



## CLIMATE COALITION'S POSITIVE PROTEST

▶ STORY – page 7



## FIRST EVER REDFERN BIENNALE

▶ REVIEW – pages 11-14

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# the South Sydney Herald

NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR APRIL '14 CIRCULATION 22,000 ALEXANDRIA BEACONSFIELD CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON ERSKINEVILLE EVELEIGH GLEBE KINGS CROSS NEWTOWN PADDINGTON REDFERN SURRY HILLS WATERLOO WOOLLOOMOOLOO ZETLAND



Concerned public housing tenants of Millers Point and The Rocks (Inset: Public housing at Millier Point) Photos: Geoff Turnbull



Detail of the Big Issue mural in Little Eveleigh Street Photo: Andrew Collis

## Big mural an issue in Little Eveleigh Street

SARAH MULHOLLAND

**REDFERN: THE character murals of Big Issue vendors, which currently reside on the exterior wall of the magazine's office in Little Eveleigh Street, will be removed in coming days.**

The paintings, which depict various faces of Big Issue vendors, were recently installed by a group of artists in consultation with staff from the organisation's Sydney office. The artworks were intended to celebrate the magazine vendors and their work.

John Vukoviz was one of the three artists who worked on the murals. He said he was disappointed to hear that the artworks will be taken down. "It will be a shame to see the mural go. Redfern has so many wonderful murals depicting different content and concepts, but all with the common theme of representing the sense of community and collaboration that Redfern residents no doubt admire about their neighbourhood.

"In addition to that, the mural is also a really clear celebration of the work Big Issue does. It's disappointing to think that such a simple, positive representation of the vendors and their lifestyles has to be removed due to red tape," said Mr Vukoviz.

The City of Sydney's Aerosol Art Policy states that a Development Application must be made before street art is installed. A DA was not submitted by *The Big Issue* at any stage of the process. The Council has been assured the murals will not remain permanently.

"The City recently asked *The Big Issue* if they would like to apply to keep the mural but *The Big Issue* confirmed that they wanted it removed," said a spokesperson for the City of Sydney.

The owner of the building, Urban Growth NSW Development Corporation, was not informed before the murals were painted and the approvals required to ensure the artwork could be installed on a permanent basis were not sought," said a spokesperson for *The Big Issue*.

"*The Big Issue* will oversee the removal of the artwork," the spokesperson said.

Many neighbouring residents are disappointed that the murals will be removed, claiming that they have added to the character of the community, and created awareness for *The Big Issue*.

# WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

## STATE GOVERNMENT NEIGHBOURHOOD SELL-OFF

SSH

**RESIDENT GROUPS** in Millers Point and The Rocks are protesting the state government's plans to sell more than 300 homes. The public housing sell-off is widely considered a sell-out with regard to community and heritage values. The announcement by Community Services Minister Pru Goward to evict an entire community has bought disparate groups together, along with many concerned residents and citizens.

On Saturday March 22 two local meetings were held to gather expressions of concern and plans for action. Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Alex Greenwich MP hosted one meeting. A smaller meeting earlier in the day was hosted by Tanya Plibersek MP. Shadow Minister for Housing Sophie Costas and local ALP members attended both meetings and the signs are good that there will be improved co-operation across political divides.

In a recent email to REDWatch members, Geoff Turnbull commented on the need for unity: "If there is to be a chance of a successful campaign,

groups will need to work together and politicians will need to be restrained in how they play politics around the campaign," Mr Turnbull said. The tenants have a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/millerspointsaveourhomes](http://www.facebook.com/millerspointsaveourhomes)) and an online petition ([www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/stop-premier-barry-o-farrell-and-housing-nsw-minister-prue-goward-from-selling-off-public-housing-in-millers-point](http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/stop-premier-barry-o-farrell-and-housing-nsw-minister-prue-goward-from-selling-off-public-housing-in-millers-point)).

A number of peak bodies and service providers (Redfern Legal Service, Shelter NSW, The Tenants Union) spoke at the larger meeting. Inner Sydney Regional Council will also be looking to see what role it can play to stop the evictions.

Some of the key issues are:

### Social Impact Assessment

The Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) promised that the Social Impact Assessment would be shown to tenants before any decisions were made. The Millers Point Social Impact Assessment was released after the announcement, along with the government response. REDWatch advises that LAHC has a fundamental conflict and should

not have carriage of community engagement with its own tenants around redevelopment issues.

### The government response

Regarding redevelopment in Redfern, LAHC argued in favour of social mix for affordable housing, but in the response on Millers Point under Goward it says it has no interest in affordable or aged housing.

### Heritage and maintenance

If LAHC neglects ongoing maintenance needs, problems escalate and costs increase, especially for heritage properties. Some tenants believe that a number of things LAHC has said need to be done are excessive.

### Sirius building

This building does not have maintenance issues. It is ideal for aging in place. Its "problem" is that it sits on very expensive real estate. The introduction of the principle that public housing should not be in an area where there is strong market demand is worrying. On this basis, much of the public housing in the inner city, eastern suburbs and the north shore could be

sold because the proceeds could fund a greater number of housing units in a less desirable (and not so well-serviced) place.

### The public housing black hole

With LAHC selling 2.5 housing units a day over the last ten years to pay the bills, it is unlikely that sales will translate into new housing. It is most likely to go the way of previous sales where it contributes to a net reduction of housing stock and pays the bills for running the system. This funding will only go to new housing if there is another source to cover the operating deficit.

### Myths about public housing

The Tenants Union have a good piece on their blog about this aspect of the government announcement (<http://tunswblog.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/the-truth-about-subsidies-at-millers.html>). Government conveniently forgets that the people in public housing are there because they put them there under a range of different arrangements. Some people are there because they have been workers and paid full rent all the time they were working and are now retired, others are there because they are young and with the multiple issues needed to qualify for public housing. *Continued on page 2*



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# Sydney needs more affordable housing

SAMUEL CLARK

**THE SALE of up to 300 public housing properties in Millers Point, The Rocks and Gloucester Street stands to further intensify the issue of homelessness in Sydney.**

The City of Sydney's latest biannual street count of people sleeping rough has seen a 26 per cent increase over the past year prompting further calls from the City of Sydney for the NSW and federal governments to provide more affordable housing. The "key to getting people off the streets is more social and affordable housing", a City of Sydney spokesperson explained.

However, a spokesperson for the Community Services Minister, Pru Goward, has disputed the figures of the street count, stating that the count is "subject to a range of variables that influence how the count takes place on the night. Parramatta Council conducted a street count on the same night in February 2014, which identified a small reduction in the number of homeless persons".

The sale of public housing puts further strain on a system that has 3,255 registered applicants for housing in the Sydney and Inner West region with expected waiting times of at best five years, to more than ten years.

The Sustainable Sydney 2030 report outlines the need to increase supply of affordable rental housing by nearly

8,000 by 2030. While new housing projects at Harold Park, Glebe and Zetland will provide 260 dwellings it will still not make up the 300 lost. However, Minister Goward has said that the money generated by the sales will be reinvested in the social housing system.

In the latest Worldwide Cost of Living Survey [the Economist Intelligence Unit], Sydney was identified as the fifth most expensive city in the world. The threat of poverty resulting in homelessness is very high for many on low incomes and living on benefits.

The introduction of the City of Sydney and Housing NSW funded "Way2Home" program and "Housing First" approach in 2010 has seen over 160 rough sleepers being assisted into long-term housing and support. With a focus on providing housing first and then support services it has relied on affordable housing projects such as Common Ground at Camperdown and Platform 70 by Bridge Housing Limited. Both these are now fully tenanted.

The results of these programs highlight the need for more affordable housing to protect the vulnerable from the traumatising experience of homelessness.

For assistance in dealing with homelessness call the Homeless Persons Information Centre on 1800 234 566 or the Inner City Homelessness Outreach & Support Service on 1800 505 501

## Why is this happening?

STATE GOVERNMENT NEIGHBOURHOOD SELL-OFF

Continued from page 1

**It will take longer to get off the waiting list for housing**

The tenants to be moved out of Millers Point will be given priority in allocations. The impact will be that 400 people on the waiting list that would have been housed over the next two years will now not be housed because those houses will go to people already in public housing. Until the promised houses are built there will be 300 less public housing units for those on the waiting list.

groups. If you have little mobility and have been in an area a long time that is where your support network is. The announcement that everyone would be moved out was not just about the loss of homes but also about the loss of friendship and support networks - the loss of community. As public tenants made up such a large proportion of the area it is also about the wholesale change of the area's character.

See page 4 and Editorial on page 9 for more on the housing sell-off. See also the REDWatch website, which includes material with broad implications for inner-city public housing: [www.redwatch.org.au/issues/public-housing/millers](http://www.redwatch.org.au/issues/public-housing/millers)

**Community and support networks**

Public tenants, like everyone else, take time to put down roots and develop their community support



Students hard at work Photo: Supplied

## Key to successful learning

HENRY WHITTAKER

**REDFERN: KEY College is one of the four independent accredited colleges operated by Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets. Established in 1996, Key College serves young people who are either homeless or who have unstable living situations and who want to pursue their School Certificate.**

Irish foods. Barry, long-time volunteer and retired schoolteacher, contributes to the discussion and helps to keep the students engaged.

Throughout the day Charis, a psychologist completing an internship with Key College, takes students out to coffee for impromptu counselling sessions.

English class ends and the students break for a "ploughman's lunch", consisting of the contents of Min's traditional Irish food basket. Ben Cook, who runs the school with Min, arrives with a student that he accompanied to a court appearance that morning. Ben kicks off the maths class, and despite a shaky start, the students quickly warm to the task of working through calculating how much salespeople make with different commission rates.

A core group of staff and a dedicated group of volunteers provide a small group of students with the individual attention and stable environment that they need to reach their goals. With the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reporting that 45,000 young people needed assistance for homelessness in 2013, it is clear that schools like Key College are desperately needed to help homeless youth remove themselves from the cycle of poverty and abuse that traps so many of them.

Key College is situated in an unassuming brick building just around the corner from Redfern Station. I recently spent the day there, observing what a typical day is for a Key College student.

Min Bonwick, the school manager, greeted me at 9.10am and showed me into a large classroom. The walls are covered with student work, world maps, and photos of students on school excursions. Min gets English class started with a small group of young people in attendance. The topic of the day is Ireland, which Min brings to life with comic Irish sayings and a basket of traditional

After maths it's off to the park to meet up with students from other schools to play Oz Tag, a non-tackling version of rugby league. It's boiling hot, but the students give it their all. One of the referees compliments a Key College student on scoring an impressive try.

In 2012, nine of the 27 students enrolled in Key College gained their School Certificate with some even continuing their studies at TAFE. One former student is currently teaching full-time at a Girls Detention Centre.

The key to Key College's success is their comprehensive approach to education, their commitment to "wrap-round" support, and their cultivation of a safe learning environment where students feel respected.

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**THE YOUTH OF TODAY**



# Ride, walk, scoot or skate to school

Tanya Plibersek and Principal Craig Nielsen with students of Crown Street Public School Photo: Andrew Collis

**SSH**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 19** saw the eighth National Ride2School Day. More than 250,000 students around Australia joined in the celebration – riding, walking, scooting or skating to school.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition and MP Tanya Plibersek showed her support, visiting students at the Crown Street Public School in Surry Hills. “I haven’t had

so many opportunities to ride in Canberra of late,” she said. “It’s great to be out riding in my local electorate today. I’m really impressed by the students’ bikes that have been decorated. Being active is fun as well as healthy.”

Active travel is a great way for students of all ages to meet their recommended daily dose of 60 minutes physical activity every day. National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity for Australian students and school

communities to embrace a healthier start and to try walking and riding to school for themselves.

Launched by Bicycle Network in 2006, Ride2School is a nationally run, year-round behaviour change initiative that works to make active travel normal for students while improving school outcomes. The program tailors its assistance to suit the needs or overcome the barriers faced by each school community. It helps students build the skills, know-how and confidence to make riding

and walking a normal part of their lifestyle, and encourages healthy lifestyles by increasing students’ physical activity levels. Schools that participate in the Ride2School program average an active travel rate of 50 per cent, more than double the national average.

Bicycle Network’s General Manager of Behaviour Change, Tess Allaway, said the success of the Ride2School program and its positive impact on students’ health is growing. “National Ride2School

Day allows the school community to embrace riding as an easy, fun and sustainable transport alternative,” she said.

[www.ride2school.com.au](http://www.ride2school.com.au)

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**There are few more powerful forces than an idea that makes a difference, so it is with some pride the University of Sydney is hosting another year of inspiring talks, forums and conversations with our 2014 season of Sydney Ideas.**

*Sydney Ideas* is the university’s premier public lecture series, showcasing some of the world’s leading thinkers. Since 2006 *Sydney Ideas* has featured over 300 of today’s greatest minds, including David Suzuki, Germaine Greer, Helen Clark, Lionel Shriver, and Gareth Evans.

The series highlights the essential role of the University in providing a bridge between the academic community and the public. Our 2014 program offers a range of free talks at different times to ensure access for everyone. The schedule for April will make your mind crackle.

On April 9, Dr James F Stark, Research Fellow, Leeds Humanities Research Institute, University of Leeds, will conduct a gripping journey into one of the oldest diseases on the planet.

Dr Stark’s talk *Death in 24 Hours: anthrax, industry and agriculture in the nineteenth century* explains how the expansion of international trade and exchange of medical knowledge in the 19th century gave anthrax its modern identity as a disease of people rather than animals.

Overshadowed substantially by the western front, the *Pacific theatre of World War One* has not yet attracted the recognition it deserves. On ANZAC day, April 25, a panel of researchers will make a fascinating start on redressing this gap as they investigate, consider and commemorate the role of the Pacific region in the global conflict of 1914-1918.

On April 28 join Gerard Hastings, Professor of Social Marketing at the University of Stirling for *The Marketing Matrix: Why I’m not lovin’ it, will not just do it, and sure as hell will never be worth it*. Co-presented by the Charles Perkins Centre and Sydney Law School, Professor Hastings explains how, in the hands of the corporate sector, marketing is turning us into spoilt, consumption-obsessed children who are simultaneously wrecking our bodies, our psyches and the planet.

You can view times and details of the full *Sydney Ideas* program at [www.sydney.edu.au/sydney\\_ideas](http://www.sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas). It really does have something for everyone.

Michael Spence  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

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**Sunday April 13 – 1pm**  
**Hyde Park North (near fountain), Elizabeth St, Sydney**

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# March for maintenance – voicing concerns of public housing tenants

IRENE DOUTNEY

ON THURSDAY March 27, the Hands Off Glebe group organised a march on Parliament to call on the Minister for Family and Community Services (FACS), Pru Goward, to address years of maintenance neglect, public humiliation of tenants and the growing sell-off of public housing assets. The rally attracted over 100 public housing tenants from across the city, the Coast and the Illawarra, and gave tenants the opportunity to raise their concerns in front of State Parliament.

The rally was addressed by the leader of the Opposition John Robertson and the Member for Balmain Jamie Parker whose speeches were followed by the voices of individual tenants representing different housing estates and the problems they are facing on a daily basis.

Kelly Elliott, a single mother from Waterloo, spoke of the appalling conditions she is living under, how she hates to return to her unit, and the way she and her child now avoid going home. Michael Reid from Joanna O’Dea in Forest Lodge described the years of battle to get maintenance and safety measures taken in his building, and how quickly the repairs are beginning to degrade with little response from the local office.

Barney Gardiner from Millers Point spoke of the devastating announcement by Minister Goward about the sell-off of all the public housing in Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks, pointing out that on the same day that



Protestors rally to defend public housing and demand better maintenance of public housing homes Photo: Lyn Turnbull

the announcement was made officers from the Department began knocking on doors to give the unsuspecting tenants their relocation notices. The distress that this caused the large contingent

from Millers Point was palpable. Finally, representatives from Hands Off Glebe spoke of the “demolition by neglect” that is facing so much public housing and the major sell-off of the Glebe Housing

Estate, its demolition and the lack of action in redeveloping the site. The grassroots rally was an important step for public housing tenants in forming new associations to make their voices heard in a

rapidly declining environment for public housing rights and tenant priorities. SSH  
.....  
Irene Doutney is a City of Sydney Greens Councillor.

# Launch of safe injecting centre renovations

SSH

**KINGS CROSS:** Tuesday March 18 saw the launch of new renovations at the Sydney MSIC (Medically Supervised Injecting Centre), along with a new book detailing the history of the service. The launch was emceed by Julie McCrossin, and attended by the Lord Mayor Clover Moore, Local Member Alex Greenwich and Councillor Jenny Green, with apologies from the Hon. Anne Symonds, ex-MLC and supporter of the MSIC, who sat on the original Joint Select Committee into Safe Injecting Rooms in the late 1990s.

Auspiced by UnitingCare, the harm reduction service has been operating since May 2001. Clearly successful in its primary aims of reducing death and injury associated with drug overdose, the Centre is popular with the local community, and has made a clear difference on the streets of Kings Cross where public drug use and needles in the gutter used to be commonplace.

The staff at the Centre used the launch to express their gratitude to UnitingCare, and specifically to the former Executive Director, Rev. Harry Herbert. “Quite simply, the place would never have happened were it not for the unswerving support it received from Rev. Herbert”, said Dr Marianne Jauncey, the Centre’s Medical Director. “We are so grateful that he has always stood up for us, even when it wasn’t



Dr Marianne Jauncey, John Carolan from Skope Constructions, and Tone Wheeler, architect and Director of Environa Studio Photo: Supplied

popular to do so.” The renovations were the first building works to be done on the Centre since it opened. Originally intending to provide only one additional onsite clinic room, Environa architect Tone Wheeler noticed a two-metre-high empty ceiling floor space. Thanks to the Rev. Herbert, who originally approved the investigation of this potential additional space, and then thanks to the incoming Executive Director, Peter Worland, who found the funding, the service now boasts its first meeting room, training mezzanine,

and dedicated storage space, along with the additional clinic room. The excitement of staff was palpable, thinking of the additional services they may now be able to provide to the marginalised and often homeless people who enter their doors on a daily basis. Wound care services, additional psychiatric/mental health services, dental care services, primary health services – all sorts of improvements are now possible. Dr Jauncey spoke of how successful the renovations had been managed, and thanked the architects, the

builders, and specifically the UnitingCare building project manager, Scott Ebbutt. “Nothing was ever too hard for Scott – he listened to everything we needed, albeit sometimes with a bit of a twitch in his eye! ... but would just nod, and say ‘I’ll sort it’. And, indeed, he did. The finished product is just perfect for us. We love it,” she said. Dr Jauncey also acknowledged the perseverance of staff who took all the hurdles of working on a building site in their stride, and would cheerfully mutter, “We are nothing if not

flexible”; and the clients, who were able to keep attending the service on all but three days over nearly four months of renovations. “It’s a testament to how well the whole team worked together – and part of why I love working here,” she said. The Rev. Harry Herbert had the audience laughing at his characteristically forthright take on things. He thanked Dr Ingrid van Beek, the founding Medical Director, for her courage in standing at the helm when it opened as the first service of its kind in the English-speaking world. And he let UnitingCare know that they were lucky to have Dr Jauncey now, to take that mantel forward. UnitingCare’s new Executive Director, Peter Worland, spoke eloquently of why this service is a flagship for UnitingCare. He quoted from a recent *Sun Herald* article where Dr Jauncey was interviewed, and said UnitingCare, equally, insists there is “always hope”. He pledged the ongoing support of UnitingCare. The lively and ever entertaining Julie McCrossin emceed the launch and celebration of a service that is unique in the southern hemisphere. Dr Jauncey told the SSH: “We can only hope that people continue the public discussion about drugs, that evidence for what works is included in these conversations, and that we take away some of the emotive aspects to it and remember that we are, after all, only ever just talking about people.” SSH





Photo: Thinkstock

# Long road for taxi driver entitlements

REBECCA LEMAY

**LONG-TIME TAXI driver, Mike Hatrick, has earned a well-deserved break. He is one of the few drivers who has received long-service leave after driving a taxi for the same company for more than ten years. According to Mr Hatrick, getting what was owed to him wasn't easy and there are many obstacles facing taxi drivers attempting to obtain their full entitlements.**

"I had been having a running dispute with the owner because he hadn't paid my annual leave. When my mother became very sick, I applied to take my compassionate leave and long-service leave together. He refused to pay the full amount and had been denying me shifts. Eventually it went to the NSW Industrial Relations Commission," he said.

According to Mr Hatrick, "the biggest problem lies in the unusual legal arrangement which exists between the owner of the vehicle and the driver, known as bailment". This means that drivers are considered to

be both sole traders and employees.

Under the Taxi Industry Contract Determination 1984, a bailee taxi driver is considered a permanent bailee if he or she has driven for the same bailor (owner) for at least 12 months, and completed 230 day shifts or 220 night shifts. The bailee is then entitled to five weeks annual leave, five days sick leave and long-service leave after ten years of continuous service.

However, for most taxi drivers these entitlements rarely see the light of day. "Owners do not automatically offer entitlements, so it is up to drivers to keep the records needed to prove their long-term status," said Mr Hatrick. "Many drivers are migrants with limited English skills, so it's very difficult for them to access information and educate themselves about their rights."

Steve Novak, an organiser for the Transport Workers Union (TWU), is aware of the problems in the industry. "A common problem occurs because owners often make verbal agreements with the driver to accept lower 'pay-ins' or rental, in exchange for eliminating sick pay

or holiday payments. Irrespective of these informal agreements owners are not exempt from their obligation to pay drivers their entitlements. Drivers are often unaware this is totally illegal or are bullied into accepting the conditions."

Lack of access to leave entitlements is a growing problem in other industries too because of the rise in casual employment and more frequent job switching. According to the Australian Council of Trade Unions, "Australians are working harder than ever, but only one in four of us will ever qualify for long service leave".

In 2010, Fair Work Australia recommended that a national scheme for portable long-service leave be investigated. "This would certainly help our taxi drivers, and a range of other transport workers," said Mr Novak.

The TWU is currently running a survey to collect vital information needed to step up their campaign to improve conditions for taxi drivers. They have handed out 4,000 flyers at both the domestic and international airport terminals in Sydney. SSH



Bridging Sydney City Assembly was launched by a choir that mirrored the diversity of community organisations, unions and religious organisations gathered in a packed Town Hall on March 26. "Tonight is about launching a campaign that aims to teach our political leaders and our civil society that there is a new way to do politics. That it is possible for citizens to come together from across all walks of life and agree on solutions to make our city a better place to live for everyone. Our common good agenda for transport, housing and jobs is widely and deeply felt across Sydney - and over the next year [in the lead up to the 2015 state election] we will work to make these meaningful changes a reality," said Amanda Tattersall, the coalition director. Photo: Lyn Turnbull



## Millers Point Sell-Off

Last week the O'Farrell Government announced it would sell off the almost 300 publicly owned homes in Miller's point.

They made this announcement with no consultation and no warning. These are 300 homes and families, some of which have lived in the area for generations.

This decision will have an absolutely devastating effect on the people who live in this community. Many are older residents who have lived in Millers Point their entire lives and have very deep roots in the area.

People often talk about the difference between a house and home being the people who live there. The same can be said for the difference between a suburb and a community. The difference between a suburb and a community is the people who live there, who have put down roots there, who send their kids to school there, who know and help each other in times of need.

One of the great things about Sydney and its history has been the mix of people who live in the city. It has always been a place where working class people can live close to the city. This decision takes us down a path where only the wealthy can live in or near the city.

I condemn the O'Farrell Government's decision.

It is a betrayal of the people of Millers Point and inner city Sydney. This is a Government which is blind to the community seeing only the monetary value of the properties they occupy. This decision is representative of a Government that does not respect public housing tenants and which does not understand the value of public housing.

I call supporters the residents to do all they can to help stop the sell-off of these people's homes.

**Tanya Plibersek**

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# The next great social justice movement

GEORGIA FLYNN

IN THE ten years since the animal protection institute Voiceless was established, the issue of animal protection has become a pressing political and social concern. "Animal protection resonates with Australians, because it speaks to their sense of justice", says Elise Burgess, Head of Communications at Voiceless.

"When we see shocking images of mother pigs confined in sow stalls unable to stand up or turn around, or of a broiler hen with her beak cut off, we know that this is wrong. With a little investigation, we also discover that it's completely unnecessary."

Voiceless was founded by Brian Sherman and his daughter Ondine Sherman in 2004. Since its establishment, Voiceless has attracted a swathe of high profile patrons and ambassadors, including Dr Jane Goodall DBE, Nobel laureate JM Coetzee, former High Court Justice Michael Kirby, Hugo Weaving and Abbie Cornish. Other public figures such as former Treasury Secretary Dr Ken Henry and former NSW Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs Bob Carr serve on the Voiceless Council.

"We're lucky enough to be supported by an influential network of high profile individuals who work to ensure the sustainability, growth and development of Voiceless into the future," says Ms Burgess.

Burgess acknowledges that Voiceless shares a number of goals with political parties such as the Greens and the Animal Justice Party. However, Voiceless' approach transcends politics to encompass engagement with universities, the legal community and smaller organisations within the animal protection movement.

The issues considered by Voiceless are diverse, ranging from live exports to the accurate labelling of animal



Photo: Thinkstock

products. Since 2004, Voiceless has created an annual Animal Law Lecture Series with some of the world's most prominent international animal law experts. It has encouraged writers and journalists to write about animal welfare issues through literary and media prizes and helped establish animal law as a discipline in many of Australia's universities.

Voiceless is particularly critical of what it describes as cruel and inhumane factory farming practices that are

permitted under state and territory laws and codes of practice.

"Farmed animals are conscious beings," says Ms Burgess. "They suffer pain, feel emotions and build strong relationships. These capacities ought to be considered when making laws about the treatment of animals."

At a roundtable on drones and privacy held by the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs in February this year, Emmanuel Giuffre, Legal Counsel for Voiceless, outlined the benefits of using surveillance drones – or unmanned aircraft – to increase the visibility over large-scale commercial agricultural facilities. While Voiceless does not itself use drones, Mr Giuffre argued that drones can help detect violations of animal cruelty regulations that would otherwise remain undiscovered.

"Drones and other surveillance tools play a very important role in raising awareness about the realities of factory farming," says Ms Burgess. "To date, such footage has resulted in the ACCC pursuing misleading and deceptive conduct against poultry farm operators."

Ms Burgess argues that public awareness is crucial to any social justice movement – and Voiceless believes that animal protection is the next great social justice movement.

"Changing the status quo of farming practices and how they are governed will depend on consumer and retailer demand for better animal welfare protections, such as what we have seen with Coles and Woolworths phasing out sow stalls and battery cages," she says.

"While law reform and policy are instrumental in changing the systemic cruelty issues in factory farming, these changes will undoubtedly be prompted by public demand and outrage." **SSH**

This year, Voiceless will celebrate ten years of working in animal protection. To donate to Voiceless please visit their website at [www.voiceless.org.au](http://www.voiceless.org.au)

## RockCorps helps out at Harris Community Centre

SSH

**ULTIMO:** UNITINGCARE Harris Community Centre was overrun by volunteers from Optus RockCorps early in March. Mulching, planting, hammering and painting, the crew of around 70 volunteers took to the task of overhauling the community centre's external spaces.

Community Services Manager for the RockCorps program, Milly Horsley, explains: "The Harris Community Centre is a real community neighbourhood centre that opens its doors to a whole cross section of the local community, running seniors activities, tai chi groups, play groups and support for the homeless. We chose the UnitingCare Harris Centre because it has a big heart and they were a great team to work with."

Oscar Sanchez from the Harris Community Centre worked with the RockCorps team to identify projects that the energetic volunteers could get stuck into and have fun whilst making a big impact. The team painted bright colourful murals in the children's play area, replanted and mulched the centre's



Oscar and Milly Photo: Supplied

gardens, painted a large welcome mural and using recycled pallets created planter boxes and benches for the Centres' clients.

After hearing about the project on Facebook, Shirley and Ben jumped at

the chance to do something close to home that would help their community. With painting and renovation on their job lists, the two volunteers have left behind an improved resource for their community. **SSH**

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AYCC volunteers outside Lend Lease AGM at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney (front page: Amelia Anthony and Ella Weisbrot, Lend Lease Head Office, Millers Point) Photo: Supplied

# A different kind of protest

ADA LEE

**TRADITIONALLY, THE stereotype of social justice action portrays angry placard holders shouting slogans of condemnation at institutions. However, an Australian environmental youth organisation has taken a different approach and it has proven successful.**

Walk past an Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) campaign and you are likely to find Nemo costumes, flowers being handed out on Valentine's Day or a summer beach party.

These were the tactics used by around 40 Sydney campaigners and many more across Australia in AYCC's latest four-month campaign calling on Lend Lease, Australia's biggest listed property developer, to withdraw funding from the controversial Abbot Point X (AP-X) Terminal expansion on the Great Barrier Reef.

On January 31, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) approved a proposal to dredge three million cubic metres of spoil from the Abbot Point coal terminal in the marine park. The port's expansion is to make way for the transportation of millions of tonnes of coal from Queensland's Galilee Basin via rail.

There have been several debates over the environmental impact this project will have. The GBRMPA has pointed to "47 stringent conditions" placed on the project to protect the reef but many environmentalists still fear the dredged sediment of sand, silt and clay will drift and smother corals, hindering coral regeneration.

Underlying AYCC's fun snap actions was a serious message about protecting the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. Throughout the campaign, AYCC representatives attended Lend Lease's shareholder meetings and together with petition website, SumOfUs, AYCC collected almost 170,000 signatures from individuals and 36 community groups who expressed concern for the reef's future.

It worked. On February 26, Lend Lease announced it would withdraw its funding from the AP-X coal port project.

### The journey

When AYCC first heard in October last year that Lend Lease agreed to participate in a joint bid with transport provider Aurizon Holdings to fund the AP-X terminal, they were "shocked" because it seemed to contradict Lend Lease's reputation for sustainability, said Ella Weisbrot, AYCC NSW

Co-Coordinator.

Lend Lease's core principle was stated by Founder, Dick Dusseldorp, in 1973: "Companies must start justifying their worth to society, with greater emphasis placed on environmental and social impact rather than straight economics" (published on Lend Lease's website).

Considering Lend Lease's "really good reputation for sustainability", AYCC decided to give them the benefit of the doubt, targeting shareholders at the Lend Lease AGM with a positive message.

"It's giving people the opportunity to do the right thing rather than assuming that they've already done the wrong thing," Weisbrot said. "Instead of just getting angry and waving a placard in their face, we had all these positive messages we could take to them and I don't think it's surprising that people respond better to positive messaging than to telling them that they're awful human beings."

### Economic interests

However, not all companies interested in the AP-X coal port are also interested in environmental sustainability. For many, including Lend Lease, commercial interests are

highly influential in decision-making.

In a call with analysts, Lend Lease CEO, Stephen McCann, said the withdrawal was partly due to "commercial drivers". He also pointed to environmental considerations among "other aspects".

With Rio Tinto pulling out of the AP-X project in 2012 and BHP Billiton pulling out in 2013, the recent withdrawal of Lend Lease has left campaigners optimistic that other companies will consider the project's lack of economic viability. "There is starting to be this sort of domino effect where companies are looking at the global coal market and looking at the kind of money that would need to be put in to tap this coal in Queensland and saying 'it's just not economically viable'," Weisbrot said.

Though coal prices are dropping, there are further concerns that this will push companies to compensate by extracting higher volumes, according to AYCC's other NSW Co-Coordinator, Millie Anthony. "It's like they can see the end point so they're just going hell for leather in the last 10, 15 years of the industry just trying to make as much money as possible with completely no regard to the impact that's going to have," Anthony said.

AYCC looks to the future

The latest success with Lend Lease has boosted AYCC's enthusiasm to fight for a safe climate future. "Sometimes a situation seems so vast. We're campaigning against organisations full of power and money," Weisbrot said. "But when things like this happen, it just shows you that we really do have power as young people and as a movement."

The AYCC's newest campaign, Safe Climate Roadmap, has just been launched to call on the government to not go backwards on climate change. Its three government policy goals are: moving away from coal and gas; moving to 100 per cent renewable energy within ten years; and reducing carbon pollution by 40 per cent by 2020.

"That's what science has told us needs to happen for a safe climate future. There's no point aiming for anything less because if what we're trying to do is avoid catastrophic climate change, those are the things we need to do," Weisbrot said. **SSH**

For more information, go to: [www.roadmap.org.au](http://www.roadmap.org.au).

Helping people help themselves



## VENDOR PROFILE



### ROBBO

Newtown is awash with characters and personalities. Walking down King Street is a thrilling experience, full of potential friends and stories. One of the new faces of Newtown is Robbo who sits outside the IGA or Newtown station selling *The Big Issue* in the afternoons.

Robbo's contagious smile and chirpy persona have helped him fit in perfectly both at *The Big Issue* and in Newtown. "I like it here. Most of the people are nice, some you don't get on with so well but I just smile and be polite."

The tough collapse of a long-term relationship saw Robbo wandering the streets for a year. "It was pretty hard because we had two kids together, but I still see the kids once a month. I miss them but if I'm a bit sad I have photos in my phone. I just look at them and it picks me up a bit, keeps me going."

It was a chance meeting with a staff member from *The Big Issue* that introduced Robbo to the magazine and he started selling four months ago. "It's been good, I like it. I was a bit shy before and it's kind of helped me get out of my shell a bit and get confidence in myself. I'm more happy with myself now than I was four months ago."

An avid Roosters fan, Robbo also likes ten-pin bowling and hopes to travel to Uluru and Perth once he has settled down and found full-time work. "I'm trying to find my own place and get full-time work but that's pretty hard, so I've just been doing this [selling *The Big Issue*] to keep my head above water."

If you or anyone you know could benefit from becoming a vendor for *The Big Issue*, please contact the Sydney office for more information: 125-127 Little Eveleigh St. Redfern; phone 8332 7200; email [sydney@bigissue.org.au](mailto:sydney@bigissue.org.au)

PHOTO BY SAMUEL CLARK

**The Big Issue is Australia's leading social enterprise. It is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that develops solutions to help homeless, disadvantaged and marginalised people positively change their lives. The Big Issue magazine is published fortnightly and sold on the streets by vendors who purchase copies for \$3 and sell them for \$6, keeping the difference.**

to find out more visit: [thebigissue.org.au](http://thebigissue.org.au)

# Prayerful protest for refugees

ANDREW COLLIS

**ON THE afternoon of Friday March 21, SBS news reported that five people had been arrested after holding a prayer vigil in protest against the government's asylum seeker policy. A group of nine protesters held the vigil in the foyer of the Sydney office of Immigration Minister Scott Morrison, in reaction to what they described as Australia's "cruel treatment" of asylum seekers.**

Participant Matt Anslow told SBS that the protest was not intended to target Mr Morrison in a negative way. "We were praying also for Mr Morrison, not in a way that was condemning or judgemental," he said.

Among those arrested was Jaxon Jennings, an active member of Hillsong Church in Waterloo. "I was arrested for trespass after praying ... for the 1,138 children currently being detained indefinitely in offshore asylum seeker detention centres," Mr Jennings said. "We chose to engage in the act of civil disobedience in response to a direct breach of human rights as recognised by the UNHCR."



The prayer vigil in the foyer of Scott Morrison's office Photo: Supplied

represents the gospel of Jesus Christ who welcomes the stranger and includes the last and the least. "We endorse the Minister's maiden speech where he quoted Desmond Tutu as saying, 'We expect Christians ... to stand up for the truth, to stand up for justice, to stand on the side of the poor and the hungry, the homeless and the naked, and when that happens, then Christians will be trustworthy and believable witnesses'. With this in mind, we sought to create

a space where we could work with Mr Morrison to find an appropriate solution to restoring humanity to those we have stripped it from with the labels of 'illegals' and 'boat people'. We believe that no innocent child should face the trauma of detention for seeking asylum in a country that prides itself on good ethics and moral will."

After requesting permission to pray for the Minister and the staff, Mr Jennings said, group members were invited by the

receptionist to stay. After approximately ten minutes, the office manager then asked them to leave the premises. Ultimately, the police were called to remove them.

"When the opportunity arose to be apart of a nonviolent demonstration that sought to humanise not only the asylum seeker but also the Minister as a brother in our faith, it almost seemed a given for me to be a part of [this demonstration]. We are also aware that Mr Morrison receives death threats and abuse for his actions ... we gave prayers of protection for himself and his staff. The consequences of such an action were clear and arrest was a consequence I was willing to accept for such a cause."

The protesters hope that Mr Morrison might "listen to his conscience regarding the 1,138 children in detention centres and act accordingly" despite the pressures of majority opinion. "We would be happy to meet with the Minister at any time for discussions about these issues," Mr Jennings said.

Those charged with trespass will appear in Sutherland Local Court on April 10. **SSH**

SSH editor Miriam Pepper took part in the vigil.





Panelists at the University of Sydney on March 8 Photo: Supplied

## Access to health care for women who have resettled in Australia

ISABELLA DINHUU

**ON ANY given day, thousands of women worldwide will be forced to flee their homes. They will join 42 million other people who are also displaced, as a result of persecution, conflict or natural disaster. Twenty-five per cent of these people will obtain refugee status, and of this portion, only 0.1 per cent will be resettled in Australia. Those who are fortunate to arrive on Australian soil face new challenges, including navigating their way around the complex Australian health care system.**

Saturday March 8, 2014, marked International Women's Day. Humanitarian medical organisation Médecins San Frontières, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, hosted a panel discussion on this day, exploring the health challenges faced by displaced women once they have arrived and resettled in Australia.

Women arrive from countries with already limited access to health services, including reproductive services. Of all childbirth deliveries in these countries, 42 per cent will have a complication and 15 per cent will have a life-threatening complication. A lack of access to health facilities leads to higher maternal mortality. Acute and chronic diseases are also common among women from

such countries, including diabetes and nutrition deficiencies such as anaemia, folate, vitamin D and iron deficiencies. A significant portion have experienced physical abuse including gender based violence, rape and female genital mutilation.

Accessing health care as a newly arrived refugee woman can be challenging as resettlement deprives these women of all they are familiar with. "There are barriers to obtain health services in Australia such as language, transportation, extra costs for specialist care which are not covered by Medicare, trust issues with service providers, lack of familiarity with the Australian health care system and the overall inflexibility of the system," says Bronwen Blake, Registered Nurse at the NSW Refugee Health Service.

"These women are Australian residents and have the same rights as other women, however I witness some being refused appointments with doctors due to the inconvenience of using an interpreter. There is a lack of knowledge in the health care sector relating to the rights of newly arrived refugees".

Psychological issues are another concern for health of newly arrived refugee women. "People don't talk about mental health of women where I come from. When you go to Australia, that's when people ask you, but over there you deny it. It is a silent issue," says Aduk Dau Gideon Duot, a South Sudanese refugee.

Mental health issues related to past trauma is not uncommon among refugee women. Many women report feelings of social isolation, anxiety, grief and depression, and rape related symptoms including guilt, shame, self-hatred, insecurity, and loss of confidence and self-esteem, especially if they are from societies that place high importance on virginity.

Similar to physical health care services, there are also limitations to accessing mental health care services. "These barriers experienced by refugee women include the unfamiliarity of the concept of counselling, lack of awareness of mental health care services, preoccupation with settlement needs, child care issues, language difficulties, transport and alternative methods of treatment," says Dr Nooria Mehraby, Clinician Trainer at STARTTS (Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors).

Although available institutions are in place to provide health care for women who have resettled in Australia, a gap in the service delivery remains. These women confront various challenges in navigating the Australian health care system, along with other resettlement issues; however they bring strength and resilience in extremely testing times. With improved understanding of barriers to accessing health care, these women will be better supported, creating a positive impact on the boarder community. SSH

## Development corridor a dividing wall

VICTORIA PEARSON

**EVELEIGH: IMAGES of the proposed Central to Eveleigh urban renewal have been broadcast on Channel Nine, concerning residents and protection groups in the area. The images, provided by UrbanGrowth NSW, depict many high-rise buildings built on top of the rail corridor between Central and Redfern train stations as a part of the Urban Renewal and Transport Program.**

Community action group REDWatch are worried about the fly-through images and the impact that the buildings will have on the community and local heritage sites. REDWatch spokesperson Irene Doutney said they are concerned with the "wall" that the high-rise buildings will create between Chippendale and Redfern.

"REDWatch were involved in some community consultation where UrbanGrowth said, 'What would you like?' and 'How would it work?' The one thing that everybody said was that they didn't want a wall built down the middle of the railway lines," she said. "Everybody said they wanted green corridors and parks, plenty of space that makes it all one area. Look at the fly-through - where's the green spaces? It's just a wall."

Kerrie Symonds, spokesperson for UrbanGrowth, said that the project is still in the early stages of investigation and that community consultation will "continue throughout 2014 to develop a concept for future planning of the Corridor in 2014".

"The fly-through should not be considered as final or detailed future development in the area. The community will continue to be involved in setting a vision and objectives in planning for future development," Ms Symonds said.

The future of local heritage sites has also come under scrutiny after the publication of the fly-through images. Ms Doutney said that members of REDWatch were concerned that there were buildings illustrated as being built where there are currently heritage sites. The heritage sites include the North Eveleigh site, the

Australian Technology Park and possibly some public housing in South Eveleigh.

While there has been no confirmation from UrbanGrowth that the heritage sites will remain untouched throughout the project, Ms Symonds has reiterated that the fly-through was produced to "encourage market interest in the Central to Eveleigh corridor and should not be considered as final or detailed future development in the area. The heritage sites within the area establish a unique character that will play an important part in future planning," she said.

Sarah Tombs, a resident of Redfern, says that the impact the project will have on the area could damage the community as a whole. "I really do hope that this [the fly-through as imaged] isn't what will actually happen, because it will just segregate us from surrounding areas. Redfern and the suburbs around us have a great vibe as a small community within a big city - there is a huge chance that that will disappear if this goes ahead like the pictures show."

UrbanGrowth said there has been little feedback since the images were made public on March 8, 2014. "There has not been a significant response to the fly-through. There have been positive comments regarding the potential for the railway line to be enclosed," Ms Symonds said.

At this stage the primary concern of UrbanGrowth is "to meet the future needs of Sydney residents and business, including providing more links across the rail corridor, improved public domain and better transport experiences," she added.

However, Ms Doutney says that UrbanGrowth's lack of feedback and acknowledgement of community concerns has been disappointing. "Since going to the consultation we were promised the minutes - we never got them. We couldn't lay eyes on the fly-through until it was released by UrbanGrowth to the media," she said. "This is so 'government' - to invite you to participate in consultation and then never give you the results. There was no consultation on what they were going to release, and what they've released is exactly what people didn't want." SSH

## Gaza's Ark brings welcome relief

MICHAEL COLEMAN

**LAST YEAR, I spent four months in the Gaza Strip working with the Gaza's Ark project, a joint initiative of Palestinians in Gaza and international solidarity activists. Gaza's Ark is challenging the illegal and inhumane blockade with a trade-not-aid focus.**

Gaza's Ark not only challenges the blockade physically, as previous flotillas have done, but also provides investment, training and employment in Gaza. The project simultaneously promotes Palestinian trade with the outside world through the only Mediterranean port closed to shipping.

The human costs of the blockade have been well documented, although seldom reported. Eighty per cent of the population of Gaza are now aid-dependent, while the virtual ban on exports has helped unemployment in Gaza soar to over 35 per cent, with exports only 5 per cent of what they were in 2007.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has pointed out that

"the whole of Gaza's civilian population is being punished for acts for which they bear no responsibility". The ICRC asserts that the "closure therefore constitutes a collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law".

My time in Gaza strengthened my belief in the importance of Gaza's Ark. The high rate of unemployment in Gaza is a direct effect of Israel's illegal blockade and no amount of aid will change the despair of those currently unemployed. By attempting to establish a trade route between Gaza and the rest of the world, Gaza's Ark is providing a ray of hope to the Palestinians of Gaza for an economy independent of the occupying power.

This is a vital step towards self-determination, a step the Oslo process of the 1990s - which was supposed to lead to a final peace in the region - has failed to deliver.

Gaza's Ark, to me, and to many Palestinians in Gaza, is much more than a trade mission. It is an act of solidarity, which raises awareness of the situation the residents of Gaza currently

face, summed up by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in its recent comprehensive report on the Palestinian enclave, which concluded that: "Gaza will no longer be 'liveable' by 2020 unless urgent action is taken to improve water supply, power, health and schooling" ([www.unrwa.org/ar/node/7856](http://www.unrwa.org/ar/node/7856)).

With governments around the world ignoring Israel's regular violations of international law, I feel it is important to show the Palestinian people - through direct actions - that our governments do not speak for us with regard to the human rights of Palestinians. History has shown that on issues of social justice, it is usually people who lead and governments that follow.

Gaza's Ark will progress, but it needs your support. You can help fund the refurbishment process, or you can purchase Palestinian products that will be exported aboard the Ark. And let's be honest, how often in this modern world do you get a chance to purchase a share in hope? SSH

More information at [www.gazaark.org](http://www.gazaark.org)

## Inflation elation

M.A. KORENBLIUM

**APRIL 1: New evidence of cosmic inflation has scientists pumped up about the Big Bang.**

Astronomers working on the BICEP2 telescope at the South Pole have confirmed the unique signature of light polarisation on the cosmic background radiation, prompting celebration from physicists worldwide, except for those who recently published papers arguing against inflation theory.

"We used to think the early universe was sort of like a big explosion", enthused Professor Gurns, Physics Chair at Stultorum College. "Then we thought it was more like a big ball of string. Now we think it's sort of like a puffer fish! It's very exciting." SSH

The Professor, at one

time a resident of Redfern, then handed us a brightly coloured drink with a small paper umbrella in it.

Dr D'Avril of the Prima Institute added: "There's just something very heart-warming about gargantuan primordial gravitational waves. And now that we know we're barking up the right tree, think of all the complex mathematics we can build from this!"

However, Dr Poisson of ANNU was less sanguine. "It's all very well to build huge telescopes," he said morosely. "But is it too much to ask for evidence of the universe's baby steps not to show up three weeks after someone's completed a very mathematically sound paper arguing that it was born with wheels?"

Dr Poisson also offered us a drink, but without the paper umbrella. SSH



# Hollow men & hollower words

OPINION

ROSS SMITH

ON TUESDAY November 23, 2010, the Hon. Greg Pearce told the NSW Parliament that there were concerns about the government of the day using special state planning powers and procedures without proper consultation with Department of Housing tenants or surrounding communities, and called on the government to consult each community and address their concerns before plans were finalised and development commenced on proposed public housing developments. He condemned the government for steamrolling local communities and overriding local planning controls in its construction of social housing, and called for the government to hand planning decisions back to local communities. He went on to say: "Our vision is for a NSW ... where everyone has the opportunity to rent or buy a decent home at a price they can afford, in a sustainable community and in a place where they want to live and work."

On Wednesday March 19, 2014, the position advocated by the Hon. Greg Pearce was publically abandoned at a press conference convened by the government. In the interim there had been a change of government. Whilst the press conference was being held at a location outside Millers Point, faceless individuals, who did not even bother knocking on front doors, were pushing computer-generated letters headed "Moving

to a New Home" under doors in Millers Point and The Rocks.

These letters were the means by which the residents of Millers Point and The Rocks were told that the properties in which they, and in many cases their great grandparents, had built and maintained their homes, were to be sold, and their community was to be destroyed. This happened during an unfinished government-operated "consultation" with the residents and within a week after the single day of public hearings of the current Legislative Council Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing Inquiry into social, public and affordable housing. Moreover, the public announcement of the sale of the properties was made against a background of the incumbent government's decisions for the area now known as Barangaroo, which abuts Millers Point and The Rocks.

The government's economic argument in favour of its decision to sell its residential properties does not take into account the adverse future impact on the state's economy arising from the generated additional demand on the Health, Community Services and Education budgets arising from the fall-out of the "sale". In light of the Millers Point and The Rocks sale announcement, the Hon. Greg Pearce's words of Tuesday November 23, 2010, have a hollow ring. The issue is raised as to whether the same hollow ring will resound for Redfern, Waterloo, Erskineville, Mascot, Maroubra, Eastlakes, Kingsford, indeed anywhere that there is government-owned residential property.

SSH



cartoon: HRH norrie mAy-welby

EDITORIAL

SSH

LAST MONTH the NSW government and Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) produced a media pack in addition to the widely available media release from Minister Goward. The pack provides an insight into how LAHC managed the media at the same time as keeping information from NGOs that may have provided alternative perspectives.

It includes (from the government's perspective): case studies on maintenance issues in Millers Point and a section arguing subsidies are provided to tenants in Millers Point. Supposed subsidies are shown for other low-income areas to highlight LAHC's argument. There's a section on earlier relocations of people

from Millers Point to some of LAHC's newer inner-city properties. It makes you wonder, if LAHC were to repeat such a well-orchestrated campaign, what might be said

about "subsidies" in Redfern, Waterloo, Glebe, Surry Hills or Woolloomooloo, and what case studies might be presented about people in our communities.

SSH

## A time for lament

FAITH

PETER MAHER

RECENTLY, CHRIS Sidoti, the past Australian Human Rights Commissioner, lawyer, advocate, educator and activist, spoke at our church on the future of human rights in Australia. He spoke passionately about the shocking record of the last ten years when we have gone from "best practice" on issues of international treaties in the eyes of the world to a position of shame and ridicule internationally. This is due mainly to our record on those who seek asylum in this country and arrive here by sea.

We have simply ignored our responsibilities under the treaties we have signed. We have denied people landing rights, a clear process for assessing their claims in a reasonable time, and we are guilty of detaining them unlawfully and inhumanely with no prospect of being freed.

Chris Sidoti said that while our record with Indigenous Australians is better, we are far from addressing what needs to be done if we are genuinely to work towards "closing the gap". And we have some way to go in the area of the rights of the child, he noted. In the question time that followed, we discussed the changes to the racial vilification act which could make "hate speech" more acceptable if we are not careful.

The event was a little disheartening. Is there any hope of moving against the tide of a frightened Australia, a country so self obsessed that we are willing to let our government perpetrate human rights abuses in our name? Or are we anaesthetised and paralysed by the complexity and enormity of the problem? The general feeling that night was that we must not allow ourselves to be trapped by a sense of hopelessness. But what can we do?

This time in the Christian calendar is called Lent. It is a time of prayer and fasting, leading us to Easter. Sometimes it has been marked by practices such as giving up something we like or

doing a good deed for someone. This can be a little superficial. In the light of Australia's human rights record and practice at this time, might we not attempt something a little more substantial and relevant to today's world?

Catholic Religious Australia, a group representing all the Catholic orders of priests, brothers and sisters in Australia, has suggested we engage in a National Lament of prayer, penance and action for people seeking asylum in Australia. "We are seeking to make a Christian response to these people, rather than treating them as a 'problem' to be solved," they said.

"Many people throughout Australia are disturbed by the punitive and harsh policies and conditions to which people seeking asylum in Australia are being subjected. The recent incident on Manus Island, and the death of one person and the injury of many, highlight the lack of care and dignity in the policies of both the Government and the Opposition and the absence of awareness of their legal and moral responsibilities," they said.

Catholic Religious Australia suggests we can make Lent relevant this year by keeping asylum seekers in mind; becoming more aware of their plight and writing to the politicians. This is a form of prayer and fasting that might mean something.

Its inspiration is from the words of Pope Francis when he visited Lampedusa to meet asylum seekers. Adapting these words to Australia, Catholic Religious Australia suggest we can lament this way: We lament the lack of compassion for people seeking asylum in Australia, we lament the denial of human dignity and freedom, we lament the indifference, we lament our inability to turn the tide.

SSH

Peter Maher is the parish priest of St Joseph's Catholic Church, Newtown. He was recently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to religion and to the community, through a range of programs promoting acceptance and diversity.

READERS' LETTERS

### Feeling insulted by Sydney University

Once again Michael Spence has said he wants to be a "good neighbour". But yet again he has not been. As the Vice Chancellor of Australia's leading University, he should have been able to follow the simple requirements set down by the Director General. But he couldn't do that. As an Anglican Minister, you would think that he'd do the right thing by his neighbours. But we were ignored as though we didn't exist. As a lawyer, he can spin it so it looks like the University's done the right thing and the Director General is taken in. The future looks grim for any respectful behaviour coming from students of the University when their VC can't follow the Director General's Requirements, can't show any respect and can't even keep his word. The Darlington community doesn't want to stop the University's progress but it is disappointing that after many years of us building a relationship with the University, they still can't show us proper respect.

ME McCue  
Darlington

I am a Darlington resident (of 29 years) involved in RAIDD and other community groups. I am appalled that Sydney University has the audacity to amateurishly imply that it consulted with RAIDD & REDWatch about its CIP documentation to the Department of

Planning prior to February 28. These community groups were quick to respond to the Department that this was not the case. The university then "agreed" to extend its consultation to March 28. I am also concerned about the extent of student accommodation planned for a corridor along City Road from south of Butlin Avenue (the Merewether Building) to Cleveland Street. It appears that functional buildings are being demolished only to be replaced by higher storey ones. Overall, the "improvements" to the University are very over-represented in the Darlington Campus. And the "community benefits" repeatedly touted in the University's CIP documentation have yet to be described, let alone measured. The current lingo has been absorbed by the University - but it means nothing unless demonstrated

Rosie Wagstaff  
Darlington

Sydney University's massive expansion plan, as revealed by the SSH [March 2014], should be ringing alarm bells in Darlington. Of particular concern is the University's intention to degrade the heritage value of terrace houses from 86-130 Darlington Road. These terraces have been listed as heritage items by the National Trust with an "A" rating. Despite this, the University plans to fill in the entire backyards of all but three of these terraces with massive modern three-storey extensions. No resident in Darlington can fill in the backyard with a massive extension; why should the University be able to? This plan carries on the University's long tradition of destroying Darlington's heritage.

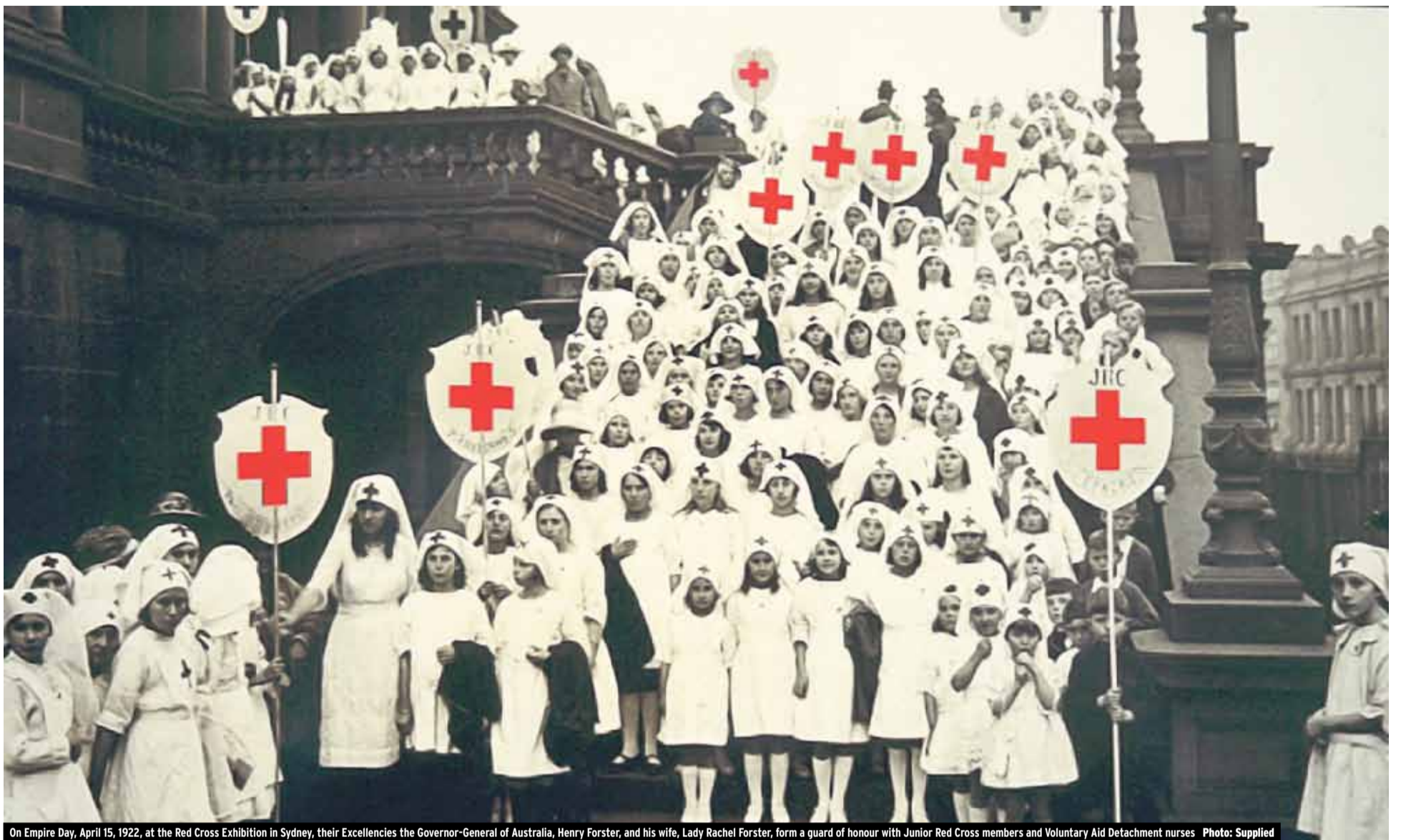
To date, the Uni has bulldozed 650 Victorian terraces, a Victorian Gothic Revival Public School, Town Hall, Post Office and other important buildings in Darlington. The University administrators, from the Vice Chancellor downwards, should hang their heads in shame. Wake up Darlington, object to this development plan NOW!

Jim Fleming  
Darlington

The University did not consult with the community in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for its Campus Improvement Program (CIP), despite having been instructed to do so in the Director General's Requirements. By including a list of RAIDD members, the University attempted to make it look as though this consultation had taken place. But these people had attended meetings in regard to the Abercrombie Precinct Development, not the CIP. Inexplicably, the University chose to ignore the Director General's Requirements in relation to community consultation. Not only that, it then tried to hoodwink the Director General by making it appear that the required consultation had actually taken place. It seems that this deception has worked. The Director General, in a letter to REDWatch dated March 7, 2014, has said that the EIS "satisfactorily addressed the DGRs". The future of community involvement in planning in NSW is indeed dire if statutory requirements can be so easily ignored

Colin Sharp  
RAIDD (Residents Acting In  
Darlington's Defence)





On Empire Day, April 15, 1922, at the Red Cross Exhibition in Sydney, their Excellencies the Governor-General of Australia, Henry Forster, and his wife, Lady Rachel Forster, form a guard of honour with Junior Red Cross members and Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses. Photo: Supplied

# Centenary of Red Cross in Australia

As ANZAC Day draws near, we are invited to remember and honour the sacrifices made by men and women during wartime. It also provides a space to celebrate the support of thousands of Australian volunteers working here and abroad supporting the vulnerable both during the wars, and also in peacetime.

MELISSA GIBSON

**IN 2014, Red Cross will celebrate 100 years of humanitarian service in Australia. Lady Munro Ferguson, the wife of the then Governor General, began the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society on August 13, 1914, nine days after the outbreak of World War I.**

Support for Red Cross was overwhelming, and hundreds of thousands of volunteers signed up during World War I. Here in NSW alone, more than 300 branches were created in the first three months.

The Centenary of Red Cross this year is a great Australian story about the extraordinary generosity and compassion of everyday people helping people. I joined Red Cross almost four years ago. It's an honour to reflect on our remarkable history, to celebrate our achievements and thank generations of Australians for their support. For the past 100 years, Red Cross has been woven into the fabric of Australian life and has touched the lives of most people in some way.

The Red Cross idea was born in 1859, when Henry Dunant, a young Swiss businessman, came upon the scene of a bloody battle in Solferino, Italy, between the armies of imperial Austria and the Franco-Sardinian alliance. Witnessing 40,000 men lying dead or dying on the battlefield, with no medical attention for the wounded, Dunant organised local people to bind the soldiers' wounds and to feed and

comfort them, regardless of which side the wounded men were on.

As a result of his belief that more should be done globally to alleviate human suffering without discrimination, Red Cross was formed in 1863. Its emblem was a red cross on a white background: the inverse of the Swiss flag. The following year, 12 governments adopted the first Geneva Convention, enshrining care for the wounded and defining medical services as "neutral" on the battlefield. To this day, the Red Cross emblem during battle signifies a cease-fire.

since 1914. Red Cross is inviting Australians across the country to share their memories through the Centenary Story Collection ([redcross.org.au/centenary](http://redcross.org.au/centenary)). Already hundreds of people have submitted their inspiring stories of helping or being helped by Red Cross. Today, there are over one million Red Cross volunteers, members, staff, donors, aid workers and supporters reaching right across the country, and further afield, operating in more than 1,000 locations across every state and territory.

The Red Cross network affords

*The Centenary year represents a major achievement for Red Cross, and a significant milestone in the social history of Australia*

By WWII Red Cross had become Australia's largest charitable organisation – from a population of seven million, nearly half a million people were Red Cross members. Most of them were women.

In the post-war period Red Cross focused on social welfare, national emergencies, natural disasters, the blood service and first aid programs, sustained by our extensive national network and thousands of volunteers.

The Centenary year represents a major achievement for Red Cross, and a significant milestone in the social history of Australia. Most Australians have shared a personal connection with Red Cross

an unparalleled reach. Staff can mobilise volunteers and resources to target the most disadvantaged communities in Australia and overseas, wherever they are, to break the cycle of disadvantage and reduce vulnerability.

In NSW last year alone, Red Cross provided almost 8,500 visits to more than 500 vulnerable people through the Community Visitors program. Our staff worked with more than 150 volunteers to assist more than 3,000 people through bushfires and floods. Our Telecross volunteers made almost 830,000 phone calls to check on the wellbeing of vulnerable, isolated people in NSW.

Red Cross provides vital support to refugees, asylum seekers, immigration detainees and other people who are vulnerable as a result of migration.

Red Cross has Humanitarian observers who assess and monitor the general conditions of detention and treatment of people held in Immigration Detention Centres, supports people with no visa status who are permitted to live in the community and addresses basic health and welfare requirements of highly vulnerable clients while their immigration status is being resolved. The organisation also runs the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme, providing financial assistance and health care to asylum seekers, the Emergency Relief program, providing one-off assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in financial hardship, and supports people who have been trafficked or forced into marriage. They also work to reconnect family members whose loss of contact is caused by international or internal conflict, war and disaster.

Vulnerable young people are a well-established priority. The Young Parents program, a residential program located in Sydney, provides 24-hour support, accommodation and intensive case management to young women aged 13-19 and their children, with a view to developing safe and healthy relationships, self awareness and independence. Case management is also available for partners where appropriate. An Outreach program assists parents under 25 in semi-

supported independent living to manage parenting challenges and access opportunities and Aftercare maintains contact with families, providing referrals and support to mainstream services as required.

Staff members and 42 save-a-mate (SAM) volunteers were also out and about at seven music festivals and events. SAM crews aim to reduce harm arising from alcohol and other drugs at these events, by engaging patrons and providing non-judgemental care and support. Volunteers rove festival grounds providing free sunscreen, water and fruit, and keep an eye out for anyone suffering from the effects of alcohol or other drugs or heat stress. These patrons can choose to spend some time in designated Chill Out Spaces, where they are cared for by trained volunteers and taken to the First Aid tent if their condition worsens.

I knew Red Cross ran the life-saving Blood Service, and that they were always there helping during disaster and emergencies, but I was thrilled to find out just how involved Red Cross has become across so many important areas. And when my daughter, Amelia, signed up as a SAM volunteer, I was secretly really proud that she was keeping up 100 years of tradition by volunteering with Red Cross.

Red Cross continues to rely on generous public support to carry out vital everyday work and wants to make sure it continues to come to the aid of vulnerable people into the future. To find out how you can help Red Cross change lives visit: [redcross.org.au](http://redcross.org.au)



## No place like Home Base

JULIA JACKLIN

**LAST MONTH the SSH ran an interview with Charlie from Heaps Decent, the Australian-based dynamic arts organisation that works with young people and emerging artists from marginalised and disadvantaged communities, about their Home Base workshops. This month Julia Jacklin headed to the Redfern Community Centre to get a glimpse at the inner workings of the Heaps Decent workshop.**

The workshop has been running for the last two years and takes place on the second level of the Redfern Community Centre. On this Monday afternoon there are seven people participating in the workshop.

On a table to the right, two girls are sitting down with a Heaps Decent producer drawing inspiration from a Beyoncé music clip whilst to the left, a small group with their heads together over a laptop listen with another producer to a new song mix.

In the Home Base studio space, three boys use the desk area to work on some new lyrics, whilst the Home Base audio engineer mixes a new song recently recorded in the studio.

The studio space consists of an

upright piano, various percussive instruments, about ten guitars, a mixing desk and a small vocal booth. Three people facilitate the workshop; two producer/DJs who write the beats, and an engineer who records and mixes the tracks.

When I arrived they had just finished production on a song written by some of the artists about their mothers. Heartfelt lyrics, slick production and a stick-in-your-head chorus made for an impressive piece of work. You can hear it on the Heaps Decent Soundcloud along with a multitude of tracks produced from various workshops.

Stu Turner is one of the producers facilitating the workshop. His background in electronic music brought him into the project and is utilised in his Heaps Decent collaborations. He said one of the main benefits of the Home Base workshop is the amount of time they have to work with the artists. The three-hour sessions enable the producers to get to know the artists, figure out what they want from the sessions and have sufficient time to experiment with their musical ideas.

Alongside assistance with songwriting and production, a strong emphasis is placed on the use of social media as a promotional



Young artists strike a pose. Photo: Julia Jacklin

tool. The producers help create and maintain music profiles on Facebook, Soundcloud and Triple J Unearthed, making sure the tracks

reach as many people as possible.

As I left, I stopped to chat to a young man with aspirations to be a DJ when he grows up. Next week

he hopes to bring his best friend along, maybe even collaborate together on a song. But he has to ask his grandmother first.



Julia with Poncho, Jeremy with Jess Sim, and Daniel with Penelope at Cowbell 808 Café. Photo: Andrew Collis

## Short courses for latte learners

ANDREW COLLIS

**SURRY HILLS: Cowbell 808 is an 80s-themed café in Bourke Street. Posters of David Bowie, Phil Collins, Gloria Estefan and Cyndi Lauper adorn the walls. On Wednesday evenings the café is also a venue for all kinds of educational activity. On Wednesday March 19, a Film Noir Appreciation class was followed by a Sock Puppetry workshop.**

The activity is part of the Laneway Learning network established in Melbourne a few years back. It's a wonderful concept: diverse subjects, passionate instructors, small groups, online registration, social interaction.

Elyse and Kate have not taught sock puppetry before. Their experience has grown out of frustrated attempts to learn crochet at home. "We just thought, let's make sock puppets instead," Kate laughs.

At 7.45pm the tables and chairs are rearranged into two long work stations, and the data projector is set up. We have no clear expectations. "I'm intrigued," says one participant, a 20-something architect out with a friend. "Maybe I'll make something for my little niece," says another. A general mood of merriment prevails.

Fake fur and sheets of coloured felt are distributed, with wool and thread, party ribbon, buttons and socks. I select a dark grey sock, thinking to make a statement with contrasting sequins, sparkles and pom-poms.

The next hour-and-a-half rolls by amid frantic cutting, gluing and sewing. Kate and Elyse assure us there are no rules and we commit to our task with artistic fervour.

My conversation partner creates a puppet that is more embroidered coffee cup than sock. "It's a hat!" she exclaims.

Characters range from the long-haired to the big-nosed,

from pretty-cute to scary-cute. I decide I've created a river monster – with catfish whiskers and a pink-ribbon bow. Julia, Jeremy and Daniel introduce a trio of svelte figures – singers and dancers it seems.

An Abbey Road image projected on the far wall entices some puppets to pose like John, Paul, George and Ringo. We take photos. Phone numbers are exchanged. A successful and highly social evening comes to a close. Thanks to Kate and Elyse, and the good folk at Cowbell 808 (the name references a distinctive 80s drum machine).

Laneway Learning classes usually cost \$12, and numbers are limited to around 20 people to keep it friendly. Upcoming classes include: *The Sustainable Way to Make Chutney*; *Stargazing: A Beginner's Guide to the Galaxy*; *Blues Harmonica for Beginners*; and *How to Run Better*. For more information visit [www.lanewaylearning.com](http://www.lanewaylearning.com)



# The Reviews

## Theatre Review by Catherine Wood



**High Windows, Low Doorways**  
A multi-playwright project  
Director: Paul Gilchrist  
Producer: Daniela Giorgi  
March 19-30, 2014  
TAP Gallery (Downstairs Theatre)

*The Political Hearts of Children* was one of my favourite productions from big or little theatre in 2013. As *High Windows, Low Doorways* used the same immensely successful collaborative approach, and the chosen theme, spirituality, was particularly challenging, I was eager to see this first subtenuance production of the season. I was not disappointed: as an exploration and evocation of intense and life-changing experiences it was brilliant.

Several stories emphasise rejection of the life-denying aspects of religion, tradition and authority. A schoolgirl (actor, Kit Bennett, writer, Alison Rooke) questions the narrow exclusivity of the faith espoused by her Anglican school principal (Helen Tonkin) and the straitjacket of a traditional faith is questioned by a young Lao girl (Alice Keohavong, Katie Pollock) from a Buddhist family despite the maternal threat that she will be reincarnated as a 'cockroach'. A middle-aged man (Matt Bucher, Jonathan Ari Lander) recalls his grandmother, whose inclusive love and vitality, remain as a unique experience. In each of these stories, a simple object, the schoolgirl's spilled satchel/the principal's scarf, the unbuttoned jacket of Peter Rabbit, grandmother's swinging pearls reference a complex realisation.

Linking each of these stories is the courage needed for individuals to break away from confining beliefs. In an absurdly entertaining twist, and cleverly managed transition, we are introduced to the persona of intrepid Barry (Gavan Roach, Mark Langham) who dares to take the first step while the crowd, afraid of sunrise, afraid of sunset, and of the in-between, cower in the back of the cave. Barry's eagerness to test 'What ifs' however is tempered by the parable of 'dead Reg'. The sheer energy released in this performance is a joyful experience.

By contrast, revelatory experiences are evoked with great delicacy and haunting beauty. The story of year 2012 in which a tremulous, uncertain girl (Naomi Livingstone, Ellana Costas) was "stalked by feathers" is not only deeply touching emotionally but also is very much a picture of a moment of mysterious grace. Her newly discovered "lightness of being" is unforgettably conveyed. In a lovely meditation on the capacity to wonder, the final story is set in a desert, the tale-teller a woman (Helen Tonkin, Melita Rowston), waiting to video the opening of the sacred datura in fibonnaci sequence. She is busy with her camera and an internal monologue as she reflects on the role of her father

in shaping her interest in nature. When technology fails at the crisis moment, and she watches rather than records, sees the flower unfold, she herself opens to the silence of wonder. It is a powerful few moments. We feel as the motorbike cyclist (Peter McCallum, Noelle Janaczewska) at the moment after collision, "thrown high in the air".

This is little theatre at its best: limited in space but huge in impact. Congratulations to the team, including Tom Massey, stage manager and Ashley Walker, sound design.

## Theatre Review by John Lanzky



**Wulamanayuwu and the Seven Pamanui**  
Written by Jason De Santis  
Directed by Eamon Flack  
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre  
March 22, 2014

"Aboriginal culture is being reframed through a new appreciation of Indigenous language" is one way of describing the play *Wulamanayuwu and the Seven Pamanui* starring local Redfern Aboriginal woman Dalara Williams. Williams studied performing arts at Sydney TAFE Eora College Darlington as well as at Edith Cowan University, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). Being on the stage has been her life ambition and she is a very convincing actor.

The play, written by Jason De Santis and directed by Eamon Flack, is currently on a national tour and has already played to full houses in Brisbane, Logan, Wollongong and Parramatta. It will continue on to Taree, Bathurst and then to Cairns, Darwin, Perth and Melbourne.

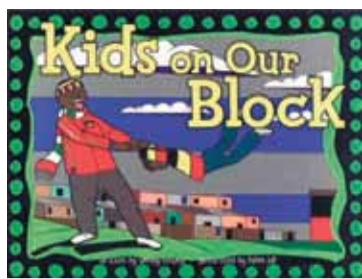
*Wulamanayuwu and the Seven Pamanui* depicts the Aboriginal version of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* in English and Tiwi language. Miniature Tiwi ceremonial poles are brought to life as *Wulamanayuwu*'s seven brothers by a very able cast, including Williams. Perhaps the play could be considered just for children with the seven cute Tiwi designed muppets, however, the cast cleverly ensures that adults are equally entertained by humour and clever delivery of rhyme.

*Wulamanayuwu and the Seven Pamanui* covers the whole range of emotions from comedy, sadness, fear and at the same time educates the audience about Aboriginal culture and the Tiwi language. Cast members speak in Tiwi language and then aptly translate into English.

The play features an all-Aboriginal cast, including Natasha Wangas Wanganeen who also starred in *Rabbit Proof Fence*.

» [theatre@ssh.com.au](mailto:theatre@ssh.com.au)

## Book Review by Katie Gompertz



**Kids on our Block**  
Wendy Notley and Adam Hill  
Blake Education, 2009

*Kids on our Block* is an adaptation of a song by Aunty Wendy's Mob, adapted for the book by Wendy Notley herself, who is notable for her lifelong dedication to the teaching of children. Notley is one of the longest working non-Aboriginal teachers at the Murawina Child Care Centre in Redfern. The book is beautifully illustrated by Adam Hill,

a familiar name in the art world for his public artworks that have adorned the walls of schools, council structures, shopping malls, banners and flowerbeds.

It is a story of how youth play together, talk together and stay together. It shows a sense of community, what kids can do if the local pool is closed or the weather is bad. It's sweet; it's innocent. It's a lovely story to tell all of our young, regardless of race and culture, that only boring people get bored.

What is most striking about the book, apart from the constant message and feel of community, is its vibrancy from start to finish; from the bright smiling faces of the children to the wonderful choice of colours consistent throughout.

The words read like a song, it's rhythmical, it's easy and it's clear to see why Aunty Wendy's Mob was and remains so successful. Given the sense of rhythm in the text it's easily translated into a nursery rhyme to sing to an unsettled child, take this as tried

and tested from yours truly.

For the reader, it is helpful that there is a small glossary at the start of the book that translates some of the key words used. It is an added importance to ensure an understanding for the reader, and their children, as this is the key in preserving this beautiful language and educating our youth about the language of their fellow children in Australia.

What is also notable is the choice of the colour palette from Hill, incorporating true Aboriginal colours from his own artwork and the flag takes pride of place without being the centre of attention, a testament to Hill's subtle ability to pay tribute to his heritage.

Wendy Notley continues to present her songs, dances and stories in preschools, and though the book was published in 2009, the story is still relevant, important and has a place in my children's bookcase.

» [books@ssh.com.au](mailto:books@ssh.com.au)



Sally Simpson, *Venerated Remains* Trio, 2012 Image: Supplied

## Fish bones & cattle bones, lace, mud & gold-leaf ...

SSH

"MY WORK comes out of my way of life. I attempt to continue the timeless tradition of humans making artefacts from materials at hand in order to make sense of the natural world. Land changes constantly, but so do our values about it, and constant change is what interests me" (Sally Simpson, 2013).

Sally Simpson's work reflects her fascination with the way values and meaning, assigned to land and the environment, change over time according to point of view, culture and situation. She uses unexpected methods to transform natural and human-made materials found at particular sites, creating sculptures that evoke artefacts, and specimens and drawings that reflect the fragility of the environment.

The purpose of creating these unique and delicate sculptural objects is to record the interaction between humans and the land at a particular point in history, as

if for a future museum.

For *Venerated Remains* the artist collected materials at Lake Mokoan in Victoria – a human-made lake in the process of being converted by local council into Winton Wetlands. The materials employed in her sculptures, including discarded irrigation pipe, lace, mud and fish bones, reflect the fragility of this environment in flux. The intimate scale and finely applied gold-leaf enhance an association with unearthed treasures. Her drawings (graphite or charcoal with mud) of mummified fish, found at the edge of Lake Mokoan, suggest the provisional nature of survival in a changing environment.

Sally Simpson began her studies at the South Australian School of Art in 1982 and completed her BA at the College of Fine Arts in Sydney. She was the recipient of the Meroogal Women's Art Award in 2006 and the ANU Student Drawing Prize in 2007.

Her Master of Philosophy in Practice-Led Research in Sculpture at ANU School of Art was informed by materials

and influences from her life on a small farm near Berry, NSW, and participation in *Contested Landscapes* (2010), a field studies project run by the Environment Studio at ANU, focusing on Lake Mokoan near Benalla, Victoria. She currently lives on land near Canberra.

*Venerated Remains* is Simpson's fourth solo show – her first in Sydney. She has exhibited widely in group shows and competitions, including the Deakin University Small Sculpture Award and Sculpture by the Sea. In 2014 she will be travelling to Lake Gregory/Parraku in northern WA with a group of artists and writers. This lake system is the site of the oldest artefacts in Australia, and presents a variety of cultural, archaeological and environmental layers.

**Venerated Remains**  
An exhibition of sculpture & drawings  
Sally Simpson  
Till April 12, 2014  
Stanley Street Gallery  
1/52-54 Stanley St, Darlinghurst  
[www.stanleystreetgallery.com.au](http://www.stanleystreetgallery.com.au)



# Taking art to the streets

ANDREW COLLIS

**REDFERN:** AN initiative of Damien Minton Gallery, the inaugural Redfern Biennale was held on Saturday March 8, from 11am to 6pm. The outdoor, eclectic, democratic free-for-all happening was a highlight of Art Month Sydney and a huge success.

More than 60 artists agreed to place artwork on the streets of Redfern – in and around the public housing precinct. Art lovers assembled at Damien Minton Gallery (583 Elizabeth Street) and collected a Biennale guide, which listed many of the artworks on exhibit.

We discovered readymade art, sculptures, multimedia and new media works, paintings, posters and found objects on the street.

Standouts included Chico Monks' *Colourful Faces of Redfern* [see detail on front-page banner], Chris Mansell's typographic work, *Wholesale European*, Camo's Banksy-inspired stencil artwork [pictured], Sara Givins' beautiful yellow wool tree installation, Blake Kendall's assemblage, *I Remember She Ironed*, Staci Crutchfield, Brett Stone and Sally Cooper's clay work, *Redfern Midden*, Stephen Coburn's *Boat Cave* (a metal sculpture featuring life-size fruit bats), and Hugh Ramage's sculpture, *Titan*.

The Blak Douglas stenciled the word "visitors" on the road at the corner of Cooper and Walker streets, a graphic reminder of the colonial occupation of Indigenous land. Blak said: "Damien Minton Gallery has demonstrated once

again unique ingenuity when it comes to outstanding community-based art exhibitions."

The notion of the one-day event stemmed from Damien Minton photographing detritus around the streets of Redfern and posting images on social media with art references. The Biennale was also a great excuse to walk the streets and mix with neighbours and art enthusiasts. The weather was perfect – crisp, sunny. We kept looking for more art – and the more we looked, the more many ordinary objects seemed like art!

The Biennale also paid homage to the American artist Mike Kelley. His cacophonous, disorientating agglomerations, sprawling installations of stuff heaped upon other stuff, was described by art critic Jerry Saltz in the *Village Voice* 2005, as a pioneering example of "clusterfuck aesthetics".

In a specially commissioned essay by the internationally regarded Belgian art and culture theorist, Yellam Nre, we read: "... Redfern Biennale is a shot across the bow of government sanctioned social sculpture for the greater good. It places public art back in the hands of the public, where they are free to 'engage' with it as they wish. The utopian desire, imagined or otherwise, of a multifarious yet united society is thus enacted via the analogy of trash. The value of what we discard, conceal and detain outlines the border of our collective culture. Thus the artist's gesture of displaying a work of art in public space becomes one of defiance and generosity."

We look forward to the next Redfern Biennale.



Stencil art by Camo Photo: Andrew Collis

## Gluten-free Paradise

A stunning variety of 22 homemade gluten-free cakes and delicious gluten-free bread & pastries



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## REDFERN ANZAC DAY MARCH & COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2014

### HONOURING OUR UNKNOWN SOLDIERS

#### COMMENCING AT 1.45PM

**1.45pm:** Wreath Laying

**2pm:** March from Redfern Park to The Block

**2.30pm:** Remembrance ceremony at the Redfern Community Centre

**4pm:** Light entertainment and refreshments

Last year, we honoured those of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diggers who were taken as Prisoners of War in foreign lands. In continuing that theme, this year we will honour those of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diggers who fought bravely alongside their mates but are now buried in foreign soil.

We may not know who they are. We may not know where they are buried. We may not know how many are buried in foreign soil. But this year, we will remember them. We will honour them. They are our Unsung Heroes. They are our Unknown Soldiers.

If you have a loved one who was buried in defence of our country, in foreign lands, come join us. If you know an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Digger who fought for our country and did not come home, gather with us.

We shall remember them.

**Supported by Babana Aboriginal Men's Group, Redfern; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Veterans & Services Association.**





# King Street delectables

BRITTANY JOHNSON

**NEWTOWN:** ANDREW Christie (landscape architect, writer and food blogger) is a man on a mission. He and his wife Cath are eating their way from the north to the south end of King Street, sampling various menu items, comparing table service and cafe-bar-restaurant ambience as they go. "We're about halfway now", Andrew says, enjoying a flat white at Cafe C. "Maybe we'll come to the end, turn around and start over again – it's a bit like painting the Harbour Bridge, the job is never done."

*Painting the Bridge* is the name of Andrew's blog, the most recent entry dated March 27:

"We have finally found out where all the older people in Newtown hang out. On Friday night, when it gets dark and the Young People come out to play, taking over King Street, with their tight skin and their tattoos, Kelly's is a haven for us slow-walkers. It is the only pub

left in Newtown where high-vis fluoro is not worn ironically. Once upon a time it may have been an attempt at an Irish theme pub but now it is more an attempt at a grungy rabbit warren. The place is full of nooks and crannies and sticky tables. But it is jolly, and as I said, on a Friday night it is the last refuge of the Older Person. There are plenty of screens showing rugby, and quite a lot of beer-gut and shaved-head combos ..."

The inspiration for the project came when Andrew and Cath realised how often they dined at the same few places. They also saw eating establishments coming and going – in a highly competitive market – and wanted to do their bit for the local economy. "It's a way of celebrating and supporting the neighbourhood, getting to know the neighbourhood," Andrew says. "It's also a bit of fun – and good writing practice."

Andrew has been critical of what he sees as "unimaginative" and "depressing" decor in some places. "I think some places might rely too heavily on passing trade," he says. "It's exciting to see more



Andrew Christie at Cafe C Photo: Brittany Johnson

creative efforts in terms of decor and menu at places like the Newtown Hotel, Thai Pothong and Izote Mexican."

Izote Mexican also collects top honours (so far) for quality service. When asked to name his choice for "most charming staff", Andrew nominates Atom Thai. Blossoming Lotus is leading the charge for best vegetarian. Best coffee

front-runner is Fringe Cafe.

With just on a year to go, Andrew and Cath have settled into a regular Friday night routine. Saturday breakfasts mix things up a little. The couple is enjoying the "journey" and the support of friends and online readers.

Perhaps readers will be inspired to think about their own unique

neighbourhoods – to get out, wander on foot, sample the local produce and service, maybe even discover a few inner-city secrets or treasures. "It's about loving your suburb," Andrew says. "Getting out of your comfort zone and making new connections."

.....  
[www.paintingthebridge.com](http://www.paintingthebridge.com)



Alexandria Fair Photos: Andrew Collis

## Wordplays...

I remember shooting pictures with my eyes memories recorded on my mind's film in the ambient light of middle night turning around and looking down the street seeing two cranes distant on the skyline standing one by one as brothers might each holding out an arm along an axis East to West striped and painted in a garish tone fluorescent colour and neon chrome a beacon flashing at the top.

- Adrian Spry

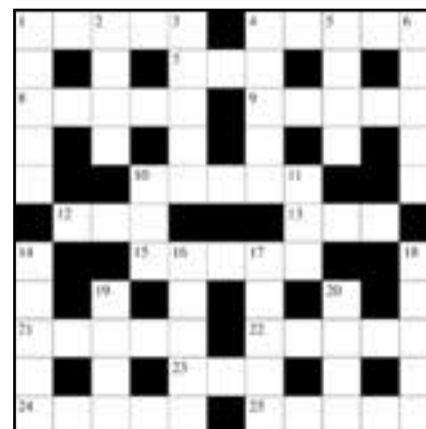
### Where the wind blows

Starting out, thermos packed, blanket folded, heading off, footsteps all my own, along high ways and byways, low roads and no roads, forks and detours, terminals and depots, pitstops and tethering spots, lookouts and dungeons, cities and towns, wind in my hair, on my face, through my clothes.

I never see them coming. There are many of them, solid and heavy, firmly planted by those who have gone before. It's only when I look back I can say Ah, another milestone.

- Heather Robinson

## South Sydney Crossword



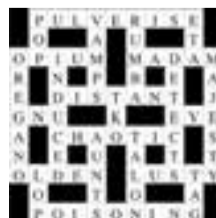
### Across

1. Psychedelic enthusiast Timothy
4. Roman love goddess
7. Mogul Buttrose
8. Shiv
9. Bring together
10. Emends
12. Charlton Heston's group
13. John Lydon's group
15. Detective Dick
21. Manchester
22. Pungent
23. Not too bright
24. - to Newcastle, supply and demand misstep
25. Phoney

### Down

1. LA baller
2. Amongst
3. Give, give up
4. Bank crypt
5. Hang -
6. Fashion, manner
10. - away, corrode
11. Snoop
14. Ancient curio
16. Citrus' coats
17. - at the bit
18. Summer?
19. MP Bligh
20. Cons' partner

CROSSWORD BY D.W.



LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

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



**Uniting Churches**



**South Sydney Uniting Church**

56a Raglan St Waterloo  
 Worship (Eucharist): 10am Sunday  
 Holy Thursday (April 17) 6pm  
 Good Friday (April 18) 9.30am  
 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 7pm  
 'Colbourne Ave' intimate  
 candlelit concerts Thu 8pm  
 Allison Forrest 9518 9413

**Leichhardt University Church**

3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt  
 (near Norton St)  
 Worship 10am & 6.30pm Sunday  
 Rev. Dr John Hirt 0408 238 117  
 www.leichhardtuniting.org.au

**Newtown Mission**

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

**Paddington Uniting Church**

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

**Pitt Street Uniting Church**

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

**Wayside Chapel**

29 Hughes St Potts Point  
 Worship 10am  
 Rev Graham Long 9358 6996

**St Joseph's Catholic Church, Newtown  
 invites you to hear James Alison**  
*The glory of God: humans made fully alive*



Catholic priest and theologian, James Alison, was born in England. Currently he works as a travelling preacher, lecturer, and retreat giver, based in São Paulo, Brazil. As part of his theological work he has been outspoken in developing a positive understanding of gay matters in a Christian context.

This session, aimed especially at gay and lesbian Christians, their friends and families, but also for other interested parties, will explore a roadmap in humanity from the shame and emotional and psychological instability often provoked by deep fears surrounding discovering oneself gay or lesbian in a religious setting, to the security and stability of being held in God's love as a son or daughter.

We will be looking at the shape of God's Spirit breaking through deep fears of loss of self and soul, fears often exacerbated by harmful religious language and ecclesiastical group-think, so as to show us what we know in theory but find difficult to glimpse in practice: that perfect love casts out fear, and can enable us to find our place as witnesses to that love in and as Church.

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Newtown  
 (Cnr of Bedford and Station Sts, Newtown)  
 Monday May 26, 2014. 7-8.30pm • ALL WELCOME - FREE  
 newtownfaith.blogspot.com.au • newtown@catholic.com  
 Tel 9557 3197

*Love Your Sister*

**BREAST CANCER FUNDRAISER**

Saturday April 12

Hosted by Samuel Johnson

Dog Contests from 1pm

Mega \$12,000 raffle

10 prize packs to be won!



The Erko Hotel  
 102 Erskineville Rd  
 www.theerko.com.au

LOVE TO SING?  
 Come & be one of  
**THE Darling TONES**

Always wanted to sing out loud but not on your own? We are an a cappella choir based in Darlington. Sopranos, alto, tenor & bass singers wanted! Join in the song and have some fun. Be a part of our community and bring some harmony in to your life.

For all enquiries email:  
 TheDarlingTones@yahoo.com.au  
 or call 9698 3642

Sydney's newest a cappella choir

**SATURDAY ART CLASS**  
 South Sydney Uniting Church  
 (56a Raglan St, Waterloo)  
 12-4pm Sat April 12 & 26  
 More info ph 0438 719 470

All materials provided.  
 Previous & new participants welcome.  
 Gold coin donation.

Painting: Gabriel Azzi

**~ RAIDD ~**  
 [Residents Acting In Darlington's Defence] meet on the first Sunday of the month at 5.30pm in the upstairs meeting room in the Royal Hotel, corner of Abercrombie/Codrington Streets.

**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).

**BABANA**  
**Aboriginal Men's Group**  
 Babana Shed open Mon-Fri  
 (72 Renwick St, Redfern)  
 Contact: Mark Spinks 0411 282 917

BABANA  
 Aboriginal Mens Group  
 Redfern



**FREE BUS**  
**VILLAGE 2 VILLAGE**  
 Woolloomooloo to Redfern  
 Redfern to Broadway

The Village to Village bus is a free hop-on, hop-off service which enables residents of the City of Sydney to access local businesses, hospitals, shopping centres, restaurants and universities.

These **FREE** buses operate every **Thursday and Friday**.

For more information please call: **8241 8000**  
 or visit our website: [www.villagetovillage.com.au](http://www.villagetovillage.com.au)

Like Us. Follow Us.

**Redfern ANZAC Day March & Commemorative Service - FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2014**  
 HONOURING OUR UNKNOWN SOLDIERS - COMMENCING AT 1.45PM

**1.45pm:** Wreath Laying  
**2pm:** March from Redfern Park to The Block  
**2.30pm:** Remembrance ceremony at the Redfern Community Centre  
**4pm:** Light entertainment and refreshments

"Last year, we honoured those of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diggers who were taken as Prisoners of War in foreign lands. In continuing that theme, this year we will honour those of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Diggers who fought bravely alongside their mates but are now buried in foreign soil... We shall remember them."  
 - Babana Aboriginal Men's Group, Redfern; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Veterans & Services Association.

**YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS**



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 Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au



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 Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au



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 Marrickville@parliament.nsw.gov.au





Vio Photo: Supplied

## Forging a tango connection

LOUISA DYCE

IT IS a great pleasure to introduce Vio, a tango dancer and dance teacher extraordinaire. Her studio, Tango Forge, is located in Glebe.

### Why did you start tango dancing?

I was attracted to tango because it looked really difficult. But I found so much more than I was looking for, most of which can be summed up in the idea of communing with people without having to talk to them. Tango has given me a way to experience a soulful connection with people I might not have much in common with – including language!

### Are there any rules that a tango dancer has to know?

The dance itself is totally improvised, so there are no sequences to memorise. The main thing you learn is how to communicate physically with another person so that you can connect your cores together to communicate and move as if you are one being. The tango scene is governed by a set of codes designed to make sure no one gets

their feelings hurt. It's very civilised.

### How fit do you have to be to be a tango dancer, and how long does a tango dance last?

Tango is danced by people in their 90s and by disabled people. Putting your toes up high in the air is totally optional. The main skill you need is to be able to stand on one foot, which means that most people who take up tango improve their balance a lot.

### Do you consider dancing the tango to be a sport? If not, how do you think tango should be described?

Categories can be helpful, but nothing is ever as simple as our categories. Advanced tango dancing can involve a level of muscle control that is challenging even to athletes. Some of my students do it as an elegant approach to physical fitness. But the sport dimension loses sight of the fact that tango is creative, and because it's not choreographed, the dancers aren't just executing, they are interpreting and creating in real time. The world-class dancers see themselves as artists, not athletes. A third category that

tango inhabits is popular culture. The United Nations has recognised Argentine Tango as World Cultural Heritage. It's a social and cultural experience and an evolving fusion of African, European, and Indigenous Latin American cultures.

### What made you want to be a teacher? How do you teach and can anyone learn?

I wanted to be a teacher because I felt that a lot of the teaching that goes on is imprecise. I didn't accept the often-repeated idea that it takes ten years to learn. I want to teach people in one year. So I'm very motivated by figuring out how to do that. What's different about the way I teach is that I give anatomically-precise instructions. A lot of teachers use metaphors, or they teach by making fun of mistakes. That's why it takes people so long to learn. They're being entertained instead of instructed.

### Can anyone learn?

Yes, absolutely. But I'll just be blunt and say what I've observed about the people who enjoy it and do well at it. Any kind of guy, regardless of fitness, who is an engineer or has an analytic mind will do well. Any woman who has done some yoga will like tango because it's a place to really enjoy your body, and feel it working. The kind of people with the patience to get it quickly are the kind of people who are bored with small talk. One of the most common misconceptions about dancing is that you need to have "rhythm". That is irrelevant to dancing tango. You can dance to the melody if you want. There are no rules about how you interpret the music. So it's a really free space for people to bring their own sense of music, whatever that is.

Vio teaches day and evening private lessons at her studio in Glebe and also teaches a group class at the Colombian Hotel (117 Oxford at Crown) on Tuesday nights at 7pm. Online courses available too - <http://tangoforge.com>



Ravens Andrew, Adrian, Matthew and Vanessa Photo: Ross Smith

## Ravens flock to raise charity funds

ZIMMY WATT

**THERE'S NOTHING like a light jog to ease the stress of inner-city living. For members of the Ravens running group, Sunday afternoon means lacing up the kicks for a one-hour stretch from Redfern oval to NSW Uni and back. "We do our stretching along the way," says Adrian. "We go at a nice steady pace, and we always stop at Anzac Parade for a slurp at the bubbler."**

This year sees Matthew and Vanessa join the group. Long-time member, Andrew, is as keen as ever. "It's good to have Matthew's medical expertise," Andrew says. "And Matthew's iPhone app has tracked our regular course at just over 10km. So we're running a quarter marathon each week, that's a good distance."

Ravens Adrian, Vanessa and Andrew will take part in the Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon on May 18. "It's a great event – a social event as much as a sporting event," Andrew says. "The course starts in College Street, adjacent to St Mary's Cathedral, then to Millers Point and Pyrmont and

back through the Botanic Gardens."

Vanessa says: "I'm looking forward to the cooler weather. It's so humid right now, it's like running under water."

Matt says: "Unfortunately, I'll be in New Zealand on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>, so I'll miss the Half Marathon. I'll be counting on the Ravens to run on my behalf this time."

Adrian is keen to raise funds for the All Blacks Basketball Club in Redfern (BSB 062184; Acc. No. 11210960). He says: "It's a really good club. Last year three teams qualified for the grand final – the money will help with training gear and support for families."

Vanessa and Andrew will run for the Cancer Council NSW. Their online fundraising details are as follows: <http://bit.ly/1kdDc8s> (Vanessa) <http://bit.ly/1lwQvFe> (Andrew). All donations to the Redfern All Blacks and the Cancer Council NSW will be gratefully received. The Ravens meet each Sunday at 5pm at Redfern Oval (cnr Phillip & Chalmers Sts in Redfern). New members (and beginners) welcome! Phone Adrian on 9690 1427.

## Enrol now for winter sports!

VANESSA CARTWRIGHT

As the weather cools, our local children should not stop enjoying sport. Far from it: there are many opportunities for kids to get active and keep warm this winter, not to mention make friends and learn new skills. Be quick to register for winter sports including football, basketball, netball, hockey and soccer.

Besides weekend team competitions, there are weekday courses and school holiday camps that can be fun and enriching! Here are a few examples to get you started.

The Paddo Tigers, Newtown Junior Jets, Redfern All Blacks and Alexandria Rovers offer junior football programs for boys aged six and over. Serious players may compete in the South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League. For a more relaxed program, Balmain PCYC offers Junior Rugby League as well as self-defence courses and meditation classes.

The Inner West Minis Rugby Union Competition kicks off on Saturday April 5 for boys aged under six to under nine. Both Petersham Juniors and Balmain Junior Rugby Club compete and offer weekly trainings. The clubs also have further opportunities for tweens and young teenagers.

Meanwhile, girls can compete in netball via the City of Sydney Netball Association, or they

can join girls' soccer! Age need not be a barrier: girls and boys aged one-and-a-half to seven can play soccer with Little Kickers at Redfern on Friday or Saturday mornings.

Glebe District Hockey Club provides beginners' or "Minkey" hockey on Saturday mornings for girls and boys aged five to nine. Teams can enter competition hockey in the under eleven to under seventeen categories.

To entertain kids during the April vacation, you could consider a holiday sport program. Sports Fundamental offers holiday camps, in addition to a multi-sports program at Alexandria during school terms. Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness runs over ten different types of camps for youths aged five to fifteen. Their April camps include archery, fencing, girls' soccer, water polo, netball, basketball and rugby. Budding basketballers could also consider the Skills and Drills Basketball Camps run at Alexandria by the City of Sydney Basketball Association.

Whilst participating in seasonal sports helps our children to learn diverse skills and keep interested, it remains important to make sport a familiar part of their routine. All-year-round sports like tennis, swimming and dancing are also a great idea to build confidence from continual improvement. City Community Tennis, for example, runs a beginners-to-advanced children's program in five convenient locations: Alexandria, Beaconsfield, Glebe, Surry Hills and Rosebery. Their after-school trainings and holiday camps include the Hot Shots program, where beginners can enjoy smaller courts and smaller racquets to ease themselves into the game. You can even register for a free family barbeque and kids' tennis day on April 5 or June 28.

The above activities are simply a starting point; there are many exciting opportunities for sport that our local children are waiting to discover. Families involved in local sport this winter can revive a sense of team spirit and community, as well as take pride in their achievements and benefit their health.

For further information, please see the links for different sports on the NSW government's website: [www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/gatewaytosport](http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/gatewaytosport)

## BUNNIES COLOUR-IN COMPETITION



For readers 12 years and under. Colour and post or email to the SSH for a chance to win a Rabbitohs supporter pack. We will also send entrants an iron-on transfer of coloured image! Show your support for Souths in 2014! Send to editor@ssh.com.au, or PO Box 3288 REDFERN NSW 2016.