play the mandolin.”

It is Jess's powerful voice that has brought her accolades in recent time, including being named as the 2011 Voice of Urban Country. Jess was a relative late bloomer as a singer. “I always played instruments but I really didn't start singing in public until I was in years 11 and 12.”

Her band, McGee, was named after a song made famous by Janis Joplin, “Me and Bobby McGee”, and Jess remains a big fan of Joplin's voice and singing style. “She belted it out. I loved that about her.” Jess lists among her other influences Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and the Zac Brown Band.

Released in late 2011, Jess's first album, *Introducing Jess Holland*, is a showcase of her gritty country sound and her development as a songwriter. Despite Jess being only 26 years old, the album shows maturity and depth

and her songs are drawn from her observations of growing up in Mudgee and the characters and situations in her life.

Jess is about to embark on a tour from Mudgee to Melbourne with her band, the Silver Spurs, incorporating a gig at Glebe's Roxbury Hotel on April 21. “I am very excited about playing at the Roxbury. It will definitely be high energy and I will be playing songs off the new album, some new stuff and some old favourites. It'll be very high-voltage and a lot of fun.”

Jess Holland's debut album, *Introducing Jess Holland*, is now available, and Jess can be seen at the Roxbury Hotel in Glebe on Saturday April 21.



"Autogeddon – car blowing up" (1999) Photo: Tim Burns

Poetry

the TITLE

We came from heaven
and were sittin' 'round
listening to the sound
of Nineteen-Sixty-Eight
and coverage direct
from the United States
when Lionel fought
a Mexican Bantamweight
We heard it on the radio
from Inglewood, I think
Fifteen rounds defending it
He won that day
but I coulda cried
another time
when he got beat.

- Adrian Spry

A (fleeting) impression

The lens focuses,
captures
a leaf's impression
in a concrete path
central vein
and filigree network
sickle tip
inlaid with grime.
Saves to image.
Sends.
A few friends
say wow and forward...
Some time later
memory full
Erases.

- Catherine Wood

"Come in," she says in a sweet but commanding voice, "Hello, was I expecting you?" Before I can answer - "Not to worry, it's so good to see you." We proceed to the table. "I'm all in a muddle here, maybe you can help me sort it out." Her radiant smile, warmth and glittering blue eyes always lift my spirit. I feel loved and appreciated. "Now, what do you think we could throw out?" she says proudly. "I think we have a fat chance of that - you don't like throwing anything out," I say. She laughs. I point to a shelf of jars. "How about we throw out these jars?" "No!" she cries, "I might like to make jam." I respond with, "How are you going to make jam without a stove?" She laughs again. "Well, that's a thought." I proceed to gather a bundle of old loose envelopes lying on the table. "You can't throw those out. You never throw paper out - you never know when you might need it." At this point I say, "I know, why don't we have a cup of tea?" "What a good idea," she says. We sit down having a cuppa and a stale biscuit that I look at curiously, hoping not to see green furry bits. She peers out the balcony door. "Look at those trees. Aren't they beautiful? They look so strong. Let's go and find them one day."

- Naomi Ward

WORDPLAY
CREATIVE WRITING GROUP
Woolpack Hotel Redfern,
229 Chalmers Street, Redfern
6-8pm Wed, April 4 & 18.
Phone Andrew on 8399 3410
All welcome



Enjoying festivities in Ultimo Photo: Andrea Srisurapon

UPTown whirl

SSH

The Ultimo Pyrmont UPTown Festival, now in its 31st year, is a free community event featuring two stages of local and multicultural entertainment, rides and international food stalls, as well as community stalls featuring handmade

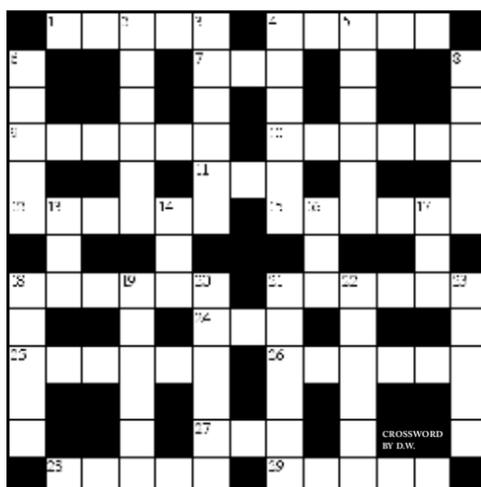
arts, crafts and design wares. Saturday March 24 again saw festivities in full swing.

The festival was established in 1980 by two local residents, Debra Berryman and Olga Reader, as a way to bring together the local community, which in those days was a quiet, post-industrial area, with

a population of around 2,000 people. Since then, the festival has grown into a popular annual event, attended by hundreds of people, as the Ultimo Pyrmont area has become a thriving business, media and education centre with a dynamic, multicultural community.

The festival is presented by the Uniting Care Harris Community Centre (Quarry Green, off Harris Street), with the support of the City of Sydney.

South Sydney Crossword



Across

1. *Heats product with speed (5)
4. *Inseminated when very much married (5)
7. Shot (3)
9. *Picket turning white? (6)
10. African nation bordering Rwanda and Tanzania (6)
11. Bak ---, Shaolin Elder (3)
12. *A terse, healing Mother (6)
15. L-moving piece? (6)
18. Writer (6)
21. Zero (6)
24. December 31 (1,1,1)
25. Get up (6)
26. Puttanesca necessities (6)
27. Billiards rod (3)
28. Small plateau (5)
29. Wood nymph

Down

2. Flow channel (6)
3. Riddle (6)
4. Holler for business (6)
5. *Japanese root previously went both ways (6)
6. Depository (5)
8. Clever (5)
13. Yadda yadda yadda... (3)
14. Hero sarnie (3)
16. New prefix (3)
17. Say again? (3)
18. *Follow loudly the bearing bird? (5)
19. *Flock to the popular gala (6)
20. Seduce (6)
21. Locked lips (6)
22. Snooty (6)
23. *Irritable like an exam? (5)



First correct entry receives a prize.
Send to:
South Sydney Crossword
PO Box 3288, Redfern
NSW 2016
* Denotes cryptic clue

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

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



Handwritten signature

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 Lindeman, Food Distribution Network, Waterloo

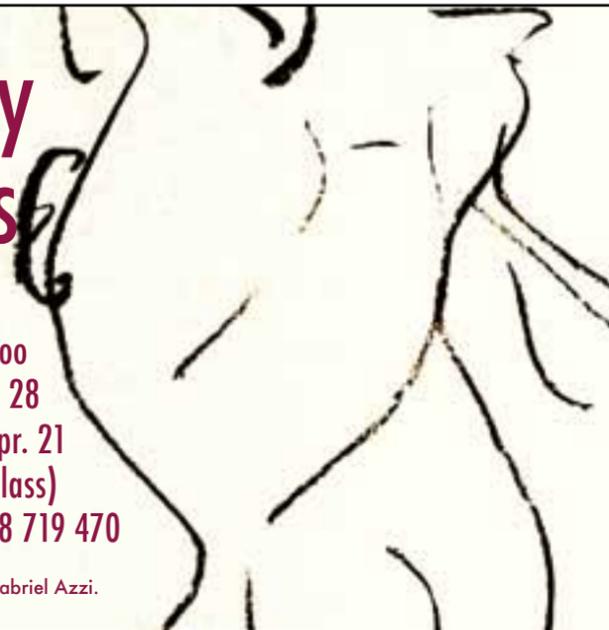
BABANA
Aboriginal Men's Group
 Next meeting Friday, April 27
 Souths on Chalmers 12-2pm
 Babana Shed open Mon-Fri
 (72 Renwick St, Redfern)
 Contact: Mark Spinks 9243 3546



Saturday Art Class

The Orchard Gallery
 56a Raglan St, Waterloo
 12-4pm Sat. Apr. 14 & 28
 Life Drawing 1-3pm Apr. 21
 (\$5 for Life Drawing class)
 More info. phone 0438 719 470

Detail of drawing by Gabriel Azzi.



Uniting Churches



South Sydney Uniting Church
 56a Raglan St Waterloo
 Holy Thursday: 6pm
 Good Friday: 9 for 9.30am
 Good Friday film night: 8pm
 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil: 10pm
 Worship (Eucharist): 10am Sunday
 Rev Andrew Collis 8399 3410
 Welcoming people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and identities. Peace with justice, integrity of creation.

Glebe Cafe Church
 Cnr St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave Glebe
 Worship Sun 6 for 6.15pm
 'Colbourne Ave' intimate candlelit concerts Thu 8pm
 Huw Luscombe 9518 9413

Leichhardt University Church
 3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt (near Norton St)
 Worship 6.30pm Sunday
 Rev. Dr John Hirt 0408 238 117

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

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

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

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

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VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

PAT CLARKE

April brings to us Youth Week in the City from April 13 to April 22, as well as the Footprint Challenge Sydney. A series of free Workshops on green food options will be held at Redfern Community Centre in Hugo Street, including Sustainable Food Shopping in the City of Sydney on Thursday May 3, 6.30-8.30pm. Bookings are essential at www.nccnsw.org.au/footprint_register/.

I will be away for next month, on my "nostalgia" trip to visit family and friends. I'll be going to Belfast where my mother was born and my grandfather worked on the building of the Titanic. A big highlight will be a tour of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, including the Orkneys, and visiting my remaining Scottish cousins.

I hope to send you news for the May issue from New York where I make my first stay in Lower Manhattan.

Wishing you all well while I am away, and if you need any assistance or have queries for May please contact Andrew on 0438 719 470.

Pat Clarke
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REDWatch
 Meetings first Thursday of the month at The Factory Community Centre.
 Phone Geoffrey Turnbull (02) 8004 1490.
 Email mail@redwatch.org.au

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

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

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

MENTORING & SUPPORT

TRAINING PROGRAM ~ MAY 2012 PRESENTED BY CANA COMMUNITIES

This course is designed for those who would like to volunteer with, mentor, or companion people in need. This may include wanting support in Cana home spaces, crisis care, prison, social enterprise, or work environment.

Professional support will be provided by a range of guest speakers and skilled facilitators relating to each topic. The expertise of lived experience will be brought to the gathering by each participant. Topics will include: Communication, relational styles & community engagement, Homelessness & related issues.

Dates: Tuesday nights in May (1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th)
Location: The Garden Shelter, South Sydney Uniting Church, 56a Raglan St, Waterloo
Time: 6-8pm
RSVP: by 24th April 2012 to anne.jordan@tpg.com.au
Cost: Delivering a course such as this incurs some costs. A donation box will be provided on the night & any contribution greatly appreciated. Cost should not prevent anyone from participating. If you would prefer to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit: www.cana.org.au/.

LIFELINE SYDNEY BOOKFAIR
 Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland are running a one-day-only fiction bookfair in Double Bay. Bargains start from just \$3 - so don't miss out! Bring the whole family or just sneak out for a few hours by yourself. Grab breakfast, lunch or a coffee at any of the great cafes nearby then spend some time perusing the thousands of fiction books for sale. You will not go home empty-handed! Entry is by gold coin donation. All funds raised go directly to support the activities of Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland. Sat April 28, 9am-6pm. Double Bay Uniting Church. 15 Cross St, entry via Transvaal Ave, Double Bay

YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS



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The victorious Red Sox Under 8s Photo: Billi Moss

Red Sox knock it out of the park!

SHELLY ZAHRA

Two years ago Gary Fishburn established an Indigenous baseball club in the Redfern area. He wanted to introduce mostly Indigenous as well as non-Indigenous children to the game of baseball. "I saw how the establishment of a baseball club in the inner city would encourage team spirit and build self confidence."

After a lot of planning and making sure the baseball club would be viable, he came together with two Indigenous players, Darren Moss and Dominic Zahra, who together recruited a small group of people who went on to find the players.

They started by going down to The Block in Redfern and throwing a baseball around with the locals, working with Baseball NSW running clinics for the

National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy as well as introduction to baseball days at local schools like Our Lady Of Mount Carmel and Alexandria Park Community School.

In 2011 Redfern Red Sox registered in the Ryde Hornsby Baseball League. A local school, Alexandria Park Community School, let them use part of their playground as their "home ground". The Redfern Red Sox were born! They were humble beginnings with not enough money for team shirts (red t-shirts were made do in the first season). They still managed to place our first representative player and have a team finish runner-up in the southern division - tribute to our local talent and dedication of the club's volunteers.

This season (2011/12) five teams were registered. With the support of a few sponsors, fundraising and the assistance of parents the teams soon

became competitive. Uniforms were designed and printed in Indigenous colours. Other clubs in the league were encouraging and gave the club their spare equipment. The locals have taken to the club. This season, City of Sydney Council allowed use of a local small park, Perry Park in Alexandria.

The Red Sox Under 10s made the semi-finals but unfortunately a washout meant we lost on a count back, coming third in the southern division. It was a great disappointment as they had recorded wins against the teams that won and came second.

On Saturday March 24, in only their second season, the Red Sox Under 8s recorded the club's best ever result, winning the grand final against Five Dock. This result was truly outstanding as the team went through the entire season undefeated. Many of the players in this team will still be under 8 next year so we are very optimistic for future seasons.

Coach of the Red Sox Under 8s, Darren Moss, said: "We are very proud of our players; we have introduced a lot of naturally talented children into this great game. Their sporting talents are a perfect fit for baseball. They can all throw, they can all catch, and boy can they hit!"

President of the Ryde Hornsby Baseball League, Stuart Tabrett, has been a great help to the club in its fledgling years. "It's an excellent result for the team and the club. Congratulations."

The Red Sox would like to extend a special thanks to our major sponsors, the Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program and the City of Sydney without whose support we wouldn't be where we are today. Anyone interested in being a sponsor or part of the Red Sox can contact us at redfernredsox@gmail.com/. Contact Gary Fishburn (President & U10s coach) 0447 462 086, Darren Moss (VP & U8s coach) 0413 643 487, or Dominic Zahra (Media Mgr & U14s coach) 0425 209 179; www.redfernredsox.com

Festival of fancy footwork at Cockle Bay

JULIA JACKLIN

Get ready sports fans, the *Big Issue* Street Soccer Festival is once again coming to Sydney! From April 12-22, Sydney Harbour will be host to the festival which will see fancy footwork and team spirit staged on a specially constructed floating pitch at Cockle Bay. Here we will see players and fans joining together for a mix of sport, fun and goodwill, all to promote the great work done by the *Big Issue* magazine.

The festival involves corporate, government and junior events, and is also host to the National Championships of the *Big Issue's* Street Soccer Program. This program uses sport as a medium to engage those affected by homelessness, disability and long-term unemployment. For those still in school, don't worry - the dates fall over school holidays which makes it a perfect activity for the whole family over the break. The festival was a big hit last year with more than 600 people taking part in 148 matches. It's set to be even bigger this year, so don't miss out!

EVENT SCHEDULE

April 12-18 Junior competition:

more than 50 junior teams from NSW clubs

April 13-22 Corporate Cup:

16 teams from Sydney's largest corporations

April 13-20 Government Agency Cup:

16 teams including police and fire fighters

April 19 Youth competition:

including Indigenous and refugee youth

April 20 Social Inclusion Cup:

politicians, celebrities and elite female players

April 21-22 Street Soccer National Championships:

more than 60 homeless and disadvantaged players representing NSW, VIC metro, VIC regional, SA, TAS, WA, QLD and ACT

More information can be found on this website:

www.streetsoccer.org.au/sff_at_darling_harbor



New Field & Sports Comps at NCIE

Come play professionally run and seriously fun community sports competitions at NCIE! Enjoy a range of sports competitions on our outdoor sporting field of both mixed and single gender formats. Our sporting field has just reopened with a brand new surface that is ready for action once again, so you can play in the best facilities right in the heart of Redfern.

Places are limited so don't miss out contact Robin on 1300 866 761 to register your team today

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



Eora Sports Arts & Recreation Centre
NATIONAL CENTRE OF INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE

