As Channel Seven’s new Alexandria studios near completion, residents have criticised the local planning authority for failing to address their concerns about the development.

Alexandria residents say the Redfern Waterloo Authority (RWA) has kept them in the dark about the latest addition to the Australian Technology Park, which they claim will have a significant impact on the local area.

“There has been a culture of trying to push this through quietly without enough community consultation,” said Johan Palsson of Alexandria Street, Alexandria.

“They did do some consultations early on in the development, but they were held at really ridiculous times when everyone was at work.”

According to Mr Palsson the development, which is due to be finished early next year, has overspent the initial development application. “The building is three floors taller than the original master plan and it’s not at all in keeping with the heritage architecture of the area,” he said.

Of key concern to residents is the 24-hour, seven-days-a-week operation of the site, which is expected to employ over 2000 staff and potentially have over 1000 audience members visiting the site each day.

Martin Stamble, a resident of Lyons Street for over 13 years, says that allowing the site to run around the clock next to a residential area is unacceptable. “The airport has a limit on when the planes can come in and go out, most bars have limits on when they can have customers, why should this be any different?”

Sevent Network will occupy half of the building, with the remaining two studios being leased by Global Television, a freelance company that produces shows such as Australian Idol and Neighbours.

The Audience Management Plan prepared by Seven and Global Television states that “the number of audience members attending the site must not exceed 1000 persons at a time” but does not give any indication of how many people will be visiting the site each day.

Kyrin Lynch, who’s lived in Alexandria for 20 years, says the 24-hour operation and uncertainty over the number of people visiting the site are serious concerns for residents. “They have four studios which can hold 500 people each in them which means there could be times when they are marshalling up to 2000 people in and out, and I find it hard to imagine they could do that without any noise or disruption.”

In response, the Director General of the NSW Planning Department advises that Basset’s Acoustics has prepared a report which indicates that “Generally the studio environment will be insulated from external noise sources which will provide for an effective attenuation from any internal noise sources ... The noise generated by traffic arriving, manoeuvring and departing the site is also assessed as unlikely to exceed established criteria and the operation of the development will not cause any unacceptable noise impacts upon the surrounding locality”.

In relation to the issue of increased parking needs, Mr Lynch says, “If they don’t provide free parking, they will have to park on nearby streets, which will make it impossible for residents to find parking.”

Mr Palsson says that “Given its proximity to Redfern Station, it is anticipated that a significant number of the employees in the Channel Seven building will use public transport to get to and from work.”

“It is currently working with representatives of all involved to inform them of facilities and services to help them arrive at their new location. The RWA is also working with RailCorp and other transport providers, including the NSW Taxi Council to help make this arrival as effective as is possible.”

In relation to parking arrangements, the RWA says that “With the completion of the Channel Seven development, there will be around 1200 parking spaces at the ATP site on a daily basis, which will increase to around 1500 spaces for monthly special events. There are 350 public car spaces within the development which will be available for audiences. In addition, the existing public car parking at the ATP will also be available, which is just over 600 spaces.”

According to Mr McDonald of Seven, the media hub will bring “profile, buzz and activities” to the area. “It creates the opportunity for locals to be employed when shows ramp up, as well as indirect employment through local cafes, bars and shops,” he said.
The proposed redevelopment of an Aboriginal presbytery in Sydney's Redfern area has met with some opposition.

The St Vincent de Paul Presbytery, a heritage building on Redfern Street, has been a dispensary for a couple of decades, which something was made worst by last year’s fire. Confirmation of the Church’s new development proposal is yet to be confirmed by the Sydney City Council. “It just came out of nowhere; the council has been trying to get the Church to achieve that premise for years and years and years and they wouldn’t do anything. Then suddenly, out of the blue, they’ve come up with this proposal for a small school for Indigenous children, which is strongly opposed by the local Aboriginal men... because they weren’t consulted,” said Irene Donnelly, Redfern based Councillor for the Greens.

Mark Sykes, Chairperson of the Aboriginal Men’s Group, said “If the building is sound it sounds alright to me. I went to a Catholic school... we have a hundred members, so we also got a hundred opinions... if they’re building an Aboriginal school, why would I have a problem with it?”

However, John Clark, Treasurer of Bahna, said, “We haven’t taken a vote yet, but it would seem that there is some opposition for a number of reasons... there are some concerns about it.”

The proposal, which represents Church plans, was partly submitted by Cracknell and Lenore Architects. Peter Lonergan, said “We had a few community consultations... there were some concerns that there hadn’t been any consultation, and that’s why we had the consultation... I don’t know if it took care of it, but it certainly informed (the community) ... It’s a difficult aspect, that aspect of it... It’s a very expensive operation [so they want to be sure]... There were some objections raised by Council... there were sort of bureaucratic impediments put in place by Council, and that certainly didn’t help.” Both Council and the Church have been careful with releasing information regarding the proposal for a school, which is no longer available on the Sydney City website. Father Chris Mendes, Parish Priest of St Vincent de Paul’s Catholic Church, is currently negotiating in a new presbytery on Good Streeting Boulevard. When asked about plans for the presbytery in Redfern Street, he said, “It is no longer my responsibility. I don’t even have a key anymore... This belongs to the Jesuits now.”

Laurax Bannister

The intimate venue with peeling posters and semi-raised platform stage was for many of the site’s first live music beholders. Mr. De Zilva said it was a little like an old friend – rough and worn around the edges, but warm and accessible.

Yet on Monday September 26, the Hopetoun Hotel on the corner of Fitzroy and Bourke streets in Surry Hills, was boarded up, with the only explanation a misspelt sign taped to the inside of a glass pane on the door.

Within hours news of the closure circulated via social networking sites, with a “Save the Hopetoun” Facebook group established almost immediately. The group attracted 600 members within the first few days, with membership currently at 14,500. The community-based group, comprised of local staff, ticket-holders, artists and music fans, sent a number of letters to Sydney Council, as well as Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett.

It was named the venue had been forcibly closed by Council after the owners issued a statement claiming the venue was used for “circumstances beyond the control of the Hopetoun Hotel” and the need to “carry out significant works associated with Local Council requirements.”

However, a Council spokesperson said that event non-compliance with a number of building and safety regulations, Council did not issue an order for the premises to close “The City has been working cooperatively with the licence... for the past few months in order to allow them to keep trading while maintaining public safety, and will continue to work with the licencee to resolve safety issues concerning CCTV security and structural deficiencies.”

Despite the confusion, and rumours the venue may be up for sale, many local musicians remain hopeful that management will overcame whatever issues it is facing and reopen the hotel. Luke De Zilva from the already crowded streets. Some residents have taken up arms in the fight against bullying, introducing new community initiatives as well as educating the community on issues surrounding waste disposal.

Under the new proposal, the Taskforce will instigate a local letterbox campaign distributing information on illegal dumping and how residents can most responsibly dispose of their troublesome rubbish.

On top of this, the Taskforce will publish a letterbox campaign informing residents of the new Illegal Dumping Collection Service: 9265 9333.

Illegal dumping has become a serious concern in Surry Hills, as discarded furniture, mattresses, computers and boxes spill out onto the already crowded streets. Some residents have taken up arms in the fight against bullying, introducing new community initiatives as well as educating the community on issues surrounding waste disposal.

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Further objections to waste depot in Rosebery

NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

The Rosebery Residents’ Action Group (RRAG) is on the offensive again to stop the development of a proposed waste depot in their suburb.

Within the past two years the RRAG has had one success in stopping the proposed Hillsons mega-church on the former RTA site. The development application for that site was quashed on the grounds that it exceeded planning constraints. Now the resident group’s sights are trained on Sydney City Council. Community consultation for the site closed in June this year, though the RRAG has not relented in voicing its objections. Council plans to amalgamate its existing 27 works depots in an effort to deliver better services to Sydney residents. Existing 27 works depots in an effort to deliver better services to Sydney residents. The Rosebery Residents’ Action Group (RRAG) believes that, of three possible cleansing operations and civil works to be located in Rosebery, on the block bounded by Harcourt Parade, Dunning Avenue, Mentmore Avenue and Hayes Road.

"The site is zoned industrial and has been since at least the early 20th century,” stated Sydney City Council in a media release earlier this year. Council intends to use the Depot as a site for trades, cleansing operations and civil works to service the local area. The RRAG has objected to Council’s DA on the grounds that the site is not suitable for the surrounding residential area. The RRAG believes that, of three possible sites, Rosebery is the worst option, and is frustrated that the alternative sites in Alexandria or Zetland have not been adopted. That is because the Alexandria site remains in the hands of the Roads & Traffic Authority, and Council has other plans for the Zetland site. It has been earmarked for a district park and Green Square Health and Recreation Centre.

According to Independent Councillor Di Tomasi, the Rosebery site was the best choice. “It met the criteria in that it only needed minor alterations to be turned into a depot,” the Councillor said, and added that it will only be a small operation. “It will not be a mega depot,” she said.

Spokesperson for the RRAG, Graeme Grace, said one of the greatest concerns was the lack of community consultation by Council. Mr Grace believes that Council has been reticent in its dealings with Rosebery residents.

“Right from the start we have made plain our belief that community engagement should include a public meeting with both Council and residents in possession of all the facts,” he said. “Council has made sure this has never happened.”

Councillor Tornai suggested that the views of local residents have been acknowledged. “Council took into account concerns raised during the recent community consultation and made some amendments to its proposal, so now the DA will be remitted,” Ms Tornai said.

“This provides residents with opportunity to make further comment. A Report will come to Council once the Independent Assessment has been completed,” Mr Tornai added.

Whilst Council has sought an independent assessment, its findings will not be binding and the ultimate decision remains with Council. This is a major concern for the resident group, wary given that Council is both the applicant and the deciding body.

“RRAG believes there is a major conflict of interest for Council and we do not believe Council will be impartial,” a detailed objection on the group’s website concludes.

“It really is quite scandalous,” said Mr Grace. “It is an absolute insult to deliberately place a mega-depot next to Rosebery people’s homes, as if we don’t count. It is a shame that Clover Moore’s care for residents doesn’t extend very far south of her electorate.”

Rosebery residents take great pride in their suburb and they see Sydney Council as encroaching upon their rights. Mr Grace suggested that one of the suburb’s most enduring qualities was that, whilst it is a busy place during business hours, the nights are incredibly tranquil. “At night and weekends the place is ours,” he said. “It is so quiet at night I can hear the trains at Central. The barking of dogs echoes through the streets on Sundays. That is our trade-off for the busy times during the week.”

The RRAG feels that if Council goes ahead with plans to build then it will be at the loss of their quaint inner-city suburban home. “That is our heritage,” declared Mr Grace. “Right from the establishment of the Rosebery Industrial and Model Suburb in 1912. We want to preserve that living heritage.”

Erskineville split over new supermarket

ROBERT MORRISON

Plans to convert the disused Hive building at 21-23 Erskineville Road into a new supermarket were approved at a DA meeting on Monday September 24. This has left a number of local Erskineville residents displeased with Lord Mayor Clover Moore and her Sydney City Council.

However, just as many local residents applaud the decision.

Since the meeting a group known as the Friends of Erskineville has expressed its disappointment that the “Council ignored many requests for an independent Economic Impact Statement”, and has proclaimed that Sydney City Council’s vision to become the ‘City of Villages [based on sustainable local business] is dead’.

Former City Councillor, Michael Mobbs, believes that the new Erskineville supermarket threatens local business owners because it will take between 15 and 50 per cent of local business, seeing local profits stagnate and shops shut down.

“A drop in trade of 13 per cent would stop the organic growth of Erskineville and eventually cause the death of existing small businesses … In my view, we can only have sustainable cities if we have sustainable villages. And now it looks as though Sydney won’t have a sustainable city because this small Erskineville project is the ultimate test of the city’s capacity to keep and restore villages; judging by the planners’ report this project will bring it to an end and prevent the vision being obtained.”

Many local residents have shown their disappointment about the decision on the Friends of Erskineville website. One resident writes: “This decision has seriously disappointed me, not merely because we will get an unwanted up-market supermarket on our corner which is far more likely to lessen competition than increase it, but because it cynically manipulated the idea of democratic participation and made a mockery of the idea of independent advice on traffic and social economic impact. Clearly for Clover Moore and her team of so-called ‘independents’ the City of Villages was just a slogan.”

Another resident writes: “Dear all, thanks for all of your hard work despite such a lousy outcome – sad to think that the Lord Mayor cares so little about her constituents’ opinions. Clover Moore is not welcome in Erskineville…”

On its website, Friends of Erskineville has called for residents to boycott the new supermarket, stating that the new development will not only have an impact upon local businesses, but also increase traffic congestion along Gawrie and Angel streets and see the loss of 12-13 residential parking spaces.

However, not all Erskineville residents are in opposition to the development. A number of residents feel that the current mini mart and fruit store in the mini mart. Woolworths has the same block of chocolate on special most days at $3.50. I could make several same block of chocolate on special most days at $3.50. I could make several examples of the over inflated prices, but are so far removed from a ‘village’ experience that it isn’t even funny.”

A number of residents are also pleased they will no longer have to make the long trip up King Street to Foodworks or IGA for cheaper prices. On the same website another local writes: “I am happy that this supermarket is going ahead … I don’t have a car and it is a long walk from my flat up the hill to Foodworks or IGA … After 14 years of hauling up the hill to King Street this will definitely make life easier. [And] walking down Erskineville Road at night can be creepy. I will be very happy to see this long neglected block come alive.”

Construction of the new supermarket is set to begin soon.

ERSSA
Black Dog and the bubble machine

NORRIE MAY-WELBY

One in five Australians experiences mental illness, so it was great to see a large crowd interested in the Mental Health Event at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) on Friday October 9, a day of changeable weather. Celtic music performed by the young and talented Off-Cuts kept the weather. Celtic music performed by the young and talented Off-Cuts kept the

Further, contrary to expectations, security guards can increase the level of violence

Further, contrary to expectations, security guards can increase the level of violence. Some violence does, after all, involve security guards, and we can wonder if the guards have a tendency to violence themselves, and what would have happened if they had not intervened, or intervened differently? Alcohol related violence has its tensions. I’m sure the vast majority of drinks consumed don’t have violence associated with them. But, when violence does occur, alcohol is frequently involved. Further, without there being “violence” as such, some drinks at night will yell and be obvious. Then, there’s the fact that police recording “last place of drinking” before an incident may unfairly associate venues with violence – when the presence of some pubs on otherwise violent streets has reduced overall violence on that street. The other side of “saturation” is efficiency of intervention. If all the trouble is in one spot, it is easier to afford the police to have a solid presence, and attend to any incidents more rapidly. But what caused the... do “entertainment precincts” like the Cross generate additional violence?

The Northcott Players perform

The audience’s applause was received unlimited sets of sticks was outstanding.

Stressing less at Northcott

PETE WHITEHEAD

Friday, October 9 was an overcast day threatening rain any squalls. Walking towards the Northcott Community Centre to join in the celebration of the opening of Mental Health Week 2009, I passed through Eddie Ward Park which is mostly fenced off for upgrading of the play facilities (including, according to the City of Sydney Final publicity brochures.

Peter police vehicle, a large van footstoned in ballons, is camped in the car park, manned by a policewoman smiling as she chats with locals and hands out glossy publicity brochures.

The Northcott Community Room, set up by Joy Ross, Jean Purcell, Betty Mullins and Irene Moss in 1984, has become the hub of a safe and caring community, the first public housing estate in the world to be declared a “Safe Community” by the World Health Organisation.

Inside the Centre, more ballons, and Leonie Manns, Former Chairperson, Disability Council of NSW, has been given the microphone to make some introductory remarks. “A stone in the shoe of the politicians” is how she describes herself in rambling reflections on her involvement with the Mental Health Industry. Diagnosed bipolar 20 years ago, she chuckles that one symptom of mania is “you think you can save the world!” Her point seems to be that you’d be mad to be seduced by mental illness. The crucial thing for everyone is to keep contributing in any way you can be. Part of the solution.

Our MC for the day, Douglas Holmes, a board member of Naomi, a psychosocial health and rehabilitation support provider, thanks Leonie as the stage is cleared for Stress Less, a production devised by the Northcott Players with the support of their good neighbours from Company B at Belvoir Street Theatre.

The play, performed with notable gusto and some authority, a poetic life at Northcott up into funny pieces. A drum solo sans drums but with seemingly unlimited sets of sticks was outstanding. The audience’s applause was rewarded by the actors. A big hand to all who were party to the Mental Health Week activities promoting understanding, education and support.

COMMENT

Breath of fresh air on alcohol and violence

JOHN AUGUST

I recently heard Professor Ross Homel, Griffith University speak on licensed venues and crime at a NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research event. As a Darlinghurst resident, I’m very aware of the high police presence, and attend to any incidents more rapidly. But what caused the

depends on the patrons and the pub. Nooze, better kept pubs generate less violence, and people don’t try to sell drugs as much. The more clearly the pub has “rules” the better. The market is going to want to provide a range of pubs, with shabbily pubs providing cheaper drinks. Further, expensive drinks means people may “pre-load” – drink at home before going out.

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ANDREW COLLIS

In just its second month of operation, the Redfern and Waterloo Community Markets, or RedWater Markets, attracted 14 stallholders, many bargain hunters and happy faces. The market, held in Redfern Park on Saturday, October 17, was a colourful sight. Stalls displayed clothes of all kinds and sizes, jewellery, bric-a-brac, plants, second-hand and recycled furniture, art and crafts. A sausage sizzle was hosted by the local PTCY.

Co-ordinators, Naomi Ward and Leanne Lightfoot, see huge potential for the market. “It’s great to see the Redfern community engaged,” Leanne Lightfoot said. “This is a beautiful park with great atmosphere.” Ms Lightfoot, who has experience as long-time co-ordinator of the popular Surry Hills Markets, invites prospective stallholders to consider joining the November market. “Rates for stallholders are the best in town and profits go to local good causes,” she said.

RedWater Markets is a project of the Housing Communities Program, auspiced by the Factory Community Centre in Waterloo. The Factory is home to a number of community groups, and also runs a range of activities for local residents including a community bus, a primary school, out-of-school care, and various arts and event-based projects. One of the most recent activities of the Factory is the revitalisation of the Waterloo Recycling Workshop (WRW) which is now the new home of the Cycle Re-Cycle Club. Naomi Ward, who is also the WRW co-ordinator, said the success of the markets depends on community support. “There are so many positives,” she said. "The picturesque setting here in the Park, a great café on site, nearness to Redfern Station and buses, and easy parking.” Ms Ward also gratefully acknowledged the vital support of the City of Sydney, local Chamber of Commerce members, Souths Leagues Club and other partner stakeholders.

John English, maker of furniture from recycled timber, is committed to the markets. “I’ll be here for the long term,” he said. Ms English is an accomplished furniture designer and maker. Check out his popular Love Bench and Monastery Bench pieces. Mr English is happy to take orders.

The key issue for Phillip, given that, under State Government legislation the role and allowance of a councillor is considered to be part-time, is finding enough time to do what needs to be done. It is a significant challenge to develop effective time-management.

What do you think you might add to the leadership of the City of Sydney Council? Phillip feels that he has in his mind ideas, proposals and suggestions for debate, alongside a willingness to raise possible solutions. His interests in history and heritage, his past professional work as a geologist, and in tourism-oriented business together with volunteer experiences stand him in good stead. He believes that he is “lucky to be part of a team where expertise is freely shared.”

What are the most difficult aspects of working as Deputy Lord Mayor? The key issue for Phillip, given that, under State Government legislation the role and allowance of a councillor is considered to be part-time, is finding enough time to do what needs to be done. It is a significant challenge to develop effective time-management.

What do you see as most urgent in the policy areas at the moment? Phillip sees the implementation of Sustainable Sydney 2038, facing Climate Change issues and continuing to give leadership in this area as having priority. This means that the building of creative relationships with other councils and all levels of government in relation to environmental sustainability is critical.

What are your dreams for the future of the City of Sydney? The new Deputy Lord Mayor dreams of a city that is tolerant, diverse, globally connected and culturally dynamic. He would like to see pedestrian friendly and cycle friendly with effective and efficient mass transit arrangements. He imagines a city with an appreciation and re-adapting of heritage for the 21st century, open spaces linked for people and wildlife and environmentally sustainable practices. Quite an agenda!...
Closing the doors on Kings Cross culture

ALEX TAYLOR

Residents, local activists and councillors are worried that hundreds of boarding house closures are due to the Light Rail. A unique character and reducing important low-income housing in the inner city.

“I’m afraid the Cross [is] becoming a middle-class-upper monoculture which builds higher-density, shorter flat buildings. Part of the ATP is housed in the adaptively reused Eveleigh Locomotive Workshop building. This building also houses an extensively, largely intact, “state-of-the-art” heritage machinery and tool collection complete with workshops, assemblages and an “active” 1860s operating heritage blacksmithing shop. The collection of the blacksmithing shops are part of the interpretation required under a Conservation Management Plan for the site. In selling the site to a private buyer the Government is also selling the machinery, and the operating blacksmithing shop.

Question 1: Why is the Government “divesting of a busines” so such an important cultural industrial icon that has been state-owned since the 1870s?

How does the Government expect a profit-seeking private buyer to see any other commercial benefit from owning this state registered machinery collection both static and operating? Why would a private owner want this sort of responsibility? What mechanisms will the Government put into place to safeguard the collection and perpetuity of the operating heritage blacksmithing shop, and oversee that the Conservation Management Plan (open to revision every five years) is not watered down but is adhered to?

Last November the NSW Government had to make some tough decisions through the mini-budget process. The Government is currently carrying everything in place before taking the ATP to the market for sale. Sale of the ATP will only be finalised once the Government has considered all market responses and is happy that best outcome will be achieved for the site. It is very important to understand that anybody who purchases the ATP site will be required to adhere to the heritage listings and management plan for the site as required by law. Question 2: Why doesn’t NSW have gross feed-in tariffs for solar powered homes?

The NSW Government’s Solar Bonus Scheme will pay people 60 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity fed back into the grid from rooftop solar panels – making it one of the most generous schemes in Australia.

In adopting a generous net tariff scheme, the Government has balanced the objectives of supporting people who install solar energy and reducing the costs for those electricity customers not able to install solar panels, such as renters and low-income families.

Question 3: There have been too many stories about the poor behaviour of Members of Parliament reported in the media in the past year. Given this, do you think that political parties have a responsibility to ensure that prospective candidates know of their obligations to perform in an ethical manner? What is the ALP and Government doing to encourage ethical behaviour?

I have said on many occasions that I expect the highest standards from Government Members of Parliament. That’s what the public expects and that’s what I expect.

Question 4: Governments of all persuasions have privatised a whole range of things is there any service which you think can only be provided by Government?

I think the Government should always be responsible for important frontline services like health and education.

Question 5: The Medically Supervised Injection Centre has saved lives, as even Barry O’Farrell and John Brogden before him have said. But a Coalition Government would close it. Would your Government give consideration to making it permanent, and not a trial, and give some consideration to more of these sort of places across the State?

The Medically Supervised Injection Centre has been operating since May 2001. In July 2007, legislation was passed which extended the trial for a further four years to 31 October 2011. The continuation of the trial was primarily to establish a longer-term evidence base about its effectiveness. It’s true the data so far is very good with measurable improvements for local residents, fewer deaths, fewer discarded needles and thousands of people referred for treatment. There is limited or no parking on the eastern side during construction. On the western side of the street, where it is narrow (just a two way Arthur Street to Devonshire Street), there will be a huge loss of amenities during and after construction. The flat section of the street, where there is a small section completed, seems OK but narrow.

When will the battle stop? The residents seem determined. So does Council?

Acknowledgements to: Ms Burgmann says that with private boarding house closures, older, single low-income earners may now find being for low-income earners is gone. Ms Burgmann says that with private boarding house closures, older, single low-income earners may now find it impossible to afford places in the inner city, which is now becoming “so gentrified that there’s no social diversity.”

“Obviously I’m part of the gentrification so I can’t be too post-haste, but it’s sad to see an area lose its character,” says Councillor Burgmann. “Cheap boarding houses hardly exist in the Cross anymore: it used to be an area for older artists and jazz musicians … seamen, full of other people a bit like you, but those people can hardly afford to live in the Cross anymore,” she says.

The battle for Bourke Street

The battle for Bourke Street has been going for some time. Many of the residents seem to be angry with the Council and the NP for selling the Bourke Street bigway. Brian Noad of Surry Hills points out in his email that sent out last month that Stage One of the bigway is already a complete. Here is Brian’s report on Stage One, which is from Woolloomooloo to the Eastern Distributor entrance at Curf Street. He points out that there is no parking during construction on the western side of Bourke Street. Bourke Street, during construction, seems to be one way with lots of dust blowing and hammering.

There is no access to properties on the western side of the road due to a fence, which limits garbage collection and postal deliveries. There is limited or no parking on the eastern side during construction. On the western side of the street, where it is narrow (just a two way Arthur Street to Devonshire Street), there will be a huge loss of amenities during and after construction. The flat section of the street, where there is a small section completed, seems OK but narrow.

When will the battle stop? The residents seem determined. So does Council?

The Secret Millionaire visits the inner city

You may have seen the recent episode of The Secret Millionaire that featured The Settlement as well as other local NGOs. The Settlement was fortunate to receive $100,000 from Peter Bond, the “secret millionaire”. This will help to take pressure off some of The Settlement’s program needs, but it still has to raise money for the much needed building upgrade which will require greater funding. The Settlement has applied for funding to complete part of the upgrade from the Federal Government’s Community Building Partnership Program. The program provides a total of $38,000 in grants to each state electorate to build local community projects. The Settlement is in the Marrickville electorate.

Currently Tribal, the State MP, has launched a website where those the Marrickville electorate can vote for the project they would prefer to receive funding. You can see it at http://bcp.carmelthubb.org.au/Project/Details/The-sydney-university-settlement.
ANDREW COLLIS

The Food Distribution Network (FDN) is a fresh food service, delivering quality fruit and vegetables to the frail aged, people living with disabilities and their carers.

The FDN’s 25th anniversary celebration on October 24 was an afternoon of conversation, laughter and fine food. Clients, volunteers and staff (past and present), distinguished guests and representatives from various funding bodies (DADHC, HACC, City of Sydney, Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, Positive Life and ACON) and community organisations recalled the FDN’s journey from food co-op to not-for-profit organisation, from the heart of the city to Darlington to present at the Redfern Centre (on Ogden Lane, behind St Saviour’s Church).

Salvador Murrona woman, Patricia Connors and a Committee of Elders from Country, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and their commitment to “peace and a sustainable environment.”

Ms Connors offered congratulations to the FDN “for providing not only seasonal, but also affordable, fresh vegetables and fruit to a growing clientele of satisfied customers.”

The FDN serves more than 200 households each week. Volunteer, Shaun Martin, has been involved for nine years. He works three days per fortnight packing “many boxes.” Mr Martin spoke extensively about working with other volunteers, and about being part of an organisation that promotes health and independence. “It’s quality produce,” he said. “I’m very grateful for the past 25 years, and I foresee a bigger and brighter future for this very progressive enterprise.”

Mr Martin was quick to praise members of the FDN Management Committee, Treasurer Caroline Hammond, President Louise Fox, and Co-ordinator John Greig.

The occasion saw the launch of the FDN Anniversary Calendar, a labour of love by two long-standing project workers, writer/researcher Larry Wellings and artist Phillip Martin, as well as the launch of a documentary film called Food for People not for Profit: A Day in the Life of FDN. The film allows a window into the operation of the FDN, from the purchase of wholesale fresh produce at Sydney Markets to packing boxes and home deliveries.

Writer/director, Lara Cassar, expressed appreciation for her co-worker and editor, Brian Acraman. The aspiring filmmaker also spokehighly of Meter Screen. “It’s a great organisation which offers courses, grants, discounted hire of camera equipment, forums and scholarships,” Ms Cassar said. “Meter Screen also organised a test screening of the film, and the feedback was really helpful.”

Copies of the calendar and DVD were distributed, and lucky door prizes awarded – six fabulous boxes of fruit and veges typical of the fresh produce delivered regularly to clients.

Small business leaders watch the parking meters

NICHOLAS MCCALLUM

In an effort to deter the use of vehicles on inner-city streets, Sydney City Council is pushing ahead with plans to carpet suburbs with paid meters and tighter parking restrictions.

One suburb that will cop new meters is East Chippendale, situated between Abercrombie and Regent Streets.

Council suggests that the new restrictions will be imposed to increase vehicle turnover in the area and free-up spaces for residents. There is some merit to Council’s reasoning because of the area’s proximity to two universities and former Carlton Brewery site on which development will soon recommence. However, this is not a view shared by local business owners who have come together to fight Council’s proposal.

The East Chippendale Business Alliance (ECBA) has formed to lobby against the proposed parking controls, declaring that the parking study undertaken was flawed.

Council hopes that the intended restrictions on long-term parking will decrease the volume of cars that enter East Chippendale as people opt for public transport, yet it also believes that imposing paid, short-term parking will be to the benefit of local business. But the ECBA has rejected this notion.

According to the Alliance’s media spokesperson, Murray Tregonning, the small wholesale operators who had moved to the area did so on the basis of free and easy access for customers.

“Five years ago there were no parking restrictions in the area at all and businesses made commercial decisions to locate here for that fact,” he stated. “Commercial activity accounts for more than two thirds of the East Chippendale precinct, according to a conservative estimate from the group.

As well as its stance against Council, the ECBA is at odds with local residents whom it perceives to be influencing the decision to impose parking restrictions. “For too long a vocal minority of time-occupants ‘residents’ who choose to inhabit the lower-end property values, has swayed Council thinking and actions in this area,” the ECBA claimed.

Council may suggest that parking restrictions are well intentioned as a means of addressing environmental concerns through reduced traffic volume in the city. However, the fundamental problem is that public transport does not currently provide an adequate alternative. In September this year Lord Mayor Clover Moore praised the 20,000 small to medium businesses that contribute more than $40 million to Sydney’s economy.

This was at the launch of a free small business seminar.

Ms Moore said the seminars “are just one way the City is helping small businesses navigate today’s challenging business environment.

The ECBA does not share the Mayor’s appraisal, despite Sydney Council suggesting that paid parking will be good for the suburb. For wholesale businesses, such as the ones found in East Chippendale, restricting vehicle access will restrict business.

What won’t be detrimentally affected is Council’s parking revenue, which in the last seven years has garnered the City nearly $96 million from parking meters.

“We understand the Council’s desire to increase its revenue base,” said Mr Tregonning. “But there must be a balance.”

Sydney City Council did not respond to the invitation for comment.

Kristina Keneally MP

Eveleigh Markets Declared Best In Sydney

The Eveleigh Markets have won The Sydney Morning Herald 2010 Foodies Award for Best Markets in Sydney and more than 3,000 people a week are enjoying them.

In 2008 the NSW Government and the Redfern Waterloo Authority undertook a $3 million refurbishment of the heritage Blacksmith’s Workshop at North Eveleigh Rail yards. This refurbishment has resulted in the creation of Sydney’s Best Foodies Markets, the Eveleigh Markets.

Regular weekly trading of the markets started on Saturday 28 February 2009 and rain, hail or shine have been attracting, on average, 3,000 people every week.

Because the markets are undercover they operate in all weather so people can shop and enjoy meeting those who bring their products to market.

I have spent many a Saturday morning at the markets with my family enjoying the produce, atmosphere and a Kangaroo pie from Yaama Dihyaan.

Places that have recently started operating are usually given a year to prove themselves, however the Eveleigh Markets have, in just seven months, shown they are the best in Sydney.

It is for this reason that the Eveleigh Markets, the Redfern Waterloo Authority and Australia Technology Park deserve special praise for this amazing achievement.

Locally grown fresh produce sold by the growers/ producers at Eveleigh Markets include:

- Lamb, beef and pork,
- In season fruit and vegetables,
- Free range eggs and poultry,
- Honey,
- New season olive oils,
- Artisan bread,
- Shellfish,
- Goats cheese; and
- Baked goods.

The Eveleigh Markets are an undercover, traditional, authentic weekly Saturday Farmers’ Market held in the city of Sydney.

The market is held every Saturday between 8am and 1 pm, in the heritage-listed Eveleigh Market, Sydney’s only custom-renovated ‘rain, hail, shine’ market venue 243 Wilson St, Darlington, NSW (Adjacent Carriage Works). I hope to see you there!

For more information visit www.eveleighmarkets.com.au

Kristina Keneally MP

Member for Heffron

Shop 117, 747 Botany Road, Rosebery NSW 2018

Phone: (02) 9699 8166 Fax: (02) 9699 8222

Email: kristina.keneally@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Indigenous youth to advise on excellence

DOROTHY MCCAFFREY-MCMANON

On September 25, the Hon. Linda Burney, NSW Minister for Community Services and Minister for Women, officially announced the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence’s Youth Advisory Committee (NCIEYAC).

The advisory committee is made up of 11 young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who live, work or go to school in the South Sydney area. All committee members were chosen “because they demonstrated a passion and enthusiasm for issues affecting young people in their communities and for their desire to have their voices heard on a national scale”.

“Talking with two of the young people selected was inspiring in itself,” Bianca Cosman is 13 years old. Her people originally come from Coonabarabran and she now lives in Wollongooloo.

Jacob Saunders is one of seven brothers and two sisters. His people and attends school at St Scholastica’s in Hurstville.

She believes that 13 to 14 year-olds are often overlooked in favour of those regarded as “children” or “young people”. She wanted to have a voice for her age group and to participate in community life. She also particularly wanted to represent “non-sporty” leadership.

Bianca feels that this experience will add to her future, in that she will learn new skills from the rest of the group and find confidence in speaking out and having an influence for good changes. The most important hope she has for her people is that they will want to succeed in life and gain more ways of effectively putting forward their viewpoints.

In the end, she would like to be a lawyer and a public speaker. Jacob is one of seven brothers and two sisters. His people come from the Taree and Kempsey area - the Biripiri and Dunguhi people. He attends the Alexandra Park Community School and lives in St Peters. He is learning a lot by being an Aboriginal Trainee Indigenous Service Officer at Redfern Centrelink. He is also grateful to be part of the Aboriginal Men’s Group which has given him the experience of standing up and speaking before crowds of people.

He has many aims – to stop violence, crime, drug use and abuse and to generally help the Redfern community. He would like to show his people that there is more than they realise ahead of them, and to be a role model for that hope.

Jacob thinks being part of the NCIEYAC will mean that he will be meeting more people and that he will learn to believe that “little things may lead to big things”. His hopes for Indigenous people in general are that he can help create more opportunities for their employment, encourage better education and become “one mob standing together”.

May they and the other members of the new National Centre of Indigenous Excellence’s Youth Advisory Committee achieve their aims and feel the warm support of the South Sydney community!
“We’re never ever going back to that community…”

Elders speak out against NT Intervention

OLIVIA NIGRO

A national speaking tour raising awareness for the Ampilatwatja Community Walk Off in the Northern Territory has come to a close in Alice Springs.

After four weeks of traveling the east coast and sharing the plight of his people with hundreds of supporters in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane and Alice Springs, the spokesperson for the walk off, Richard Downs, has described the tour as “fantastic”.

“What we’re saying no. We’re never ever going back to that community to live as humans in our own country and are outcasts in our own community,” said Richard Downs.

“We’re saying no. We’re never ever going back to that community to live under the controls and measures [of the NT Intervention],” continued Downs.

Harry Jaggamurra Nelson, community spokesperson for Yuendumu located 300kms north-west of Alice Springs, joined Richard Downs on the speaking tour. Yuendumu has expressed staunch opposition to the Intervention since its inception in June 2007 and is currently resistant to moving onto a lease over community lands in exchange for basic housing services.

The speaking tour came just two weeks after the return of a Unions NSW delegation which visited NT communities, including Yuendumu and the Ampilatwatja protest camp.

Throughout the tour, vibrant and successful meetings with union branches and rank and file members testified to the strengthening relationship between the union movement and the campaign to repeal the NT Intervention.

At a briefing meeting co-hosted by Unions NSW Indigenous Committee, ANTaR and Stop The Intervention Collective Sydney, over 40 unionists pledged ongoing support for the Walk Off and anti-intervention campaign.

Similarly, political and financial support was offered by hundreds of students and community members at public forums up and down the east coast. Amnesty International has also given full support to the campaign.

“The time is now, to unite. Brothers and sisters, black and white, we have the power to stop the government from imposing racism and divisions,” Mr Downs concluded.

A national day of action calling for an end to the NT Intervention has been called for February 13, 2010 – the two-year anniversary of Kevin Rudd’s Apology.

To get involved in the campaign or for information see www.stoptheintervention.org or www.interventionwalkoff.wordpress.com

Olivia Nigro is a member of Stop The Intervention Collective Sydney.

Aunty Beryl’s three-word dictionary

NEIL WHITFIELD

“My dictionary has just three words,” Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo says. “Communication, Education, Respect. The power is with all those students in there all the time.”

Not a bad dictionary that, and there’s a story and a half behind it.

Three years ago, following an initiative by the Redfern Winerika Authority (RWA), Aunty Beryl co-founded the Yaama Dhiyaaan Hospitality and Function Centre with chef Matthew Cribb. The Centre is in Wilson Street, Darlingon, just by CarriageWorks. These three years have seen quite a personal transformations – young students made confident enough by their success at Certificate II Hospitality to go back and do the HSC. Families now well fed with good slow food and a real knowledge of nutrition; people finding jobs in the hospitality sector.

Of the 16 graduates who have now completed the nine-week hospitality training course with Yaama Dhiyaaan, 66 per cent have gained employment or moved on to further education.

Institutions like Yaama Dhiyaaan don’t come from nowhere, and in this case it is a long hold dream that bolsters the key. As a young girl in Walgett with no formal education, Aunty Beryl dared to dream. She knew education was the key and dreamed of one day bringing back to the community whatever skills she might learn. She moved to Sydney working as a nanny in an upper-middle-class Eastern Suburbs family. “Yeah, I had to learn to read then, what with the kids going to Sydney Grammar.” So she did, and that was just a beginning. She remained close to that family and still does.

Her real formal education began at age 31 while she was working as a cook at the Murravawena preschool, then in Surry Hills. She worked days and at night studied nutrition and budget cooking at East Sydney TAFE. This was something she felt she could take back to the community. She met a challenge: an invitation to become a trainee teacher for TAFE. “But I have no formal education,” she countered. That, she was told, would look after itself as she had the life skills and knowledge and an ability to communicate.

It didn’t quite look after itself as she found herself working as before, going to TAFE, and undergoing teacher training. When I asked her when she slept she just smiled. She graduated in 1988. Graduating in 1988 she went ahead in her new career. When retirement loomed, the RWA made her an offer. Here was at last the greatest chance she had to change all that knowledge and experience right back into the heart of the community and make a real difference. She decided to give it a go for 12 months – and now it’s three years.

Aunty Beryl has been part of the Redfern community for 50 years now, but her beginnings are with the Gamilaroi people. The Centre’s website says, “Yaama means ‘welcome’ and Dhiyaaan means ‘family and friends’ in Aunty Beryl’s Yuwaalarray language of the Gamilaroi people of north west New South Wales.”

“A great life,” I read somewhere years ago. “A dream formed in childhood made real in maturity.” Aunty Beryl would probably reject that applying to herself, but it’s hard to deny.

She wanted to know if this would be a positive story as we had talked a bit about the dark side and the way aboriginal issues are represented so often in politics and the mainstream media. How could it not be positive? Seeing the culcuge, the students, and meeting Aunty Beryl have been inspiring. Anyone who dropped in would be inspired too – and well fed, if you happen by when food is on offer. As Aunty Beryl told SBS’s Living Black: “We specialise in bush tucker. We might have crocodile – we’ll do that with a lemon myrtle sauce, we might have kangaroo and we’ll just do that with skewers, and make a bush tomato sauce for that, vegetables in some of our herbs and spices.”

But it is the transformation of lives that is the real work at Yaama Dhiyaaan. “You can’t forget the past because that is who you are. It’s in your heart,” Aunty Beryl told me. “But we have to move on for the sake of the future generation. Some come here needing their self-esteem building up and we show them they can have confidence, and they do have choices.”
Unraveling the knot of child abuse

ROSS SMITH

Having just returned from a hospital visiting an elderly person who was knocked down on a footpath by a bicyclist I looked up some reference material on the subject of bicycles and their interaction with pedestrians, and was intrigued by the aspect of lobbying activity by the Bicycle Warriors for bicyclists to be given precedence over pedestrians. This is a fairly local, state, and federal governments.

This group ignores the reality of the demographics of our society – the average age is rapidly increasing – which means that the number of elderly is diminishing in direct proportion.

This group also ignores the reality of the geography, especially the topography, of Australia’s residential areas – the vast majority have hills, unlike Holland where cycling is common and flat.

It now seems the Australian States and local councils to reduce the vehicle carrying capacity of the already overloaded roadways and give bicyclists exclusive use of lanes, with no cost recovery from the bicyclists – in short, a free ride.

Another indication of the Bicycle Warriors’ lobbying power is the decision by the transport minister in the ACT of a dedicated 200km network of cycleways by 2017. The City of Sydney has also joined with the state government in asking the Federal Government for $295m to build an extra 24km of paths in the Sydney metropolitan area, including a 1.6km elevated pathway linking the Warringah Freeway with the Harbour Bridge at a projected cost of $30m.

The same council is now wanting to allow all bicyclists to ride on footpaths. Footpaths, by their very name, are for people walking. How the Council is going to prevent pedestrians being hit and knocked over by bicyclists is one of life’s mysteries.

This is from a council that cannot fix a pothole on a roadway, or provide footpaths that are not broken and uneven, do not trip the elderly, do not snare women’s or men’s shoes, do not provide an obstacle course for parents pushing prams. Instead of using taxpayers’ money to provide a safe environment, it is spending hundreds of millions of dollars catering to the wishes of a rapidly decreasing minority.

Recently, a group wrote to the NSW Roads Minister raising some areas of concern around safety and the manner in which they conducted themselves. The concerns were as follows: The inability to identify the bicycle that is involved in or causes a collision and/or property damage. The failure of the government to require bicyclists to be registered and subjected to annual checks for fitness to be used on public roadways, as is the case for motorists. The failure of the government to require bicycle owners to pay Green Slip insurance, as is the case for motor vehicles, and thus offset the medical costs, both immediate and ongoing, incurred by victims of bicyclists.

The failure of the government to require bicyclists to demonstrate knowledge of the Road Rules prior to being allowed to ride on public roadways, as is the case for motorists. The consistent breach of the Road Rules by bicyclists, failure to obey traffic lights, compulsory stop signs, riding on footpaths, igniting pedestrian crossings, failure to use mandated safety equipment, failure to wear approved safety helmet, etc. The state’s loss of revenue due to failure to take the same action requiring compliance with the laws covering the operation of bicycles, as is done in the case of motor vehicles. The lack of legal options to initially enforce compliance with the law, and, in the case of serial offenders, the legal option to cancelling permission to operate a bicycle, as is the case for motorists. The potential for extremely severe adverse lifestyle outcomes arising from both broken bones and soft tissue damage, especially for the elderly, arising from the operation of bicycles on footpaths; The medical expenses incurred when hit by a bicyclist outweigh the medical cost of other injuries; The failure not to trip the elderly, do not snare women’s shoe heels, and do not provide a safe environment.

The view of the Roads Minister, as per his response to the group, was that “the environmental and traffic management advantages provided by bicycle riding outweighed the safety and wellbeing of pedestrians, and that registration and licensing would have a negative impact on these advantages.”

This view demonstrates: An absolute disregard for pedestrians; Failure to recognize that pedestrians pose a far lower level of adverse environmental and traffic management impact than bicyclists; Support for the giving of beneﬁt without accountability, or payment, to a minority at the expense of the majority; An absolute disregard for the elderly, those most at risk from the activities of bicyclists, and, A failure to recognize the NSW Government’s ongoing development of a new direction for disability services in NSW 2006-2016.

This politician, and the City of Sydney Councils, should visit the elderly person I visited in hospital. This formerly mobile person is now condemned to a lifestyle goes on, from Islam’s colour-blindness (people are judged only by their character, not their nationality) to the tolerance, humility and obligation toward others that keep them in head-scarves and abject poverty until, on the latest count, 1.5 billion people around the world suffer from the condition, yet, on the latest count, 1.5 billion people around the world suffer from the condition, yet, on the latest count, 1.5 billion people around the world suffer from the condition, yet, on the latest count, 1.5 billion people around the world suffer from the condition, yet, on the latest count, 1.5 billion people around the world suffer from the condition.

Can you imagine, for instance, how it would feel if, five times every day, without fail, you were forced to stand gun point and no security guard assigned as that store had recently been held up at knifepoint and no security guard assigned as that store had recently been held up at knifepoint and no security guard assigned as that store had recently been held up at knifepoint and no security guard assigned as that store had recently been held up at knifepoint. And no Dom Perignon could ever match the unpredictable aromas of a cold tamarind drink going down after a hard day’s fasting. And yes, fasting – the thing that Muslims, and an increasing number of Non-Muslims – as well as the Ramadan, you may think not eating and drinking during the daytime is just a bit hunger and misery, but Muslims regard it as the highest form of sacrifice, the feeling of every evening when the fast is broken is in the company of family and friends, all sharing the same experience as a community.

The list of desirable benefits of this lifestyle goes on, from Islam’s colour-blindness (people are judged only by their character, not their nationality) to the tolerance, humility and obligation toward others that keep them in head-scarves and abject poverty until, on the latest count, 1.5 billion people around the world suffer from the condition.

But perhaps Islam’s most beautiful gift to Australia is its very generosity. A spectacular community of people is now ready to arrive in Australia. They are the antitheses of civilised behaviour. If we disentangle the reality from the scare-tactics, and remove the mention of religion and political correctness, we can see just how easily the Islamic lifestyle could become the subject of a how-to article in a woman’s or men’s health magazine.

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Jane Barton

Sydney-based theatre company, Version 1.0, have a manifesto, are nominally anarchist, and so committed to a continual "process" that nothing they do is ever really finished. They are to local theatre what the platypus is to wildlife – rare and beautiful, but a bit odd.

Sydney has always had a dynamic alternative theatre scene, though like many radical art forms, it suffered under a conservative government.

Kym Vercoe, actor and company member, describes Version 1.0 as: "A democracy of artists … with rarely a singular director. The works created are a company-devised process with any number of outside eyes coming in to assist once or twice a week, to give feedback on what we are doing. The overall vision is the vision of the people on the floor as opposed to one driving force of a director in the room."

The company structure is largely the same – a flat structure, reflected in the work where ideas are generated and the best people to do the job are brought in. "We all fight a lot about everything, we argue and argue, and that's one of the strengths of the company that we can do that and come out the other side, you don't take things personally, we're trying to provoke our audience," she says.

Founded in 1998 by Theatre Nepean graduates, the work of Version 1.0 took a political direction in 2003 in collaboration with the Head of Performance Studies at Sydney Uni, Dr Paul Dwyer.

"Paul Dwyer from Sydney Uni had been reading Hansard, the parliamentary transcripts, and he made a connection between [Hansard and] what the company was already doing and he thought Hansard had theatrical potential," Vercoe says.

"And then there was the Senate enquiry into the 'children overboard' incident and that was the beginning of that sort of 'verbatim' style [of performance], using those particular materials to create CMI (A Certain Maritime Incident) [2004]. There was such a strong response, the company was interested in continuing that sort of work."

CMI (A Certain Maritime Incident), Deeply Offensive and Utterly Untrue and The Wages of Spin cemented their unique style and position in the local scene.

The most recent work, This Kind of Ruckus, focused on issues of gender, violence, consent, power and control. Kym Vercoe describes some of the background development to that show.

"There'd been so much stuff in the media. We're interested in the slippery stuff, where you can almost equally argue both sides of something. I think that became very focused for us with the technical rape case in Adelaide that we reference in the show. You know, the woman falls asleep and the man has sex with her and he's charged and sentenced to a lesser degree of rape. That became a huge debating point for us because we could see both sides of the story, we could see the judge's side and then we could see the other side that says, well, rape is rape and this guy's been let off the hook. A lot of people say, So, was that bit Matthew Johns?, or whatever, so people also want to have those discussions with you or with each other. That's the kind of debate we want to inspire in our audiences."

www.versiononepointzero.com

Eve Gibson

Artist Maggie Stein has just released her Newtown Calendar, showcasing linocuts of the local area done over the past four years. The calendar has been designed by DPM (Enmore) and printed locally, so if you're in love with Newtown, like to buy local products and support local artists, this may be the new-year calendar for you. Alongside the Newtown Calendar, Maggie has also produced a colouring book – Local Colour – Inspired by Newtown.

Maggie will be selling the calendars at the Newtown Festival, and at the Erskleigh Artisans' Market on the first Sundays in November and December. If you miss her at these events you can grab a calendar and/or book from Art on King, Better Read Than Dead, or from her website: www.maggiestein.com.au.

The SSH has three copies of the Newtown Calendar to give away. Send an email to editor@ssh.com.au.

Newtown days, weeks and months

Performance as radical politics

An interview with Kym Vercoe

Image: Maggie Stein

Image: Maggie Stein

Image: Maggie Stein
The Church would not allow this to happen. The Pope firmly maintained his authority over all religious matters, including, at this time, his opposition to the translation of the Bible into local languages. Such activity was considered heretical.

Into this troubled scene stepped an extraordinary man: Dr Paul Dwyer, renowned orthopedic surgeon who traveled to Bougainville story evolves with a piquant sense of irony. The grief of Paul the small boy. The lungs of Bougainville grieve for words to form/ I just stared at the sky trying to turn black.” Here, the artist cleverly injects banjos – that these are serious whimsy of glockenspiels and deftly occasional quaverings overstatement. It reminds the listener – despite the whiff of glockenspiels and deftly fallen banjos – that these are serious matters. The songs circle almost exclusively around a broken heart and love(s) gone wrong. “On a balcony in Seway Hills I tried to say baby won’t you come on back?/ but the air was too thick for words to form/ I just stared at the sky trying to turn black.” Here, the artist underplays the tension between the aforementioned glockenspiel and plucked banjo harmonically at odds. The Amazing is full of moments where the arrangement veers subtly, but distinctively, using a controlled palette to surprise/ disorient.

If ‘There Is Love’ likewise starts with the singer’s desire love might save her: “Take me away from myself/ I’m not too sure who I am anymore/ I tried so hard I never chose me over you.” It’s gorgeously interrupted by somewhat muppet-like backing vocals, singularly unexpected. “I’m singing a long pulls the track back from self-absorbed angst – without being saccharine or ridiculous.” For this part, Tracias manages this line – wangling simple arrangements, with the restraint of producer Nick Huggins, and finding glimmering moments – is as they spiral out of control. The absent, unnamed lover is constantly present – the “you” is written large. At times The Amazing feels like reading someone’s imaginary phone ...” The muppets are somewhat muppet-like backing vocals, single...
Go Berzerko at Erko!

SSH

Come along to Erskineville Public School’s huge community festival of enormous fun, amazing bargains, and non-stop free entertainment – the Erko Berzerko Fair.

ABC Radio’s Robbie Buck will MC the free entertainment line-up which includes Lindsay “The Doctor” McDougall from Triple J headlining the music stage, supported by local acts Elliott Weston and The Ragged Edge, Blutree, Felicity Wilson, John Kennedy’s ‘68 Comeback Special and Bernie Hayes. The Doctor will also go up against Jake Griggs from Something With Numbers in the Erko Busk Off.

A fabulous kidzone offers inexpensive fun with a sustainable edge – make a dinkydi bunny EVA pinwheel, groovy wallpaper placemat and other cool eco craft. Enjoy games, pony rides, roving entertainers, face painting, airbrush tattoos, and play on the inflatable obstacle course, bouncy castle and swinging pirate ship.

New this Berzerko is a bicycle maintenance area where residents are encouraged to bring their old bikes for a $2 tune-up. We’ll fix your brakes, gears, tyres and chain with the help of local cycle shops.

Stalls galore include a massive pre-loved books collection, trish & treasure, toys, original handcrafts and jewelry, plants and herbs from the school’s garden plus loads of incredible food on the cake and Devonshire tea stalls and plenty of delicious food stations.

Make sure you bid in the silent auction by 3pm to score a bargain holiday, family outing, beauty package, gourmet dining, designer fashion and much more – including a cricket bat signed by Matthew Hayden. Or try your luck in the mega raffle, drawn main stage at 4pm.

The day will begin at 10am with a Welcome to Country ceremony. Local dance and martial arts schools, the school band and a Cook Islands dance troupe will also perform.

Erko Berzerko is grateful for the support of Living & Surviving Newtown, and City of Sydney Council. For full program details visit www.erskinevillepublicschool.com.au.

Erko Berzerko Fair
Sat 14 Nov 14, 10am–4pm
Erskineville Public School, Swanson St (next to Erskineville Station)

Mirth by sea

MARK WILLIAMSON

Located in the middle of Sydney Harbour, Cockatoo Island is a former prison, shipyard, film set (Wolverine) and now home to Sydney’s newest (and funniest) festival, World’s Funniest Island.

Held over two days (Oct 17 and 18), World’s Funniest Island was a gathering of over 200 local, interstate and overseas acts with names such as Rick Shapiro (US), Tripod, Akmal, Alunei Sayle (UK) and the Goodies (UK) performing in venues ranging from former bomb shelters, pump shops and even a general store!

Highlights for this reporter were seeing childhood favourites the Goodies, current comedic superstar Arj Barker (US) and rising local star Daniel Townes all tearing it up on the main stage. As well it was enjoyable to see, in some of the smaller venues, amazing shows put on by local comedy clubs, the Laugh Garage and Comedy on the Edge. Both clubs had an amazing mix of up-coming and established acts, and inspired this reporter to make plans in the future to go and check both clubs out.

In only its first year the vibe of this festival was amazing with a diverse range of people all walking from show to show and enjoying what was a great Sydney weekend. Let’s hope that World’s Funniest Island becomes a regular event on Sydney’s calendar.

www.worldsfunniestisland.com
Dance contestant confident: “I can do it!”

Kirsty Johnson

With the third series of the televised So You Think You Can Dance experience fast approaching, dancers across the country are mentally and physically preparing themselves for a shot at the title of Australia’s Favourite Dancer. The SHT’s Kirsty Johnson spoke with former contestant, Forever Tupou, who is giving the competition another shot this year.

Having auditioned in series two of So You Think You Can Dance, how did you mentally prepare yourself for a second attempt in the upcoming series?

Last year my confidence level was about two on a scale of one to 10. I didn’t think I stood a chance, didn’t think I was good enough to be in the Top 20. However, this year I’ve been really positive and focused, telling myself I can do it!

Prior to the audition, did you attend more dance classes? How did you physically prepare for this?

I’ve been balancing technique classes with Hip Hop classes to train diversely, as well as dancing in the streets with other street dancers to keep it raw. I’ve also been down in my garage quite a lot, choreographing.

Did the faculty at Urban Dance Centre, who choreographed for the series, pass on any advise or words of encouragement for the audition process?

Just to “kill it” and do what I do best.

The So You Think You Can Dance competition is described by many as a journey. What have you learnt from this experience?

I didn’t realise how different I was from everyone (laughs). I learnt to trust myself and what I do. Being different isn’t necessarily a bad thing.

The third series of the hit television show So You Think You Can Dance will begin screening in homes across Australia in early February.
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 all you can have a box of 6-8kg of fruit and/or vegies delivered to your door each week or fortnight. Please call 9699 1614 or e-mail enquiries@fdn.org.au for more information. These services are funded by the Home and Community Care programme and the AIDS Trust of Australia.

SSH advertising works:

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

Donations to the SSH

The South Sydney Herald is an independent not-for-profit community newspaper, produced mostly by volunteers, published by the South Sydney Uniting Church, distributed without charge to 30,000 readers from Zetland to Woolloomooloo. The SSH gratefully accepts donations and in-kind support. If you would like to make a contribution you can do so, anonymously if you wish.

By mail: PO Box 2360 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012.

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

Contact the Editor: editor@ssh.com.au

Defending Melanesian Land

Defending Melanesian Land is a short video in which Melanesian activists explain why indigenous land is important to people in the Pacific, and why they have formed a regional alliance (The Melanesian Indigenous Land Defence Alliance – MILDA) to defend Indigenous Melanesian land.

Wednesday November 4, 6.30pm

Amnesty International Australia NSW Action Centre

79 Myrtle St, Chippendale

Contact AID/WATCH on 02 9557 8944 or gary@aidwatch.org.au

Babana

Aboriginal Men’s Group

The next BABANA meeting is on Friday Nov 27, 12-2pm, Redfern Community Centre.

Contact: Mark Spinks 9243 3546.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN REDFERN-WATERLOO?

Get the latest from www.redwatch.org.au

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Get the latest from www.redwatch.org.au

Spiritalty in the Pub

“Who would Jesus bomb?”

Speaker: Donna Muhearn

Tuesday, November 10, 7:30-9pm

Balmain Town Hall

Contact Eve 0406 680 336

South Sydney Uniting Church

56a Raglan St, Waterloo

Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday

Bible Study & Discussion 7pm  1st and 3rd Saturdays

Preventing Child Abuse & Supporting Adult Survivors 10am 3rd Sun

Rev Andrew Collins 8399 3410

Welcoming people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and identities. Peace with justice, integrity of creation.

Tongan Uniting Church

13-29a Cook St, Sydney

Worship: 10am

Mid-week service Friday 7-8pm

Rev Ps Doug Clements 9519 9000

Glebe Cafe Church

Cnr Jem St & Cambewarr St, Glebe

Gathering Sunday 7pm

Free For All Eight O’clock Sharp

Music nights Thu 7pm

Steph Gesling 9518 9413

Newtown Mission

280 King St Newtown

Worship 9.30am & 6pm Sunday

Rev Ps Doug Clements 9519 9000

Paddington Uniting Church

395 Oxford St Paddington

Church Open 10am-2pm

1st and 3rd Sundays

Worship Sunday 7.30pm

Church Office 9331 2646

Pitt Street Uniting Church

264 Pitt St, Sydney

Worship 10 am Sunday & 6 pm (2nd and 4th Sundays)

Rev Ian Pearman 9267 3614

Ultimo University Church

Cnr Bulwara Road and Quarry St, Ultimo

Worship 6:30pm Sunday

Rev Dr John Hirt 0408 238 117

Wayside Chapel

29 Hughes St Potts Point

Worship Study 10am, Bible Study 1pm Sunday

Porm Graham Lang 9358 6996

Uniting Churches

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Running for Pemulwuy –
THE RUNDOWN

SSH

On Saturday October 24, a group convened at Tripod Café in Darlington to draw to a close the Running for Pemulwuy fundraising campaign begun in training for the Sydney Running Festival (held on September 20).

SSH editor Trevor Davies took part in that event, achieving a personal best in the Bridge Run, and then Andrew Collis ran his first marathon – in Melbourne on October 11. Alex Tui, Manager of the Tony Mundine Gym on the Block, was at Tripod to draw winners from a barrel of donor’s names.

First prize was a painting by Redfern artist, Adam Hill, entitled ‘Road to Resilience’, a work based on the same design created for T-shirts worn by the road-running editors. The work features a raven (totem of Pemulwuy) as well as the number 221, referring to years of Indigenous resistance and hope since European settlement/invasion. Rev. Ian Pearson of the Pitt Street Uniting Church was the lucky winner of the painting. He’ll display it proudly in the inner-city church.

Other prizes included very collectable posters and prints by Elaine Syron documenting Aboriginal sport and culture in Sydney, a gym towel (official Melbourne Marathon merchandise), a Pemulwuy T-shirt, and various CDs.

Andrew described the marathon as the “sportiest day” of his life. “I actually enjoyed it,” he said, “it was a perfect day for running – about 7 degrees for the start.

‘It’s much easier to run with other runners. There were all kinds of people on the road – some had taken part in every one of the 32 marathons held in Melbourne. When I crossed the finish line at the MCG, after more than four hours, it was very emotional. I couldn’t talk for a while. I can understand why people get addicted to it. I’m thinking about another marathon for next year – we can keep running for Pemulwuy.’

Alex Tui says he’ll consider running himself. Send us an email if you’d like to join him (editor@ssh.com.au).

Trevor and Andrew thanked donors and all who offered support and care over the past few months. “We’ve just about reached our target of $5000,” Trevor said, “which is great.”

Congratulations to the following prize winners: Ian Pearson, Kate Nash, Nicole Gettenaar, Jane Barton, June and Alex Leach, John Berry, Barrie McMahon, Alex Tui, the Lay family, Wendy Turner, Jack Barton.

The fundraising website will remain online until February. The site will be maintained, and news posted on the Aboriginal Housing Company’s Pemulwuy Project. Visit www.gofundraise.com.au/pemulwuy.

Athlete Profile:
Anna Smith

Age: 12.
School: Marrickville Public.
Favourite sports: Oz Tag, athletics.
Achievements: Regional Athletics 2009: 1st Place (800 metres); 1st Place (1000 metres); 3rd Place (High Jump). State Athletics (Heats): 1st Place (4 x 100 metres relay); 3rd Place (High Jump).

Aspirations: To win the State Athletics High Jump event! (Due to rainy weather the State Carnival has been postponed until early 2010).

Favourite musician: Rihanna.
Favourite film: Date Movie.
When I grow up I hope to be: a vet.
Pets: Bruiser Boy II (dog), Budgie Boy (budgerigar).
I’d like to visit: Jamaica.
I’d like to live: in the country.

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CONTACT US TODAY!