

REDWATER NEWS



Dignity and Death

Recently there has been a flood of newspaper reports of deaths undiscovered for many months, especially in Department of Housing properties. Among the reports were some identifying that these sad events had in fact been occurring for a long period of time.

In some of these reports DoH tenants have been portrayed as uncaring and not concerned for the welfare of their fellow tenants. The Minister for Housing requests that we, the tenants, should be more caring towards our fellow tenants have given weight to the media's suggestions that we are an uncaring ungrateful anti-social dysfunctional group of welfare recipients who are a drain on the rest of the people of NSW.

In Double Bay, Mosman or Bellevue Hill, ignorance of your neighbour's wellbeing is regarded as "not prying" and thus is a big part of being a "caring neighbour".

Surely the qualities required to be a caring neighbour do not depend on geography.

The Minister as part of her response to the media reports has suggested the possibility that the DoH will introduce twice yearly visits to tenants to check on their welfare. Perhaps the Minister is not familiar with the Future Directions in Social Housing policy of her predecessor. There is currently meant to be an annual visit by DoH staff called a Client Service Visit which has Health and Personal Welfare on the checklist. It would seem however that most living tenants can

not remember when they last, if ever, received such a visit.

The major issue to arise from the publicity given to the recent sad events is the reluctance of the elderly to enter Aged Care facilities. The preservation of personal independence and the denial of reduced ability to maintain their existing lifestyle emerge among the main issues. The fear of change in lifestyle and moving away from the comfort zone of personal networks and familiar surroundings are major drivers of this reluctance. These are very real and totally understandable fears.

At present the services to help the elderly stay living in the safety and security of their own homes are in extremely short supply and when available are of a limited and rationed nature.

A less intrusive manner of providing a means of ensuring response is only a day away at worst is the service operated by Red Cross Australia where a daily phone call is made to the person to say "hello" and provide the opportunity for the person to ask for some help if they want to do so. In the event that the phone call goes unanswered a visit to the person's home can be arranged immediately. This service respects the privacy and independence of the person as well as helping them to remain living in their own community and familiar surroundings.

Another non-invasive 'self help' method available to all DoH tenants arises from the physical closeness of our community. We
con't p3

**Housing Communities Assistance Program
(HCAP)
Redfern and Waterloo
2006 – 2008**

- all social housing tenants
- community development
- sustainability



The HCAP is now working from The Factory Community Centre to support tenant participation in Redfern and Waterloo. The new program means that I will now not only be working with public housing tenants, but also community and Aboriginal housing tenants.

The HCAP will be funded for three (3) years which means that all projects that are supported by the HCAP will need to have mechanisms in place that enable them to continue even after the three (3) year HCAP has finished.

The HCAP is currently supporting the Neighbourhood Advisory Boards (NAB) in trialing a sustainable model to support its secretarial needs. The HCAP is also still involved with the production of this paper, RedWater News.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Orna Marks

Tel: 9698-9569

67 Raglan St Waterloo 2017

Buddhist New Year (Thingyan) Lunch!

**You are invited to have a free
Buddhist new year, Asian style
lunch and dessert cooked with
natural medicinal herbs.**



Friday 21st April 2006

TIME: 12 noon – 4:00 pm

WHERE: Waterloo

**Neighbourhood Centre
(Shop 5/95 Wellington St
Waterloo)**



**This is a community initiated event organised by
Mabel Chang, a Waterloo Community
Representative**

**Supported by the City of Sydney Council,
Department of Housing, The Factory, University of
NSW Community Development Project & Redfern
Waterloo Authority**



CHINESE WOMEN SUPPORTGROUP

Where: The Factory Community
Centre 67 Raglan Street,
Waterloo

When: Mon afternoon 2 pm – 4. pm
(note every second Monday)

The group aims to create an opportunity for Chinese women to meet, share experiences and support each other in the local area. We like to provide knowledge and information and educate family and women with varied issues such as health, education, legal, and parenting and any other topics of interest. We also provide outings activities for the participants.

For more information, please contact Ms Estella Yuen on (02) 9310-1322 at the Factory Community Centre.

MAN2MAN FATHER'S GROUP

Man2Man Fathering group aims to:

- reflect upon the stress, mystery and confusion that fathering may bring today, and expand on parental resources to respond to children's needs.

- increase awareness and understanding of fathering through identifying the challenges, strengths and joys of being a father

- build necessary trust, mateship and cohesion, as well as promoting the role of social supports within and beyond the fathering group.

Provides a safe and confidential environment allows men to explore and thus normalise fathering experiences.

Man2Man also intends to provide fathers with significant and practical resources and information.

**Come and join our 8-week men's group:
Introduction BBQ day 21st April. Course
starts 5th May 10am-12pm: For more details
contact • Barnardos on 9698-9577
and ask for Andrew or Marcus**

Dignity and Death (cont'd from front page)

all have become aware of the normal movement patterns of our neighbours. As a result we frequently ask each other "have you seen Fred or Maud" when we do not see the person in question at the normal times. If the answer is "No" and we then take the time to go and tell the police that Fred or Maud has not been seen following their usual pattern, then Fred or Maud will be checked on. This check will be done in a manner that will not reduce their independence and will respect their privacy. It does represent another side of the police that most people are not aware of.

Ultimately, there is no way of preventing death. However, all the above is aimed at providing dignity and respect for those who have died in lonely circumstances. This dignity and respect should be made available and shown to all members of our community. Anything that can be done to make it so can only help our community. Please do not be afraid or reluctant to be a part of our community.

Ross Smith

Creating a Safer Community Project

The Creating a Safer Community Project aims to improve community safety in the city south area by reducing perceptions of fear and increasing levels of community participation amongst vulnerable residents in the suburbs of Redfern, Darlington, Eveleigh and Waterloo.

The project has developed the Creating a Safer Community newsletter, two editions of which have been published and the Useful Numbers Card both of which have been distributed to 14,000 residents. The project has also piloted the use of personal alarms for a targeted sample of residents and has run two free mental illness awareness sessions. Another initiative is Safe Shop, a walking / shopping group who meet fortnightly to walk to the shops together in order to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage interaction between neighbours.

**More information available by calling the
Creating a Safer Community team
on 9698-7277.**

**JOIN NOW!
GET FIT & HAVE FUN
COMMUNITY DRAGON BOAT TEAM
THE REDWATER DRAGONS
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**



MEN AND WOMEN, MAXIMUM 22 PEOPLE
WORK TOWARDS RACING IN DARLING
HARBOUR FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR
AND COMPETE IN THE WORLD TITLES
IN SYDNEY 2007

CONTACT MELISSA BURGESS
@ THE FACTORY **9698 9569** FOR MORE INFO.
MINIMUM AGE 12 YRS

Child care will **not** be provided.
Before and after school care arrangements can
be made.

..... WATERLOO NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVISORY BOARD

A MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION

Waterloo Residents celebrated Christmas early with a Multicultural Lunch organised by the Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Board (NAB) who had obtained a grant from the Housing Department and further monetary help from the Redfern/Waterloo Authority.

Local agency representatives and NAB members worked for several weeks to ensure that the day would be enjoyed by all who attended. As well as being served an enjoyable lunch the residents were entertained by a group of Flamenco Dancers, musicians and a display of art painted by our own talented local artists. The children were not forgotten with face painting, a clown, balloons and a gift bag of lollies

There was food aplenty and a good supply of community volunteers to cook and serve approximately 400 lunches.

The volunteers went home exhausted but happy because the feedback was that "a good time was had by all".

Vale Betty Waterloo's loss

On Friday 17th February 2006 well known Waterloo identity Betty Bullivant was buried at Botany Cemetery. The burial was attended by ninety plus people. Betty's passing will be mourned by many locals, especially those she was a surrogate mother or aunty to. Betty was a long time precinct representative on the Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Board where she was a staunch advocate for the tenants of the area. She caused many a government employee to change a decision that was not in the best interests of the tenants as well as convincing them to give more than the planned assistance. Betty grew up in Waterloo and spent all her life up to her very death working tirelessly for the Waterloo community she so loved. Her passing has left a big hole as well as a permanent imprint in the fabric of Waterloo. Hopefully the hole will be filled, however the imprint will remain as a permanent memorial in the minds of those who knew her.

Our sympathy and condolences go to the members of her family, as well as our thanks for sharing Betty with us.

What's on at South Sydney Community Aid Multicultural

Neighbourhood Centre?

Multicultural Bus Trips!

Only \$6 per person

Friday 28th April – Cumberland State Forrest



Monday 15th May –

Fagan Park, Hornsby

Friday 26th May –

Woronora Dam, Heathcote

Friday 23rd June – Joseph Banks Native Plants Park, Sutherland

FREE English Classes

Fridays 12-1pm

Art Expression and

Empowerment – for women of all ages who have experienced domestic violence or abuse in their lives.

You don't need any artistic experience and all art materials provided.

Fridays 1-4pm



FREE Art Group for mothers from many cultures with children

Free childcare available
Wednesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm or

Mondays 10am – 12pm

New Russian Community Support Group

Thursdays 1:30 – 3:00pm

FREE Computer Training @

The Redfern Computer Centre – 180 George St Redfern



Mondays & Tuesday 9:30am – 2:30pm

Starting 1st May – 30th May.

Call Sydney Community College – 8752-7555

**Call Jan, Soheir or Kati
on 9319-4073**

Gentle Exercise Classes

for 40+



WHERE: The Redfern Centre
9 Ogden Lane, REDFERN
(Behind St Saviours Church – Young St Redfern)

WHEN: Mondays – 10:30am – 11:30am (School terms only)

The cost of each class is \$3

“These classes are brilliant – it has helped me to keep fit over the last 7 years. We have a qualified instructor who helps you to work at your own pace.

We do weights, floor exercises, dyna bands & lots of stretching. We have all benefited from these exercises to keep healthy & its good fun. Wear loose clothing and suitable footwear.”

For further information about classes please ring Patti on 9698-3647 or community worker on 9288-5370

Redfern & Inner City Home Support Service

(RICHSS) provides Neighbourhood Aid services to people living in the South Sydney and City of Sydney areas. The Service operates with volunteers and Social Support workers.

Our aim is to reduce social isolation and to help people stay at home for as long as possible. Some people have been joining our activity groups. The “**Film Club**” operates fortnightly on Tuesdays. The cost is \$5 for the movie and between \$5 & \$8 for a light snack at the cinema café.

Free Bridge lessons are also provided at the Woolloomooloo

cont'd p6

••••• äround the precincts of redfern •••••

REDFERN STREET

Our “precinct” isn’t part of the public housing “estate” area at all, but a couple of large flat complexes and block of flats – plus some terraces. All these flats were *spot purchased* from the private market in a period when public housing was still expanding. Now the large government built public housing estates are up for sale – precinct by precinct. In our public housing blocks in among increasingly expensive private terrace housing and new gated yuppie flat complexes – we can see the problems that breaking up public housing estates will bring. Perhaps a more trivial issue is that of rubbish recycling – since all the private residents in the street do it, so we feel pressure to fit in and do it too. However less than half of the tenants in a block are probably interested in doing it properly – and others even like to try and sabotage it.

More importantly, we find problems with maintaining security into our blocks of flats, that don’t seem much of an issue in the estates. This is because we are seen as less and less a part of the increasingly affluent general community with most new tenants being “social” ones given priority housing (over those on the public housing waiting list). They will usually have severe mental health issues and/or drug dependancy. While the police may still tend to see public housing as a *bad area*, at least there is some strength in

numbers of decent public tenants in the large estates. In our “mixed housing” we have many of the local private owners and renters judging us in public housing all to be a bad lot – just because of the the behavior of some of the mad or bad new tenants put in our blocks of flats. We are expected to cope with these new “social housing” tenants – most of whom would have been in supported housing when such programs were better funded by the government. Some who have come straight out of jail – would be better off in a half way house where their druggie mates can’t move in and set up a drug dealing operation. Naturally the Dept of Housing doesn’t tell us anything about the background of these new tenants -and indeed claims they are never told. All they receive is a referral from an agency saying these people would benefit from “stable housing”. Too bad that their unmonitored behavoiur often results in long established tenants suffering a create a great *instability* once these people move in. Then they start to find their block’s front and front doors being damaged so their “guests” and visitors can come in without needing keys.

In a large public housing flat complex in our “precinct” – there is no front and back gate, though we have been asking the Dept to investigate putting them in for years. That means there is no security common area – and therefore no-one bothers to maintain the garden plots there. In addition – only in high rise public housing does the Dept provide *community rooms* on

site or nearby, therefore we have to make do with the meeting room of an ex hospital that is slated to be demolished. We also have trouble getting support from the Dept even to photocopy precinct meeting notices now that the Housing Support worker has been up for tender now for about a year.

Richard Coady

MCKELL

Welcome to another year of us residents working together to improve our lot. A big thank you to all the McKell garden group for your hard work trying to improve our environment and the surrounds of McKell. When will the DoH get it right with these so called cleaning contractors?

We start 2006 with the same complaints as 2005.

Unswep unwashed stairwells, dirty handrails, etc. General neglects of common areas.

Blame cannot be put on the cleaners but laid fully on the shoulders of the contractor for not informing cleaners of their duties also for not inspecting the premises to see that terms of contract are upheld and keeping up on acceptable standard of cleanliness and healthy environment for residents to live in.

Over to you once again DoH.
Denny Powell
Precinct Rep.

around the precincts of waterloo

PEOPLES

The festive season has been and gone, as have the New Year resolutions. The children are back to school and the Redfern Waterloo Authority have refused to talk about their Street Team project that has closed.

The MidNight Basketball program was run at Alex Park School of a Saturday evening over six weeks. The DoH is still 'looking at the fences' throughout the Precinct. They have been looking since 2001. Soon there will be no wooden fences left to look at.

The pigeon control project is now waiting for the DoH to honour their part of the project and then it will be launched.

The Human Services Accord recently announced by DoH is meant to increase services from major government agencies for DoH tenants. As details become available they will be passed on.

According to the Minister for Housing the DoH will start to check on the health and wellbeing of the elderly tenants on a regular basis.

The council has given the DoH permission to prune the trees blocking the footpaths in the precinct.

There is now a new Housing Community

Assistance Programme worker at the Factory Community Centre in Raglan Street. If you need any assistance with housing, tenancy or lifestyle matters pop in and see her.

Ross Smith
Precinct Rep.
Rebecca Reddin
Asst Precinct Rep

TURANGA

Well it is some time ago that the RWN was published. Lot here I have the opportunity to say thanks to Marlene who conducted our tenants meeting on. As most tenants are aware I was in hospital so no news from me. What has been discussed at the NAB precinct meeting and Marlene would have informed you at the tenant meeting.

It was amazing and many many thanks to those tenants who sent me their best wishes for a quick recovery. I would like to say a special thanks to a tenant who came and visited me at least every second day and a special thank you to a tenant who came to see me after the tenant meeting and brought me a lovely little plant, and I am home now looking at it every day.

Barbera Hilbrink
Precinct Rep

Waterloo Community Gardens Open Day!

Friday 21 April 2006

Opportunity to learn about natural medicinal herbs in the Uniting Church garden!

TIME: 10:00 am – 12 noon
WHERE: Uniting Church garden- 56 Raglan St, Waterloo Cook Garden – corner of Raglan & Pitt St Waterloo

Solander garden – Solander high rise, Raglan St
Marton Garden – Marton high rise, Raglan St

This is a community initiated event organised by Mabel Chang, a Waterloo Community Representative

Supported by the City of Sydney Council, The Department of Housing, The Factory, University of NSW Community Development Project & Redfern Waterloo Authority

.....
(RICHSS) Cont'd.

Activity Centre along with afternoon tea and free transport to and from home for our clients. If you would like to join us please call Jennifer on 9319 3587.

Volunteers are a vital part of our service and are offered training and ongoing support.

We hold information sessions at various venues in the area. If you would like to contribute to your community by making a difference in someone's life and would like to learn new skills please contact us. We would also be interested in hearing from local people who speak a language as well as English.

R.I.C.H.S.S. **Ph 9319 3587**

"Join in now, go for it."

**Russell Workman -
Manager Social
Enterprise Initiatives
The Oasis Youth Support
Network**

The Salvation Army have formed a Social Enterprise business initiative in garden maintenance and cleaning services. We are currently working in partnership with the Department of Housing in some inner city areas. You may have seen some of our crew in orange shirts working in Redfern and Waterloo over the last few years.

We currently have vacancies in our teams. Applicants need to be reasonably fit (it's a job with physical activity involved).

No experience is necessary, we will train people. Preference is given to any Social Housing Tenants, although we will consider other people living in disadvantaged situations. If you are interested in hearing more about our Social Enterprise business activities please do drop me a line, or give me a call.

Warm regards,
Russell Workman
Manager - Social Enterprise
Initiatives
The Oasis Youth Support
Network
The Salvation Army
365 Crown St. Surry Hills
Po Box 600 Darlinghurst
1300
Email:
russellworkman@aus.salvationarmy.org
tel: 02 8353 9423 (direct
line)
mb: 0407 744 504



Would you like to become more involved in your community?

Would you like to find out what's going on?
Contact Orna Marks, your Housing Communities Assistance Program (HCAP) worker at The Factory.
Telephone 9698-9569,
67 Raglan Street, Waterloo 2017
hcpa@thefactory.org.au

**The Shop Waterloo
Girls Centre**

Runs a Drop-in Centre for young girls.

The **Drop-in Centre** runs on **Tuesdays 4.00pm until 7.00pm** for girls aged 12 to 18 years. An exciting new art project based on building self confidence and expressing your uniqueness.

Saturdays the hours are **1.00pm until 4.00pm** for girls aged 7-12years. A new project entitled 'BullRushd' has also just commenced. Lunch and snacks are provided on both days and with increased participation we are hoping to secure more funding to open more days during the week.

The Centre also has a **'Young Mum's' Group Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12pm until 3.00pm**, lunch and child care provided. There are opportunities to participate in gaining Driver Learners Permits and First Aid Certificates. Loads of fun activities and excursions.

Address: 133 Moorehead St, Waterloo Ph: 9699 9036

Our House Swap is a FREE website allowing existing Public Housing tenants to advertise their home for a mutual exchange.

Visit www.ourhouseswap.com.au to list your home or view the hundreds of places available for swap.

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

It is a method of trading, which values the individuals energy, skills and time.

Please visit our website www.lets.1337.as/sydney or phone 040406 5387

community noticeboard



Waterloo Recycling Workshop is a voluntary organisation which collects, restores and repairs furniture to be resold to the community. All monies raised will be going to support community groups and local initiatives.

We are located in the carpark under Turunga building - corner of Cope and Phillip St, Waterloo.

We are open on Fridays between 10am and 2pm - weather permitting.

Donations of furniture will be gratefully accepted but we cannot accept any whitegoods or electrical items.

WRW does not purchase goods.

For further information please ring Mark Munnery 0424 304 781 or The Factory 9698-9569 during business hours.

Redwater News wishes to thank the City of Sydney Council for their on-going support.

RedWater News is the Newsletter of the Redfern and Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Boards Produced for and by Redfern and Waterloo public housing tenants. Circulation: 4,500 Printing: MPD **CONTRIBUTIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Articles contributed by individuals/groups do not necessarily express the view of the Editorial Committee, which reserves the right to accept or reject articles according to the rules of publication and the Terms of Reference of the Redfern and Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory

Innovative Basketball Program comes to Redfern

City of Sydney proudly sponsored an innovative program for youth called Midnight Basketball. Launched in January the first tournament kicked off on 11th February between 7.30pm and midnight.

It was run by a not for profit company and supported by the NBL Razorbacks and over 20 community groups to provide an alternative healthy activity for youth aged 12 to 18 during 'at risk' times on a Saturday night.

Midnight Basketball provides a creative solution for dealing with community issues by combining basketball tournaments with interactive workshops that deal with a range of real-life issues. The program's motto is 'No Workshop, No Jump Shot'.

For more information contact www.MidnightBasketball.org.au

REDWATER NEWS needs your help!

- If you can help deliver the paper or be involved in the production, give us a call.
- Orna Marks, HCAP Worker 9698-9569.

FOR THE FRIDGE	
Department of Housing	
WATERLOO: Drysdale	9310 8666
REDFERN: The Pottery	9319 9333
Poet's Corner	9698 1284
DoH Maintenance - 24 hours	13 15 71
South Sydney Community Trans.	9319 4439
(UNSW) Community Dev. Project	9245 1841
SSCC HOPP Worker	9288 5371
Factory Community Centre	9698 9569
Waterloo Recycling Workshop	0424304781
Redfern Police	8303 5199
HCAP Worker	9698 9569
RI CHSS	9319 3587