

# INNER VOICE

The Journal of the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development



**AUTUMN 2005**  
**Issue 100**

**Lost in  
Transmission**

Community program  
makers have lost  
control of Channel 31

**Peter Garrett MP**

A frank interview on  
Port Botany, Malabar,  
Reconciliation and why  
he joined the ALP

**Community  
College Cuts**

Funding slashed by  
one third, inner city  
community colleges  
have been forced make  
tough choices

**Manufacturing  
Fear Forum**

Anti-terrorism laws and  
their impacts

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**Under the Hammer**  
The Minister for Hot Property

# 2004 Federal Election Results

Name	Party	Votes	Percentage	Swing%
<b>GRAYNDLER</b>				
ALBANESE, Anthony	ALP	38,634	51.18	+2.03
JOHNSON, Sue	SOC	1,010	1.34	+1.34
HARRISON, Jen	DEM	1,579	2.09	-7.03
KOKKOLIS, Stephanie	LIB	18,347	24.31	+1.38
MYERS, Philip	GRN	15,914	21.08	+8.02
Informal		4,322	5.42	-1.14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>79,806</b>		

## KINGSFORD SMITH

COGAN, James		214	.029	+0.29
FRANCES, Maureen	SOC	273	0.37	+0.37
GARRETT, Peter	ALP	36,565	49.6	+1.91
GILROY, Reg	GST	563	0.76	+0.76
MATTHEWS, Charles	IND	2,505	3.4	+3.40
ROBERT, Hannah	GRN	5,430	7.37	+0.10
PRASSAS, Nicholas	LIB	26,639	36.14	+1.88
TILLOTSON, Nicole	DEM	747	1.01	-4.19
WINTER, Anna	ONE	779	1.06	-3.80
Informal		6,790	8.43	+2.29
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>80,505</b>		

## SYDNEY

BLEICHER, Michelle	DEM	1,701	2.07	-8.81
FORD, Adrian	CEC	150	0.18	+0.18
LEONG, Jenny	GRN	17,784	21.61	+6.92
PLIBERSEK, Tanya	ALP	36,766	44.68	+0.35
PRICE, Susan	SOC	564	0.69	+0.69
SHELVERS, Michael	LIB	23,419	28.46	-1.64
WARD, Jane	IND	1,346	1.64	+1.64
WEBB, Michael	IND	553	0.67	+0.67
Informal		4,600	5.29	+1.05
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>86,883</b>		

## WENTWORTH

BUCKLEY, Brian	GST	171	0.23	+0.23
COX, Mithra	GRN	8,210	11.15	+1.38
HULL, Leonie	FAM	301	0.41	+0.41
JAMIESON, John	CEC	65	0.09	+0.09
KING, Peter	IND	13,326	17.98	+17.98
MORRISON, Lindy	DEM	683	0.93	-5.22
PATCH, David	ALP	19,391	26.34	-3.18
SHEIL, Pat	IND	218	0.30	+0.30
SHEN, Victor	TFP	239	0.32	+0.32
TURNBULL, Malcolm	LIB	30,771	41.79	-10.29
VOGLER, Robert	IND	339	0.46	+0.46
Informal		4,853	6.18	+1.33
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>78,477</b>		

Key: ALP (Australian Labor Party), DEM (Australian Democrats), CEC (Citizens Electoral Council), FAM (Family First), GRN (The Greens), GST (No GST), IND (Independent), LIB (Liberal Party), ONE (Pauline Hanson's One Nation - NSW Division), SOC (Socialist Alliance), TFP (The Fishing Party).

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## Minister for Hot Property

All power, no accountability for the Minister for Redfern

The future for residents of the Block and Sydney's big inner city public housing estates is in the hands of Frank Sartor as the NSW Government becomes property owner, developer and consent authority in Redfern-Waterloo, writes MARTINE BRIEGER.

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Inner Voice

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## Community College Cuts

Funds slashed by a third

Despite thirty years of meeting the continuing education needs of adults, community colleges have had to absorb the impact of the Education Minister's decision to only subsidise 'vocational' training, writes Sydney Community College Principal GARY TRAINER.

## Peter Garrett MP

The Inner Voice interview.

FRANCESCA GUIMARENS met with the new Member for Kingsford Smith and canvassed his initial views on Malabar Headland, Port Botany, Kingsford-Smith Airport and being in the Australian Labor Party.

**Inner Voice** is the journal of the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development



Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development (ISRCSD) is a non-profit organisation committed to the idea of information as a tool for community development. The organisation defines Inner Sydney as being the local government areas of Botany Bay, Leichhardt, Randwick, City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra.

The journal is funded jointly by the Department of Community Services, Randwick and Sydney City Councils, and by members and subscribers.

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## a final word from charlie

At our organisation's Annual General Meeting, our Chair, Terry Murphy, said *"Our journal, 'Inner Voice', continues to be a respected publication, and is our main vehicle for bringing to attention the various developments that occur in, or affect, the Region. 'Inner Voice' is about to pass a milestone, its 100<sup>th</sup> edition. That represents 25 years of continuous publication, which is not a bad achievement at all for a non-profit, community-based organisation."*

Well, this is the hundredth edition of *'Inner Voice'*. We have reached that milestone. Its publication comes at a time when all of the print media is feeling the pressure of competition from internet-based sources of information, and we at Regional Council are seriously questioning the future of *'Inner Voice'*. We are about to launch our website. Should it be complementary to *'Inner Voice'*, or a replacement for it? Are you on-line, and if so, what is your connection speed? Do you have time to absorb information by browsing through a paper-based source like this magazine, or would you prefer regular emails alerting you to new stories and forthcoming events on our website?

Funds are tight, and we know that we could save enough money in printing costs to employ our editor an extra

day each week, thereby giving more time to commission and publish more articles and information on the net. On the other hand, we know that *'Inner Voice'* is taken seriously and is sometimes influential. Would a net-based *'Inner Voice'* carry the same weight as the magazine? We need answers to all these questions. We cannot discard this publication lightly. We'd like to hear your opinion.

Whether *'Inner Voice'* continues as a printed or net-based publication, this will be the last editorial written by me. I have resigned from Regional Council and am moving to Newcastle to marry a certain Ms Tracey Sharples (which some of you may remember from her years at the Harris St Centre in Ultimo).

I'm hoping to move away from working in the community sector to a field that doesn't matter quite so much, that is not crammed full of issues, and is not so personally taxing and therefore better for my health.

I want to thank current and past members of the Board, and current and past staff, for their support and understanding over the past four and half years. I wish all of my friends and colleagues in the community sector and in the Region the best of luck in struggling on, and in looking after themselves.

Charlie Richardson



A fond farewell Charlie (right). Top: the Von Tohi Family. Below: John McIntyre and Faye Williams test out the karaoke machine

## editorial

**Welcome to the 100th edition of *Inner Voice*.** The Management Committee and staff of Inner Sydney Regional Council are feeling extremely proud and would like to thank all our members, subscribers, volunteers, and contributors for helping us achieve this milestone.

Starting out as a monthly 70-page compendium of everything going on in the region (almost named 'The Bugle'), *Inner Voice* has reduced its size over the years but retained its commitment to the principle that "information is a tool for community development" - ie that the right information can make a real difference!

Of course, the road has been rocky at times, and no more so than now - as we struggle to get this final edition to you despite the loss of our much-loved Co-ordinator **Charlie Richardson** and our Media Officer **Francesca Guimarens**.

We thank **Martine Brieger** and **Jack Carnegie**, for stepping in and getting it done - and we must give a BIG thanks to **Cheryl Kelly** and **Jo Durand** at Inner South West Community Development Organisation for letting us heavily 'borrow' from their March edition of *InfoNews*.

We hope you can attend the **Margaret Barry Memorial Lecture** on the 4th May (see Diary at right). We will pop a few bottles of champagne for *Inner Voice*, and our other publication - *Redwater News* - which has recently passed its own major milestone - 10 years of publication. See you there!

*Terry Murphy*  
Chairperson

The Pointer Sisters: Sue Heffernon and Lucy Tohi at Charlie's farewell.



## diary

### Sunday April 17

*Public Rally Against Non-Aviation Airport Development.* A rally against the development of non-aviation, commercial activities at Sydney Airport. A Major Development Plan for commercial development and associated car parking is currently being assessed by the Federal Government. 11am, Tempe Reserve.

### Saturday April 23

*Sydney Community Gardens Network Gathering* at Marrickville Community Food Forest, Bldg 11 & Lot 48 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville, 11am-5pm. Bring a plate of food to share and any seeds or plants to swap. It will be a casual affair designed to get community gardeners together to share experiences of community gardening. Phone: Gavin Farley 9564 3890.

### Sunday May 1

*Kings Cross Food & Wine Festival.* 11.30am - 5pm. Fitzroy Gardens, next to the El Alamein fountain, Macleay St.

### Wednesday May 4

*ISRCSD proudly presents: The Inaugural Margaret Barry Memorial Lecture.* Guest speaker: Dr Andrew Jakubowicz on the topic of "Building e-communities: community development and the changing nature of neighbourhood". 3pm Redfern Town Hall. Free. RSVP to Edwina Tohi 9698 7690.

Also celebrating 100 editions of *Inner Voice* and launch of new resources.

### Thursday May 5

*Food Fairness Forum* - A day to work towards a food system that fosters equitable food access, nutrition, community development and environmental health. Liverpool TAFE, next to Liverpool Railway Station. Cost \$20 or silver coin donation for unemployed. Contact: gabriela.martinez@sesahs.nsw.gov.au.

### May 6 - 16

*Neighbourhood Centre Week* Celebrate with Local Community Services Association on the 7th May at the Surry Hills Festival, Crown Street, Surry Hills. [www.lcsa.org.au](http://www.lcsa.org.au)

### Wednesday May 11

*Understanding Mental Illness* one-day workshop at Rozelle Hospital, contact Paula Tuffin, Ph: 9556 9490.

### Fri 13 - Sun 15 May

*Middle Childhood - Passions, Frustrations, Inspirations!* Biennial Conference of Network of Community Activities. International College of Tourism, Manly [www.netoosh.org.au](http://www.netoosh.org.au)

### Thursday May 19

*National Public Education Day*

### 27 May - 3 June

*Reconciliation Week*

### Saturday June 5

*World Environment Day*

### June 20-24

*Drug Action Week*, see website for more information: [www.drugactionweek.org.au](http://www.drugactionweek.org.au)

# Harvey Volke

## 1939 - 2005

Harvey Volke, veteran social justice and housing activist, bloody good bloke and Shelter NSW Policy Officer, died, apparently peacefully while asleep, during a holiday in Austinmer on January 7th. He was a longstanding member of Regional Council, serving on the Board of Directors from 1981-1988, and contributing regularly to Inner Voice.

His colleague and friend, Mary Perkins, wrote his obituary. Below is a condensed version of it.

At the time of his death Harvey was a Policy and Liaison Officer with Shelter NSW. In staking a claim for the position he made clear his commitment to *"building an order in which people are valued in their own right, and in which their entitlement to decent housing, to civil rights, to adequate health, education and employment, and to a fair share of the social product is fully recognised."* Harvey's work record and life are testimony to his commitment to this objective.

Harvey is a titanic figure in the Australian housing sector. He made a huge contribution to the development of debate, policy and services that address the housing needs of disadvantaged people and communities. Harvey's prodigious knowledge, analytical skill, ethical integrity and powers of communication have left an indelible mark. Tenants both public and private, caravan park dwellers, boarders and lodgers have all benefited directly and indirectly from his work.

Upon leaving school Harvey trained as a journalist. He put these journalistic skills to great use in many community contexts, using his knowledge and wicked humour to 'stir up the debate' at every opportunity. He was not shy of engaging in vigorous policy debates with politicians and housing bureaucrats. He was also a keen researcher. At the time of his death he was enrolled at the University of Sydney working on a PhD on the history of social housing and plotting ways in which he could financially support himself while completing his thesis. It is a great pity

that this work remains unfinished.

In the mid 1970s he leaped at the opportunity provided by the introduction of free university education and enrolled at Macquarie University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in political science and modern history. He also completed a Masters degree in history at the University of NSW.

Harvey was not only a community activist: He cared for people as individuals, and many of us have benefited from that special bit of attention from Harvey at a time of bother or need. All of us saw that side of Harvey in the way he cared for his partner Poppy as she was dying, three years ago.

Harvey has been part of Shelter NSW since its formation in the 1970's and has been a major force in our development for over twenty-five years. As a colleague he was generous, willing to share his knowledge and skills and assist in any way he could. At one level he was entertaining, querulous, loud and humorous and at another quiet and introspective. While not being shy of a debate or a confrontation he could listen and take on the views of others and seek the compromise. We will miss his friendly banter, argument and general presence. At Shelter there's a void that he used to fill.

In summary - Harvey was an impassioned believer in social and political equality for all and a tireless advocate for the rights of the underdog. He will be remembered as down-to-earth, intelligent, impassioned, and courageous.

Mary Perkins

Executive Officer, Shelter NSW



For more on Harvey Volke visit:  
[www.shelternewsw.infoexchange.net.au/docs/mem0501volke.html](http://www.shelternewsw.infoexchange.net.au/docs/mem0501volke.html)

Harvey was Chair of ISRCSD in 1988 - this is an excerpt from his report in the Annual Report:

*For NSW, this is the year of Nick Greiner. Whatever else the future might mean, its obviously unpredictable. We're seeing that already with the commissioning of Curran et al to do an audit of the State's finances. And they've come down with a report that clearly doesn't understand the way in which community services operate, or recognised the role they play . . . or may be it does, and simply doesn't like them.*

*The fact is that the community is now required to legitimise itself more vigorously than it has ever done before. Unless community services are able to do this, we could well see government redirect funds towards the big traditional charity operations.*

*If community organisations are to be destroyed or defunded, let it not be on the specious basis that they do not represent the community.*

*It is imperative to develop appropriate strategies for the '90s and beyond. It's no good waiting for another Vietnam to mobilise the movement. It is only in listening to our communities that we can discover the genuine unifying issues, and shape our strategies accordingly.*

***Belt up and settle in, folks, we're in for the long haul.***

## Payrise Campaign Heats Up for Childcare Workers

In January, the Industrial Relations Commission awarded substantial pay increases to childcare workers in Victoria and the ACT. The two-year union campaign, resulted in pay increases of \$82.20 for Diploma Qualified Childcare workers and \$64.50 for Certificate III childcare workers.

The case for NSW childcare workers will be held this year.

[www.lhmu.org.au](http://www.lhmu.org.au)



## Federal Shuffle of Welfare Allowances and Programs

The Federal Department of Family and Community Services has transferred responsibility for a number of employment and training allowances to other Departments.

Youth Allowance, Green Corps, Job Placement, Volunteers, Personal Support, Mature Age, Newstart, Parenting Payment, Disability Open Employment, Disability Support Pension, Mobility Allowance, Youth Allowance and Sickness Allowance have been transferred to the Dept of Employment & Workplace Relations.

Youth Allowance for students, Austudy, Fares Allowance, Student Financial Supplement Scheme, ex-gratia exempt Scholarships, Pensioner Education Supplement and Sickness Allowance for students have all been transferred to the Dept of Education, Science and Training. Child Support Agency and Centrelink have both been moved to the new Department of Human Services.



# employment

employment

### Is It A Fact?

that employment assistance can help people with disabilities get work but the Government needs to be realistic about outcomes?

that a pilot program to encourage Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients to use Job Network services has underlined how hard it is for people with disabilities to find work?

that of the 1,100 voluntary participants who started this pilot only 57% completed it and less than 10% of them obtained a substantial paid job?

that forcing new applicants for DSP onto Newstart (unemployment benefit) means a loss in income for a single adult of \$42 a week?

that the average amount spent by Job Network providers (using jobseeker accounts) on each person for training and other help was \$830 - barely enough for one month's training?

that, generally, people with disabilities who are easier to place in work already participate in Job Network?

that many people with disabilities who find work have difficulty keeping a job over a longer period, e.g. many people with a mental illness have relapses and need to move from work back onto the DSP?

## Sydney LETS in Waterloo

Sydney Local Energy Trading Scheme is an alternative trading network made up of individuals who trade goods and services using a community currency called "Operas" instead of federal dollars.

LETS is different to bartering as it involves a wide group of people. For example: I cook for John; John digs Mary's garden; Mary cuts Joe's hair; Joe fixes Lenny's car; Lenny sells me vegetables and so on around the system...

Each of these trades is paid for in operas and recorded in a central 'bank'. LETS is really a "parallel economy".

Sydney LETS is located in The Factory Community Centre, 67 Raglan St, Waterloo. Mondays 1-2pm. Next **Trading Day** Sunday April 24 at 3.30pm. More info: <http://www.lets.1337.as/sydney/>

## Interpreters Needed

Centrelink is looking for Interpreters to join their Register of Interpreters in the following languages:

Acholi, Albanian, Auslan, Bari, Bengali, Burmese, Chaldean, Dinka, Fijian, Fijian (Hindi), Japanese, German, Hakka, Hebrew, Hmong, Italian, Krio (Kriol), Lao, Maori, Mon, Nepalese, Nuer, Oromo, Polish, Portuguese, Rarotongan, Samoan, Slovak, Slovene, Tetum, Tibetan, Tigrinya, Tongan, Timorese (Hakka), Twi, and Urdu.

Also, any Kirundi (official language of Burundi), Swahili or French interpreters to interpret for a group of Burundi refugees being settled in NSW.

Contact: Hang Nguyen  
Centrelink Language Services  
Unit: 1800 088 180  
[language.service@centrelink.gov.au](mailto:language.service@centrelink.gov.au)





# Minister for Hot Property

On December 9, 2004, the NSW Government passed the Redfern Waterloo Authority Act, handing control of the area to one man - the Hon. Member for Rockdale, Frank Sartor. In doing so, it exempted Sartor and the new Redfern-Waterloo Authority, from the normal operations of democracy, writes MARTINE BRIEGER.

## The Jewel

It might be hard for some of the residents of one of the most diverse, disadvantaged and sensitive communities in the country to see their suburb as a jewel in the crown. But bring the old real estate truism at play - location, location, location - and you can see why the Government has just gone to extraordinary lengths to get its paws on it.

Not only does Redfern/Waterloo abutt the Central Business District, but it has a high concentration of government-owned assets: closed-down schools and hospitals, disused railway land and public housing.

Talk about hot property! \$450 million work of public assets, or a potential \$5 billion in redevelopment.

But the Government is not being greedy - it just wants to "meet urgent community needs" by maximising the "economic returns" on our assets.

## The Grab

To this end the Government passed legislation - the **Redfern Waterloo Authority Act**. Far from attempting to address either urban renewal or social disadvantage, this outrageous piece of legislation makes the NSW Government the landowner, developer and consent authority for the area - and sweeps aside any of the public accountability imposed by supposedly inconvenient planning laws.

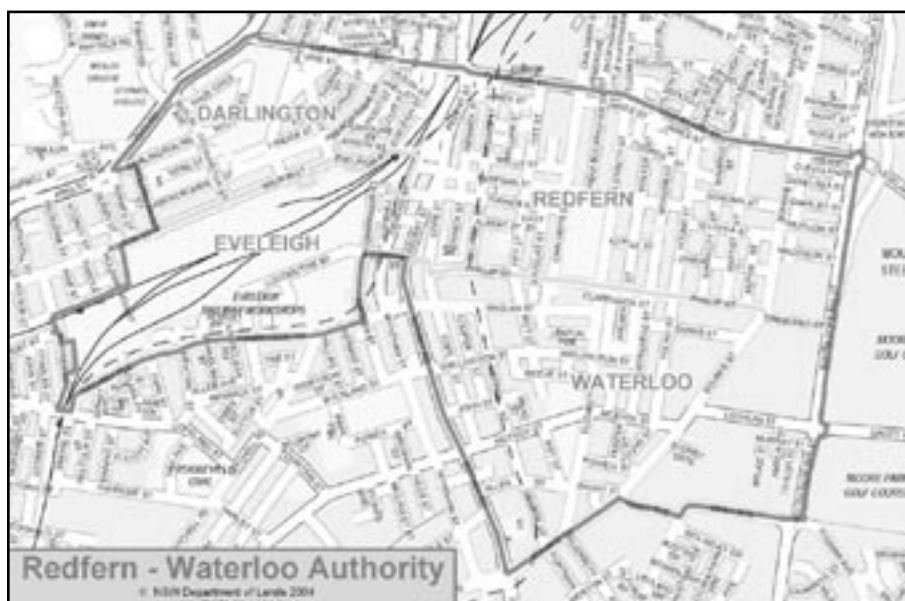
Specifically, the Act creates yet another secret Sydney planning authority. It then puts that Authority under the control of a single Minister, Frank Sartor, giving him unprecedented discretionary powers to override normal planning controls, take control over other areas at will, cherry pick developer contributions from adjacent areas (ie. Carlton Brewery redevelopment in Chippendale), approve his own developments and override the Heritage Act wherever he feels this to be essential to his vision.



## TRUST ME!

Yet another secret Sydney planning authority - no public meetings or minutes, decisions or debates - with authority under control of a single minister; the minister **not** for Planning, but Frank Sartor - Minister for Energy and Utilities, Science and Research, Health (Cancer, assisting), Arts (assisting) and now for Redfern-Waterloo.

Elizabeth Farrelly. SMH  
29.11.04





In an area with 16,500 residents, the Act means nothing is safe. The Minister can simply consult with himself and decide what he wants to acquire, demolish, or redevelop. And if that's still too restrictive, points out former City of Sydney Councillor Elizabeth Farrelly in a scathing attack in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the Act entitles the Authority to "do all such supplemental, incidental or consequential acts as may be necessary or expedient for the exercise of its functions".

(The NSW Government has taken "the easy but short-sighted route . . . to turn this into a land development exercise to shore up state finances. I simply do not believe that this approach will deliver the best outcomes for the local community, for Sydney, or for the people of New South Wales."

Clover Moore

The legislation includes provision for a **Redfern-Waterloo Authority Board**. But with little detail regarding its role and power, and with members appointed or dismissed at the whim of the Minister, its main function seems to be to the provision of a veneer of accountability.

### The Fund

Beyond an initial small grant, the Authority will not be funded by Treasury. It must draw its own running costs from the very developments it is the consent authority for, as well as penalties. It has a direct incentive therefore to maximise both - even more reason to fear the complete lack of accountability in its structure.

### The Plan

The whole purpose of the Redfern-Waterloo Act has been to establish the Redfern-Waterloo Authority in order to implement the **Redfern-Waterloo Plan (2004-2014)**.

It is extraordinary that Parliament passed the Act without having first seen the Plan it gives effect to - a plan which the NSW Government had denied even existed until it leaked to the media. (The Act was opposed only by the five Independents).

## Who's on the Redfern-Waterloo Authority Board?

- **David Richmond (Chair):** chairman of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and the Parramatta Road Taskforce;
- **Robert Domm (CEO):** former General Manager of the City of Sydney
- **Michael Collins:** chair of the Heritage Council;
- **Marcia Ella-Duncan:** chair of the ATSIC Sydney Regional Council;
- **Dr Col Gellatly:** Director-General of the Premiers Department;
- **Richard Johnson:** chief architect for the Sydney Opera House;
- **Clover Moore MP:** Member for Bligh and Sydney Lord Mayor;
- **Sam Mostyn:** Insurance Australia Group executive;
- **Lucy Turnbull:** former Sydney Lord Mayor;
- **Jennifer Westacott:** Director-General, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.

Their task: Redfern-Waterloo Authority Board members will **not** be responsible for overseeing the work of the Authority, appointing the CEO, auditing its finances or even setting the strategic direction. They may not even know what the Authority is doing but if they speak out publicly they could be fined up to **\$11,000** for each offence. The guidelines states: "*Board members are not to criticise the Authority, any NSW government policy or the activities of any other NSW Government Department or instrumentality.*"

The Plan is essentially the same as the RED Strategy developed earlier by the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project (established in 2002) and involves massive development of these inner city areas. In particular it casts a shadow over the future of The Block - and the huge number of public housing tenants, one third of all of Sydney's public housing stock.

The Carr Government relies on the Liberals' pro-development habits and the popular kneejerk to "clean up Redfern" forever, to push through legislation that no democratic government should be seen dead with.

. . . Carr's Redfern-Waterloo Act will backfire, destroying the only pocket of live indigenous culture the city centre will ever have while the Big End white boys take over the small black end as well.

Elizabeth Farrelly

According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "The State Government has a \$5 billion plan to redevelop Redfern and the surrounding suburbs that involves seizing control of Aboriginal housing on the Block and letting private developers take over two-thirds of the area's public housing estates.

"Under the 10-year plan, the Government will tear down the public residential towers in Waterloo and privatise \$540 million worth of public assets in a bid to double the area's population to 40,000, create 20,000 new jobs and give the central business district room to expand.

"In a major piece of social engineering, 20,000 new private renters and owners will be brought in to balance out the 7,000 public housing tenants in the area, many of whom are poor, old and disabled.

"Consultants have told the Government, which owns almost one-third of land in the area, that the redevelopment of the notorious Block would increase certain property values by 30 per cent."

All of this in an area that resoundingly voted for an Independent City Council with a commitment to reduced, more considered development just one year ago. Obviously, the population just didn't get their vote right!

Read more at the Government's official Redfern Waterloo website including the links to the Upper House Inquiry report:

**[www.redfernwaterloo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.redfernwaterloo.nsw.gov.au)**



## Drug & Alcohol Resource

Families and Carers affected by the drug or alcohol use of someone else is a resource for generalist support workers that accompanies training provided by the Centre for Community Welfare Training. It is designed to be used with a range of family members, including parents, siblings, spouses, children, grandparents or other family members, as well as families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Ph: 9281 8822

## New on-line 'Mental Health Rights Manual'.

The Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) has produced a new 'On-line Mental Health Rights Manual'.

It contains chapters on rights, principles and standards, the Mental Health Act, Mental Health Care and Treatment, the Mental Health Review Tribunal, Guardianship and Financial Management, the Criminal Justice System, Employment, Accommodation, Benefits and Allowances, Access to Information and Privacy, Carers, Children and Young People, Multicultural Issues, How to Complain, How to Find Legal Help and a list of useful contacts. [www.mhcc.org.au](http://www.mhcc.org.au)

## Anxiety Disorders Clinic

The University of Sydney has an Anxiety Disorders Clinic in the Faculty of Health Sciences which provides individual and group treatment for people with a range of anxiety problems including: worry, specific phobia, social anxiety, panic attacks, agoraphobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

In addition to the clinic, many staff from the Faculty are actively involved in research in the areas of stress and anxiety.

<http://www2.fhs.usyd.edu.au/bach/adac/>

## Is It A Fact?

that the Caritas psychiatric facility at St Vincents has been described as unsafe, impractical and hindering patient care?

that despite its inappropriate facilities, the current 27 beds are always full with police, welfare, homelessness and health service providers unable to get help for many people with a mental illness?

that the redevelopment of the facility was promised by the Premier at the 1999 election but then put on the backburner, scheduled for 2008?

that recent chaos at St Vincents, has seen the Government come to the party, with a new Psychiatric emergency Department due to be operating by July, and plans to increase mental health beds to 40?

## Access to Allied Health Services

Do you live in Central Sydney, come from a low income or unwaged household, and struggle with a mental health issue, such as depression or anxiety?

You may be eligible for referral by your General Practitioner (GP) to some FREE sessions with a qualified allied health professional (such as a psychologist).

What do you need to do?

- Attend two initial consultations with your GP who will conduct an assessment, complete a questionnaire, and develop a plan with you.
- Contact the Allied Health Professional you are referred to to make appointments and attend all scheduled appointments.
- Return to your GP and review the sessions to see what improvement has been made.

The funding for the sessions is being managed by the Central Sydney Division of General Practice in Ashfield.

Contact: Jerry Bacich  
Mental Health Project Officer:  
8752 4907

## Disability resources from Healthrites Bookshop

FPA Healthrites has an extensive collection of books and resources on reproductive and sexual health issues for people with disabilities.

Ph: 8752 4307

[www.fpahealth.org.au](http://www.fpahealth.org.au)

## Research Report by the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme

Barriers to Service Provision: for young people with presenting substance misuse and mental health problems. The report describes the barriers to service provision for young people with co-occurring substance use and mental health problems. They address the issue within Indigenous communities using a 'social and emotional wellbeing' perspective. The report makes recommendations for policy, service providers, intervention, care and recovery, law enforcement, indigenous services, education and training.

Ph: 1300 653 227

[www.facs.gov.au](http://www.facs.gov.au)



## Ch 31: Lost in Transmission

Last year Inner Voice reported on the demise of community television station Channel 31 and its legal challenge to the Australian Broadcasting Authority's decision to take it off air.

In this issue JACK CARNEGIE takes a close look at what the new licence holder is doing and not doing.

On a rainy Thursday night in the Showbiz Room at South Sydney Leagues Club, about thirty program makers are attending a meeting of SLICETV (Sydney Local Information Community Educational Television) – the community television production arm of TVS (Television Sydney); the new licence holder and broadcaster of Channel 31. They range from young music video makers in Mettallica T-shirts to older people wanting to make lifestyle and food programs. There is a good mix of nationalities too. These shoestring TV producers are all here to learn when their programs will again be broadcast to a Sydney audience – something that was never quite answered during the night.

Sitting at my table is Dave Barrington from Politics in the Pub, who is keen to get his political forum to air and John Reynolds, co-producer of *Actively Radical Television* – a program that was broadcast on the old Channel 31 every Sunday night. Reynolds describes the new licensing arrangement as a catastrophe for community television. He says the community program makers have lost control of the channel and are greatly disadvantaged in their dealings with TVS, mainly because of the involvement and domination of the University of Western Sydney (UWS).

TVS is a not-for-profit company with two members: ETC (Education Training Community Television Limited – made up of UWS and Metro Television) and SLICE. The board of

has four members, two from SLICE and two from ETC. However, the chair, who has a casting vote, is from ETC, giving them control. ETC is also well resourced by UWS, with paid staff and good facilities while SLICE has to rely on volunteers, donated equipment and an office on loan from South's. This is what makes John Reynolds unhappy, as the control of TVS is firmly in the hands of the UWS and not with the community program makers, unlike the old structure.

"Will TVS turn out to be a community television channel or an institutional broadcaster with only a minority and token community television content?"

Another issue that is worrying Reynolds is the need to get Channel 31 broadcasting. One of the conditions of the licence is that they start broadcasting within a year from the time they were granted it – and that date (in April 2005) is rapidly approaching with no hope of broadcasts starting then. The Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA), which awarded the licence to TVS, will need to grant an extension and that has not happened yet. TVS also wants to upgrade its transmitter from 5kw to 20kw – another variation to the original licence requiring ABA approval.

Then there's the money. In their bid to the ABA for the licence, TVS said it would raise \$2,000,000 from a commercial loan to finance the operation. UWS has just approved

the application for the loan, but it could be some time before it appears – if they get it.

Laurie Patton is the acting CEO of TVS (following the resignation of former ABC boss David Hill, who served briefly as Executive Director) and I phoned him to see if I could find out when Channel 31 would be broadcasting again and how the loan was progressing. Laurie wouldn't or couldn't answer any of my questions, brushing aside my queries with: "we're not seeking publicity at this stage". I wasn't offering publicity – I was looking for facts and Laurie wasn't cooperating.

The community TV producers sitting in the Showbiz room didn't have much luck either. Questions about the loan, governance and the all-important starting date were ruled out of order initially and fobbed off later. SLICE only knows what TVS tells them, and that doesn't appear to be much.

Channel 31 has now been off the air for nearly a year, because the ABA would not let the old licence holder, Community Television Sydney (CTS), continue broadcasting until TVS was ready to take over. Many of CTS program makers and a batch of new ones are wondering when they'll be given the call to get their shows to air, how much time they will be allocated and in what timeslots. And, will TVS turn out to be a community television channel or an institutional broadcaster with only a minority and token community television content.

# Community College Cuts

Inner Sydney Community Colleges have been targeted in funding cuts to adult education with the Government now prepared to subsidise courses that meet its narrow definition of vocational training. With one third of students over 60 (and not needing a lot of vocational education), colleges have had to cut courses, pensioner concessions and programs for people with disabilities, writes GARY TRAINER, Principal of Sydney Community College.

In November 2004 the Sydney Community College was informed that for the first time in 20 years, there would be a real decrease in NSW Government funding to Community Colleges. **The enormity of the 33% decrease was swift and non-negotiable.**

Evening and Community Colleges have been part of the NSW Education system since the 1880 Education Act when night schools were formalised as the adult part of the public education system. At various points in our educational history, Evening and Community Colleges have played important societal roles.

Post World War One, for instance, Evening and Community Colleges played a significant role in the re-training and resettlement of returned soldiers. Literacy and Adult Basic Education have always featured high in the achievements of Evening and Community Colleges as has the Teaching of English as a Second Language to Adult Migrants. Prior to the addition of Further Education, which is the "FE" in TAFE, Evening and Community Colleges assisted adult students gain school qualifications and to prepare for the Public Service Entrance and other examinations.

In recent years, especially the last decade, Evening and Community Colleges have substantially achieved one of the largest technical "up-skilling" events in our history; a whole generation, not previously familiar with computers in the work place, has been trained in their operation and application for the first time.

There have been various research projects that have tried to estimate

the strength and worth of the effort of Community Colleges specifically and Adult and Community Education (ACE), more generally. Of these, the Commonwealth Senate Inquiry into Adult Education titled "*Come in Cinderella*" was the most significant. A recent iteration of that report "*Beyond Cinderella: towards a Learning Society*" noted:

"... Lifelong learning has been a major theme in education policy debate stimulated by UNESCO's Institute of Education, and is bound up with the promotion of the 'learning society'.

"A national education and training system which is based on lifelong learning principles will provide educational opportunities which will:

- last the whole life of each individual;
- lead to the systematic acquisition, renewal, upgrading and completion of knowledge, skills and attitudes made necessary by the constantly changing conditions in which people now live;
- have as its ultimate goal the self-fulfilment of each individual;
- be dependent for its successful implementation on people's increasing ability and motivation to engage in self-directed learning activities; and
- acknowledge the contribution of all available educational influences, including formal, non formal and informal. "

The Committee's affirmation of lifelong learning as the fundamental attribute of Australia's education and training system is based on the

understandings set out above. In the Committee's view, the ACE sector has successfully integrated these principles into its structure and practice. Given the strength this high-level bipartisan statement, it is confusing that the NSW State Minister for Education should take such a short-sighted view of the nature and role of ACE.

Even before the recently announced cuts, the ACE sector in NSW received less than .25% (one quarter of one percent) of the total NSW Education budget. The sector is clearly the most cost effective and the most under funded of all of the sectors of education enrolling as it does, more than 350,000 students in NSW alone each year.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Sydney Community College is dedicated to providing educational opportunity for all, yet we have been forced to increase course fees by as much as 20%, further widening the gap of educational opportunity. We regret this and see it as a serious undermining of the valuable work we have done in the past.



# material needs

material needs

## M4 East Opposition

The M4 East is the RTA's proposal to build a motorway tunnel from Strathfield to Haberfield that then splits into two motorway tunnels: one that runs onto City West Link at Dobroyd Point and the other that will emerge onto Parramatta Rd at Ashfield.

Independent experts say it will increase peak hour traffic on the City West Link and Parramatta Rd by 40% - an extra 52,000 cars per day. This will cause more "rat-running" through local streets and make parking even harder.

It certainly won't solve the transport problems of outer-west commuters while its exhaust stacks will put residents health at risk.

The exhaust stacks of the M4 East motorway tunnels will concentrate the exhaust from 132,000 cars a day and dump it over local neighbourhoods. Research shows that car exhaust causes cancer. Even filtering these won't remove cancer-causing chemicals like benzene.

The main beneficiaries will be private tollway operators with motorists paying up to \$50/week to use the tollway.

Leichhardt Council believes the RTA is trying to push through the M4 East before a proper planning process is completed. More info: [www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au](http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au)

## Waverley Homeless Protocol

The Waverley local government area has twice the rate of homelessness per head of population than the state average, and boarding house stock in the area has declined from several hundred in the '70s to a mere 28.

To deal with this, Waverley Council has produced a written guide for all council officers which identifies the best way to assist homeless people and aid the referral process while giving reassurance to community members.

## Is It A Fact?

that one in every 200 people in our community is homeless, with almost half of them under 25 years?

that the Australian Government spends only 4 cents per day per Australian on services to help homeless people leaving us with a system in crisis?

that it would only take an extra 1 cent per Australian per day to keep this homeless service safety net operating?

that over 700 people are turned away from homeless assistance services each day due to a lack of resources, more than 200 of them are children?

that a 2004 independent report has recommended a minimum increase in funding of 15-25% just to keep the homeless service system operating or 35-40% to meet current levels of unmet demand?

## Mass Transit Study

The City of Sydney Council has commissioned a study on mass transit, by Glazebrook and Associates and Martin Walsh and Associates, which draws on 49 studies of mass transit options done by NSW Government agencies and others since 1994. The Glazebrook report recommends:

- \* light rail as the most appropriate mass transit system for the CBD and inner city
- \* reorganising bus routes
- \* limiting parking levels in CBD
- \* more park & ride opportunities
- \* wider footpaths and cycle lanes and an extra 1km of pedestrianised streets in the city centre.

The Inner Sydney Transport Working Group (Council and State Government) is expected to finalise a draft Inner Sydney Transport Strategy for submission to Cabinet later this year.

The Glazebrook report is available at: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/catz\\_mass\\_transport.asp](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/catz_mass_transport.asp)

## Taxi Complaints Hotline

The Taxi Complaints Hotline is 1800 648 478 if you need to make a complaint about service/drivers, wheelchair accessibility, vehicles, booking staff service, booking failures, supervisors and complaint processes.

## Transfer of housing stock to community housing

The NSW Department of Housing has been transferring public housing properties to community housing at an increasing rate. But now the Federal Government has reached an agreement with the NSW Government to **limit** the number to 2,500, because of fears that all of the tenants will qualify for Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) which public tenants are not eligible for, which could cause a cost blow out in the CRA.

The Department of Housing is negotiating principles that should apply to the transfers, such as 'no tenant will be worse off', with Shelter and other groups.



## Marg Barry Social Work Prize 2004

The Board and members of Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development wish to congratulate Andrea Ball of Matraville who has been awarded the 'Marg Barry Prize in Social Work' for 2004 at the University of NSW.

The prize is awarded annually to the student with the best performance in Social Work Practice: Community Work in the Bachelor of Social Work or combined Bachelor of Social Work. Congratulations Andrea.

## Reconciliation Week Art Competition

To mark Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June 2005), Woollahra Council and the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum are holding an Art Competition for schools and the inaugural Pauline McLeod Awards.

Any art medium on any surface will be accepted. It is free to enter and entries close 29 April.

## Kurrajong Aboriginal Products for Kids

An on-line site for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Products for the 0 - 8 years age group. Kurrajong Products are all hand made, original and of a high quality and are designed for the childcare sector.  
[www.kurrajong.net](http://www.kurrajong.net)



## Is It A Fact?

that the Australian Technology Park (ATP), at Eveleigh, is still not financially viable, with reports that it is carrying \$38 million in debt, and continuing to lose \$4 million every year?

that the park has been transferred from under the umbrella of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority to the new Redfern-Waterloo Authority?

that the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority is now the subject of a NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into its management, with information on the ATP's debts sure to get a mention?

that the ATP can not be relishing the fact that a major new business park, the Sir Joseph Banks Corporate Park, is being built at Botany?

that the ATP's ongoing financial difficulties may drain resources from the Redfern Waterloo Authority, instead of being used for urban renewal and social improvements?

## Saturday Language School

The Saturday School of Community Languages gives students the opportunity to study the language they speak at home, if a course in that language is not offered at their own school or college.

The school is a public secondary school which operates only on Saturdays. Over 6,000 students in Years 7-12, from both government and non-government schools and TAFE colleges, are enrolled.

Languages offered by the program include: Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, Filipino, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Modern Greek, Maltese, Polish, Serbian, Slovenian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese.

Contact: Margaret Shilling, Board of Studies on: 9367 8111.

## EORA Celebrates 20 years

In December more than 300 people, including many ex-students joined together at Eora College in Abercrombie St, Chippendale, to celebrate its 20 year anniversary.

At Eora courses have been designed to meet the needs of Aboriginal students seeking access to higher education. The College is attached to Sydney TAF and offers courses in the visual and performing arts. Eora also has introductory level courses in adult and general education.

## Public Education Day

With its theme, 'Public Education - Worth The Investment', national Public Education Day, Thursday 19th May is an occasion to celebrate the great achievements of public schools and mobilise supporters to campaign for the maintenance of quality public education in all Australian communities.. [www.nswtf.org.au](http://www.nswtf.org.au)



# Peter Garrett MP

FRANCESCA GUIMARENS met with the new Member for Kingsford Smith and canvassed his initial views on Malabar Headland, Port Botany, Kingsford-Smith Airport and being in the Australian Labor Party.

**Q. How are you settling in to your new position?**

**A.** It's been a pretty steep learning curve for me, settling in here. I'm enjoying it a great deal but I'm finding it pretty challenging too. I want to take the time to settle in, learn not only the job itself, but continue to learn more and more about the community and I anticipate that that is going to take another six to twelve months, even though people have got an expectation that I'm going to have a view on everything straight away.

**Q. What do you see as the main issues for Kingsford Smith?**

**A.** Speaking as a Federal parliamentarian, I think the issues in this electorate will, in some ways, remain the issues that were important before the election - affordable access to health, adequate and equitable resourcing on a needs-basis for schools. There's quite a large component of independent Catholic schools in Kingsford Smith, as well as a pretty significant public school sector, and all those schools would have benefitted from Labor's education policy.

As well as that, the future of Malabar Headland is an important issue and I mentioned it in my maiden speech as one of the things that I'll be committed to. Other important issues include what's happening at the Orica site and the plume; additionally there are planning issues around Port Botany with the proposal for the expansion of the port, issues in relation to a lot of the former greenfield sites or factory sites being turned over to new housing - it's an area that's, in a sense, undergoing some transformation between what was previously light industrial and heavy industrial to residential.

**Q. How will you be working with the indigenous communities**

**A.** I'll want to spend some time with indigenous communities in this region and hear their views before I make any decisions about how I'm going to interact with and work with them but I have nominated and been accepted to be a member of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in the Parliament, which I thought was an important thing to do.

**Q. What do you think is the best solution for Sydney Airport?**

**A.** Labor believes that Sydney needs a second airport and that it should be outside of the Sydney basin and that a site selection process which takes full account of the environment and the heritage and amenity issues that surround a project that big needs to take place. Ideally you'd like to see a very fast train or at least a faster service running between Canberra and Sydney and for any airport in the future to be easily accessible by train as opposed to having to jump on buses or cars or cabs.

**Q Is Sydney Airport here to stay?**

**A.** I think realistically, yes, this airport is here to stay. It's a Commonwealth issue and the current government, and future governments I suspect, would not see closing the airport as a short term option. There are plans to expand the infrastructure around the airport if not necessarily the runways, and for those people in the community that live in regional NSW who visit Sydney for business you can understand the great attraction of being able to get in and out of the city quickly.

**Q. What do you feel about the deadlock on Malabar Headland?**

**A.** The deadlock on Malabar Headland is pretty worrying and I along with many others are concerned that the Commonwealth Government will try to take some of the Malabar Headland area particularly on the Western side and sell it off for housing. The community of Kingsford Smith but also the community of the eastern and inner suburbs need these open space areas. It ought to be a national park which is returned to the people and we'll work as hard as we can to that end.

**Q. What do you see as the future of public housing?**

**A.** There is a fair amount of public housing in the electorate and I am sympathetic to both the increase in public housing for those people in need but also to changing the housing mix so that you don't have big blocks of public housing and then in other places big blocks of private housing.

I think we need a more diverse housing mix and we will see a greater social cohesion if that were the case but I'm also aware of the fact that there is a strong push from government agencies to change their attitude towards the provision of public housing with a view to increasing the capacity that people have to effectively buy in for their housing needs and I actually think that this is an area which requires quite a bit of rethinking, and again I will be listening to people and talking to people working in the sector, community organisations and the like, and getting a sense of their position and their thinking on the best way to move forward.



**Q. How do you feel about the proposed development of Port Botany, and the toxic plume in Botany Bay?**

**A.** I'm opposed to the development at Port Botany going ahead in its current form if it is going to result in any deterioration in the environment of Botany Bay or significantly increase the amount of traffic movement, pollution and noise levels for local residents. But I do accept that we need to have an expansion of port facilities within the Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle region. I think it's going to be important to take this on a stage-by-stage basis. There's a Commission of Inquiry that is hearing additional evidence at the present.

The toxic plume that is coming through at Orica actually ends up at Penrhyn Estuary which is where they want to build a port so my own view is that we need to first resolve the questions about stopping the toxic part of the plume reaching Penrhyn Estuary. Secondly, see what comes out of the Commission of Inquiry Report and thirdly, see how both government and authorities are placed with a view to determining a port mix which produces the least environmental impact on the bay.

**Q. What are your views on reconciliation on a national level, and particularly in relation to the abolition of ATSIC?**

I continue to think that reconciliation with our indigenous people is of primary importance to us in our progression as a nation. I think that there were a number of problems with ATSIC and that it was inevitable that it wasn't going to run the course as a representative body but I still feel strongly as does the Federal Party that there needs to be a mechanism of genuine representation for indigenous people, a body that they have trust and confidence in. The non-elected body that the Howard Government has appointed is really on notice as to whether or not it's going to have sufficient independence of mind to be able to speak across the range of indigenous issues that are important and to have a point of view which doesn't necessarily dovetail with the Coalitions view on indigenous issues. It's very early days in this new phase of indigenous politics in the country

and I think whilst there are grave problems with having a non-elected body we have to hope that those people can find their voice and speak to those issues even if it means disagreeing with the Government.

**Q. What is your position on the logging of old growth forests? How do you balance the need to protect the environment with the need to create employment?**

Look I've always had strong views about the environment, including the logging of old growth forests, well, *high conservation value* old growth forests and had worked for a number of years both in NSW and in other parts of Australia with conservation organisations aiming to both secure the protection of the environment and to have sufficient investment in the restructuring of the timber industry which could provide sustainable employment in the long run. I argued very strongly that it was possible to have a closed-loop, non-chlorine-and-other-pollutants pulp mill in Tasmania to reverse the imbalance in the trade account where we're importing a lot of finished paper products and we're effectively clear felling high conservation forests for wood chips. I thought this was very bad economically as well as being very bad environmentally and I'll continue to argue strongly for that in the coming term.

**Q. What led you to join the ALP instead of the Greens, which seemed a more logical move given your past history as a conservationist?**

I joined the ALP because I felt that its broad suite of policies most closely matched my values and ideas about politics and that there had been sufficient attention starting to be given to environment issues particularly in areas such as global warming. And whilst I acknowledge that the Greens did have some strong environment policies I certainly always felt that Labor was the Party which could do the most for the environment but that additionally had a range of other important policy positions on things like education and health that I responded to most acutely

**1Q. Is there anything you would try to change internally about the ALP and if so, what would that be? And how would you go about it? What faction of the ALP do you belong to at the moment – left, right, centre?**

I'm the only person in the Party at the moment, the Federal Caucus, who's not factionally aligned at all. Now that doesn't mean I will never be in a faction - I may end up deciding that there's merit in working with other people in some factional sense, although at the moment I reckon that it's important for me to try to stand in my own place and work with all the members of the Party and the Caucus.

It seems to me that the factional system doesn't always help the cause of Labor and I would very much like to see more flexibility within the Caucus but I am very much a new person so I'm sure I've got a lot to learn as well.

I think we need to recognise how serious it is that the Labor Party be an effective alternative government. This is especially important now because once Howard Government takes control of the Senate, we're going to see some legislation coming through which literally challenges and contests a way of life and an approach to politics that I think Australians have become very used to and which has been to our great benefit.

And just one issue alone – just the privatisation of additional institutions and resources, is something which we really need to contest and argue through. We need to have a strong Opposition to do that.

## Fox Studios Lease Sold

News Corporation and Lend-Lease have sold the remaining 33-year lease of the Fox Family Entertainment Precinct to Colonial First State's property arm.

Residents are concerned that Colonial are seeking to change the usage of the area from "film-related commercial and public entertainment" only, to a mix of shopping centre and residential.

## Free Stickers

Lane Cove Tunnel Action Group Inc has printed promotional stamps and stickers to alert people to the serious threat of pollution from long road tunnels (not just Lane Cove Tunnel). Tunnel pollution harms motorists and people who live and work around the stacks - pollution which is more toxic than cigarette smoke in clubs and hotels, which kills about 70 people each year.

The sticker aims to keep pressure on the RTA and decision-makers to filter road tunnels. Display them wherever you can. Ph: 9427 0131 for a free set.



## New City Park

With stevedoring activity due to cease at East Darling Harbour next year, the NSW Government has announced that at least half of the 22 hectare site will become public open space.

The new city park will form part of a 14 km walkway from Anzac Bridge to Woolloomooloo. The remainder will be commercial with a small part, residential.

An international design competition is being held to create the vision for the new site.



## Is It A Fact?

than plans are underway for a massive expansion of Sydney Airport?

that the new private owners of Sydney Airport led by Macquarie Bank, are pushing both the State and Federal Governments for the biggest possible return on their \$5.6 billion investment?

that the Federal Government is set to approve a 20 year Masterplan that will see passenger numbers explode from 26 million in 2000 to 68 million by 2023?

that a new eight-storey car park, with spaces for an additional 8,000 cars, is being planned?

that the development of two high-rise towers - 240,000m2 of extra commercial space is being assessed already - about half the size of Parramatta CBD?

>>>>Rally on Sunday 17 April, 11am, Tempe Reserve

## Cliff Walk Open

The official opening of the Dover Heights to Vaucluse Cliff Walk will take place on 3 December. The 3km coastal walk provides access to some of the most breathtaking coastal views in Sydney. It follows the cliffs between Clarke Reserve, Vaucluse and Raleigh Reserve, Dover Heights, linking a number of coastal reserves with timber boardwalks. The \$1 million project was completed by Waverley Council, with assistance from State and Federal Governments.

## Computer Recycling

Infoexchange Australia's Affordable Access Division can assist with ISP services including Broadband ADSL and network set-up and support. It also runs the **Green PC** computer recycling program, where low cost refurbished computers are made available for community groups and individuals on low incomes. Visit the website for special deals available now:

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

## Love Your Lane

The City of Sydney Council has continued a Leichhardt Council initiative to improve Glebe's back laneways. The "Love your Lane" initiative calls on neighbours who would like to transform their lane into a safe and pleasant place, to make a submission to Council.

Council officers will investigate all suggestions and determine which two laneways could most benefit from a "Love your Lane" project. Contact: Rebecca Raap at City of Sydney.



## Energy & Water Ombudsman Brochure

Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON) has published their brochure "Problems with your electricity gas or water provider" in seven community languages. Download free from the website. [www.ewon.com.au](http://www.ewon.com.au)



# citizens' rights & safety

## Pauline McLeod Award for Reconciliation 2005

Nominations are now open for the Pauline McLeod Award for Reconciliation which aims to recognise those "silent achievers" who have worked to promote reconciliation in their local or wider communities - be they your neighbour, co-worker, family member or friends.

The award is sponsored by the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum, which incorporates Leichhardt, Botany Bay, Sydney City, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils. Nominees must either live, work or study in one of the above-mentioned council areas and show a strong commitment to reconciliation. There are two categories - an open award and a youth award < 24 years. Nominations close on Friday 13 May 2005. More info: 9367 9279 or [stuartgi@lmc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stuartgi@lmc.nsw.gov.au).

## Child-Friendly Places

The NSW Commission for Children & Young People has developed information resources to assist organisations that work with children to be child-safe and child-friendly. These resources are accessible, clear and easy to use for even the smallest organisations. Free at [www.kids.nsw.gov.au/childfriendly/resources.html](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/childfriendly/resources.html)

## CASS Chinese Crime Prevention Initiative

The CASS Chinese Crime Prevention Initiative includes: raising awareness of crime prevention among Chinese-speaking people in Australia (especially Sydney); organising workshops/seminars on crime prevention; publishing articles about crime prevention in Chinese media; providing counselling services and support for victims of crime. [www.cass.org.au](http://www.cass.org.au)

## Is It A Fact?

that Redfern Local Court is definitely closing when police move into their new station in the TNT building, which may come as early as May?

that the closure is disappointing for locals - many of whom appreciate the familiar and small scale court house as somewhere they can get things done - who will now have to use the much larger and impersonal Downing Centre and Central Local Court?

that there is some hope of keeping the Registry aspect of the Court open in Redfern as has been done in areas like Mt Druitt?

that it is amazing how the NSW Government continues to close public amenities in Redfern while planning to massively increase the local population?

## Child Protection Guide

NSW Family Services has recently updated their Child Protection Reporting: a policy guide and procedural resource for family services. Non-members can use the resource with permission from NSW Family Services. Ph: 9692 9999

## Legal Information needs of Older People

The Law and Justice Foundation have produced a report on the legal information needs of older people. Studies have found that older people require information on a wide range of legal issues, but are unaware they have information needs and legal rights or there is legislation to strengthen those rights.

Awareness and knowledge is lower amongst older people willing to give control of their affairs to other people, those on low incomes, Aboriginal people, those from CALD backgrounds, those who are disabled and some who live in rural and remote areas.

Contact: 9221 3900  
[www.lawfoundation.net.au/access/elder/](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/access/elder/)

## Our Rights, Our Voices

This is a new report by NCOSS and the Women's Rights Action Network Australia as part of a national project documenting the human rights experiences of women in Australia. The report highlights continuing domestic violence, a lack of child-care and sexual assault services, pay inequality and increasing homelessness, and recommends increased resources for women's refuges and support services. [www.ncoss.org.au/hot/voices.html](http://www.ncoss.org.au/hot/voices.html)

## Community Services Ombudsman

The NSW Ombudsman for Community Services provides workshops throughout the year including: The "Rights Stuff" consumer workshop (for people who use community and disability services), Resolving Consumer Complaints, Dealing with Difficult Complainants, Towards Best Practice in Complaints Management, The Art of Negotiation. Community Education Unit: 9265 0400

citizens' rights & safety

# Manufacturing Fear

The impacts of anti-terror laws in Australia were discussed at one of two forums hosted by the University of Technology's Shopfront, Civil Rights Network and Social Inquiry graduate students. ANNE MCGUFFICKE, participated in the forums which rejected the politics of fear.

The first forum, *Manufacturing Fear* focused on the impacts of anti-terror laws in Australia and in region. The second forum, *Facing Fear* discussed community-based projects to defend civil liberties and to challenge racist media stereotypes.

Since September 11 John Howard's alignment with the Bush administration has created our national enemy, with a violent assault on the 'rogue' Arab states of Afghanistan and Iraq. We are used to politicians manipulating fear of crime, with competing law-and-order agendas at election time. Now we face the manipulation of terror. Terror threats are used to justify strong-arm action, with governments winning elections on the back of their fear campaigns.

Having generated a state of fear the Federal Government offers us comfort in the form of new anti-terrorism laws. At last count, 18 anti-terror laws have been passed, dramatically reducing our civil liberties. But this is of little consequence: desperate times require desperate measures. After all, in this climate of fear/hysteria there is an "us against them" perception and we mistakenly feel these laws would never apply to us, that they would only ever be used against "them", the "terrorists".

The Government's anti-terror laws have reinforced community divisions with a dual system of law – one for 'terrorist suspects', the other for everyone else. For Jenny Hocking, a Melbourne law professor, this signals a new 'war against terror at home'. The laws define a 'terrorist acts', create a litany of 'terrorism offences', allow the government to ban 'terrorist organisations', and arrest anyone



who is any way linked with them. The legislation leaves the 'door wide open' for the government to target any organisations or individuals they disagree with, by simply labelling them 'terrorists'. For Jenny Hocking anti-terrorism legislation creates the 'machinery of a police state', where political activity becomes risky, and people avoid associating with ideologies or belief systems that oppose the dominant culture.

"At last count, 18 anti-terror laws have been passed, dramatically reducing our civil liberties."

'Instead of restoring our faith in the unity of Australians, and giving us the courage to resist turning against each other, those with the power to influence have conjured up Apocalypse Now visions of Islam versus the West.' Rana Abdel Fattah

For Joo-Cheong Tham, also an academic lawyer, the anti-terror laws reflect 'opportunism, exaggerations, and misrepresentations'. Ignoring the 'existing panoply of anti-terrorism powers', the government has created laws which have little to do with terrorism. New ASIO powers further conceal ASIO activity, providing them with a 'green light' to act with impunity. An individual not even suspected of a crime can now be detained incommunicado for up to seven days, and interrogated for up to 24 hours with no right to silence

or access to a lawyer of their choice. Failure to answer questions or to produce documents or other 'things' can lead to a five-year prison term. Even if found innocent, suspects cannot talk about their experiences. Secrecy about ASIO activity is perhaps most worrying. Jude McCulloch, also at the Forum, believes that ASIO is now moving from 'spy agency' to 'secret police force, with the power to 'disappear' citizens'.

In Australia you are a terrorist if you intend to advance a 'political, religious or ideological cause' by intimidating or coercing the government or the public. Under this definition governments are never terrorists and, as Jude McCulloch points out, anti-terror laws can be used against 'individuals and groups that challenge the legitimacy of the political status quo or economic order rather than at those engaged in extreme acts of violence that imperil human security'.

The United Nations takes a different definition of terrorism. In 2004 the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and a 16-member panel defined terrorism as 'any action that is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants'. Such a simple definition based on the fundamental human right for civilian safety may overcome the problem of defining terrorism based on political objectives. It may also serve to implicate national states when they are the ones perpetrating acts of terrorism, as well as individuals and organisations.

The legislation leaves the 'door wide open' for the government to target any organisations or individuals they disagree with, by simply labelling them 'terrorists'.

The Australian government and media have deliberately chosen to intensify community fears, rather than address the difficult social, economic and cultural issues that generate hostility and conflict. At the 'Manufacturing Fear' forum Scott Poynting examined the 'spiral' of media-generated fear in Sydney's suburbia. Linking local crime with unrelated issues of refugees, immigration and global terrorism, media outlets have increased racial tension. From his work on this issue, Scott pointed out that what has been most hurtful for Arab and Muslim Australians is the silence of so many Australians of different backgrounds, in the face of such vilification.

In her address to the Forum, Jude McCulloch condemned the creation of panic, creating a time of 'emergency', where there is 'no space for context, consequences, complexity, ambiguity, dissent or dialogue'. Against 'emergency time', she appealed for 'public time', a chance for inclusive dialogue that looks for explanations 'and recognises that solutions might be long and complex'. In these times our primary duty is 'to maintain the democratic space within our own society'. 'Manufacturing Fear' was a small but significant attempt at doing this.

## Facing Fear Forum

The second forum brought together people working with communities experiencing racism, and advocates and academics interested in anti-racism responses to the politics of fear. It was an opportunity to learn about innovative community level projects addressing prejudice and fear directed at Muslim, Arab and Sikh Australians as a result of the 'war on terror'.

The first session, 'Fear Go', explored the impacts of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent 'war on terror' in creating a climate of fear and insecurity among communities represented as threatening 'others'. While it is common to hear that 'the world changed' on September 11, the forum heard that during the 'war on terror' it is Sikh, Arab and Muslim Australians whose daily lives have been impacted by being the object of fear, mistrust and racist vilification.

Speakers gave evidence of how these racialised communities are living in fear: fear of racist violence or harassment, fear of ASIO raids and overpolicing, fear of discrimination and sensationalised media reporting.

Randa Kattan of the Australian Arabic Communities Council explained that racism creates a lot of extra work for under-resourced community organisations and developing response strategies is difficult for communities 'under siege'. A representative of the Australian Sikh Association, Inderjeet Singh, detailed the increase in racism directed at Sikhs due to 'mistaken identity' caused by wearing the turban and beard.

"...racialised communities are living in fear: fear of racist violence or harassment, fear of ASIO raids and overpolicing, fear of discrimination and sensationalised media reporting."

The title *Facing Fear* was intended to emphasise the ways in which community organisations are speaking up and fighting back.

Sessions showcased community response strategies focusing on '*Resisting Racism through Representation*' and '*Resisting Racism through Education*'.

The forum identified five key strategies for community anti-racism work after September 11:

- interfaith
- community cultural development
- cross-cultural education
- media strategies and
- community capacity building.

The most popular strategy for cultural interventions has been Interfaith dialogue. Organisations such as Affinity have been established to develop projects which bring together Christians, Muslims and members of other faiths to share their beliefs and traditions through personal interactions. They run Mosque open days, interfaith dinners and the like.

Community cultural development projects involve community members in cultural production to tell their own stories and to showcase emerging cultures. The *Trouble Comes to Me* project at Information Cultural

Exchange involved Arab Australian young men writing, filming and producing a short film about their interactions with police.

Nada Roude and the Australian Arabic Communities Council have developed cross-cultural training workshops for both state and non-government organisations. These workshops help to dispel common myths and stereotypes about Islam and Arab Australians by teaching history and traditions.

Media strategies aim to train and empower members of communities experiencing racism to talk back to mainstream media. Media skills workshops for young members of the Muslim Women's Association have encouraged the participants to participate in media interviews, to speak on talkback radio and eventually to go on to become media producers themselves by editing the *Reflections* magazine.

Community capacity building strategies form part of every project. Capacity building strategies emphasise skills and employment outcomes for participants in community projects to build up the capacity of marginalised communities to develop further activities.

Overall, the event provided an important opportunity for networking across the community, legal, university and advocacy sectors. Project proposals included a Virtual Resource Centre for creative antiracism work. UTS Shopfront will develop an audio CD and publication from the forum, which will be available in 2005.

*Ann McGufficke studies in the Graduate Program in Social Inquiry at UTS*

You can access the speeches from the two Forums on the website for the UTS Research Initiative in International Activism ([www.international.activism.uts.edu.au](http://www.international.activism.uts.edu.au)).

Further Information:

Civil Rights Network : [www.civilrightsnetwork.org](http://www.civilrightsnetwork.org)

Australian Muslim Civil Rights Advocacy Network : [www.amcran.org](http://www.amcran.org)

Activist Rights website: [www.activistrights.org.au](http://www.activistrights.org.au)



# family support & community activities

## 30 Years of Network

Congratulations to the Members and staff at the Network of Community Activities for reaching the 30 year milestone. Network is one of the busiest and most productive peak agencies around supporting Out-of-School Hours and Vacation care services across NSW.

Network's esteemed Co-ordinator **Judy Finlason** is retiring in May. **We wish her all the very best.**

*The Network: When dreams become reality* - a history of Network is available for \$27.50.  
[www.netoosh.org.au](http://www.netoosh.org.au)

## Walking the Street: Seeking Art Works

Inner West Cultural Services is seeking art works made by the community in the Inner West region for the next Walking the Street 2005. The two-week exhibition occurs in June in the shopfronts at the south end of King St, Newtown.

Art works that may have been created by residents as part of a community arts project are sought.  
[www.innerwestcs.org.au](http://www.innerwestcs.org.au)

## Strengthening Families - Resourcing Parents. Inner West Small Grants Scheme

SF-RP is a Families First initiative to support agencies working collaboratively in their provision of parenting education, support and information.

Grants of a maximum of \$2000 will be available to all non-profit services, Government and Non-Government agencies. Funding is available for 25 programs per year, with the opportunity to submit applications in April and October.

This scheme is for parents and organisations in the Inner West, including Leichhardt LGA and the suburb of Glebe.

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

## Is It A Fact?

that according to a recent survey, 74% of non government, community service agencies surveyed in NSW were unable to assist all the people seeking their services during 2003-04?

that during the same period, these agencies provided nearly 11% **more** services than in the previous 12 months?

that the biggest increases in the incidence of people being turned away in NSW are with child care, housing assistance, community legal and financial and material support services?

that this is happening at a time when the survey shows more NSW community service agencies than before are running budget deficits?

that 62% of the survey respondents indicated that income for their services in 2003-04 had not met costs, with nearly three quarters indicating they were using up their financial reserves, suggesting their long-term viability is in jeopardy?

that these findings confirm a growing range of evidence that points to clients of community services seeking assistance with much more complex problems than previously?

that 78% of respondents had increased unfunded work by both paid staff and volunteers between 2002-03 and 2003-04?

that 52% of respondents had difficulty attracting appropriate staff, principally due to the levels of pay on offer and shortages in the amount of paid hours per week?

[www.acoss.org.au](http://www.acoss.org.au)

## Multicultural Carer Support Service Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

The Multicultural Carer Support Service is a new service for carers of someone who is frail, aged, has a disability or chronic illness and who lives in Leichhardt, Marrickville, Newtown or surrounding areas. Contact: 9516 4755  
[carersproject@newtowncentre.org](mailto:carersproject@newtowncentre.org)

## DV Training

Immigrant Women's Speakout Association is holding Domestic Violence Training:

- Domestic Violence Provision in Immigration Law - 14 June, 22 September
- Cross Cultural Domestic Violence Training - 26 July

Contact: 9635 8022

# NSW Shadow Ministry

Bob Carr MP	Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship	Reba Meagher MP	Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth
Andrew Refshauge MP	Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	Sandra Nori MP	Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women
John Della Bosca MLC	Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer,	Tony Kelly MLC	Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Lands
Craig Knowles MP	Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources	David Campbell MP	Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business
Bob Debus MP	Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment	Ian Macdonald MLC	Minister for Primary Industries
Carl Scully MP	Minister for Police	Diane Beamer MP	Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Planning Administration)
Morris Iemma MP	Minister for Health	John Hatzistergos MLC	Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship
Michael Costa MLC	Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports, and Minister for the Hunter	Grant McBride MP	Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for the Central Coast
John Watkins MP	Minister for Transport Services	Kerry Hickey MP	Minister for Mineral Resources
Carmel Tebbutt MLC	Minister for Education & Training	Joseph Tripodi MP	Minister for Housing
Frank Sartor MP	Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, Minister with special responsibility for Redfern-Waterloo		

## New Communities Division in DoCS

The NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) has established a new 'Communities Division' that has been given additional program and policy areas.

These include:

- the Office of Children and Young People
- Families First
- Better Futures
- the Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Strategy
- Youth Policy
- The Community Solutions Unit
- The Strengthening Communities Unit
- Youth Partnership with Arabic Speaking Communities
- Canterbury Bankstown Place Project.
- Youth Partnership with Pacific Islander Communities
- The Community Builders Unit
- The Area Assistance Scheme.

These will all combine with CSGP and SAAP to form the new Communities Division reporting to **Sue Dawson**, Deputy Director-General, Communities and Policy.

Ms Dawson will continue to supervise Child Protection and Early Intervention Policy and Out-of-Home Care Policy and Purchasing Reform, Interagency and Intergovernment Coordination and Youth Policy.





# resources & organisation

resources & organisation

## CDSE Grants Due Soon

Applications for the Community Development Supported Expenditure (Clubs money) are due soon.

Deadlines:

Randwick	29 April
Leichhardt	20 May
Waverley	30 May
City of Sydney	31 May

Services located in Botany or Woollahra LGAs can apply direct to individual clubs. For more info, contact your local council or [www.clubsnsw.com.au](http://www.clubsnsw.com.au)>CDSE Scheme>local committee index.

## Making Sense of Financial Statements & Auditors Reports

The Department of Community Services is running several workshops on this important topic which provides participants with the skills to read and interpret a set of financial reports, and how to confidently discuss the financial position of an organisation with the auditor, member, board and staff.

The training is **free** to DOCS-funded services.

2 June	Parramatta
6 June	Chatswood

Ph: Tania Bezzina 9209 6456  
[ngotu@community.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ngotu@community.nsw.gov.au)

## Training on Client Information Sharing

*What we can say and what we can't - Client Information Sharing Across Agencies.* A full-day training program to be held on Wednesday 1 June. For community workers who collaborate with other agencies and have clients in common. For more info, contact: Lynn Cohen: 9205 1570 [lynn.cohen@community.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lynn.cohen@community.nsw.gov.au)

## Is It A Fact?

that there will be a significant change to the way the NSW Government conducts its Budget this year?

that the usual practice has been for departments and agencies to put their costed plans for new initiatives or services to Treasury for consideration in the budget?

that from this year, Treasury will not only look at requests for new expenditure, it will look at ALL expenditure including what is traditionally regarded as 'core business', including the recurrent funding provided to non-government organisations?

that the departments and agencies will have to produce a Results and Services Plan (RSP) and a 'Political Economic Environmental Sociological and Technological analysis' (PEEST analysis) for Treasury to demonstrate how well they are using their resources?

that while it is sensible that the Government should not blindly continue to fund activities just because it did so the year before, the danger for community service providers is that this new process will favour activities that lend themselves more easily to mathematical assessment than community services do?

## Russian Resources

The Russian Ethnic Community Council of NSW has an information and referral service for Russian and Russian-speaking migrants and refugees.

Service providers speak Russian and English and are based in the AMES Building in Burwood.

Contact: 9745 4244  
[recc@russiansinaustralia.org.au](mailto:recc@russiansinaustralia.org.au)

## How to Organise a Conference

A comprehensive checklist of many of the things you'll need to do when organising a conference. Put together by Christine Lawrence of Western Sydney Community Form, who has extensive experience in conference organising. [christinel@wscf.org.au](mailto:christinel@wscf.org.au)

## Population Data

The Transport and Population Data Centre (TPDC) located in the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) has released a new publication containing the latest population projections for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) within NSW for 2001 - 2031. The SLAs with the largest projected population increases between 2001 and 2031 are in the Sydney region.

[www.planning.nsw.gov.au/tpdc/whatsnew.html](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/tpdc/whatsnew.html)

## Where is?

Can't find your street directory - just type in where you are and where you want to go and this website will give you a map and written list of streets and tell you how long it should take you. [www.whereis.com.au](http://www.whereis.com.au)

# INNER VOICE

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I am over 18 years of age.

Signed: .....

Witnessed:.....

Dated:.....

Make cheques payable to:  
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ph: 9698 7690 fx: 9318 0852