

REDWATER NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION JULY 2007

The Redfern and Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Boards Newsletter

GREEN LIGHT



Minister for Housing, Matt Brown has signalled the green light for the redevelopment of the Elizabeth Street, Redfern public housing site, which aims to revitalise the inner-city neighbourhood and help turn it into a welcoming community for more young families, the elderly and those most in need.

"After years of community consultation and a tough competition between some of the best architects in the State, I am pleased to announce that the Elizabeth Street public and private housing project is going ahead delivering better quality housing in a high demand inner city area," Mr Brown said.

"The new designs are modern, eco friendly, sustainable and attractive. We're honouring our commitment to improving social housing and this development aims to set a new standard in housing design in the inner city."

The old site consisting of 106 walk up units built in 1953, will be transformed into a total of 264 modern apartments and houses – land for 158 of these will be sold on the private market and the profits will absorb part of the \$27 million cost.

Details of the redevelopment include:

- 40 terraced houses with backyards for families
- 66 purpose built accommodation for seniors
- Common recreation and green areas
- Environmentally friendly fixtures such as; rainwater tanks, water saving shower heads and cross ventilation design to reduce energy use.

Member for Heffron, Kristina Keneally, welcomed the redevelopment adding: ***"This is great news for the people of Redfern. This new, state - of - the art development aims to inspire this diverse inner city neighbourhood that has remained relatively unchanged for over 50 years."***

Mr Brown said the Department of Housing will now lodge a Development Application for the LFA Architect's design. Construction is set to begin in early 2008 and is due to be completed over the following eighteen months.

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PRECINCT LETTERS

MOUNT CARMEL PRECINCT

Hello to everyone. I see the tagging artists have not improved their spelling or intelligence in spite of their efforts on many walls in the area.

Remember the fights over the years to obtain security on Department of Housing properties? Many were the hours spent persuading the authorities that our families and property needed protection as much as theirs. Now we have many residents who don't care, they just disable or prop open security doors.

Why? I don't know. Letting anyone who wishes walk into the buildings, deface walls, break into units and abuse our children and families.

Do not put up with this. Shut doors, look at who is defacing and destroying your home and let the department know you are sick of being treated badly.

On a better note thanks to the people in the whole area who clean up the rubbish left by passer-bys and look out for their neighbours. The gardens in the area are looking lovely. If you wish to use the community rooms book with the Department of Housing and remember other people live next door to these rooms.

Diana Precinct Rep

PEOPLES PRECINCT

By the time you read this report there ***will have been at least three changes of DoH Team leader at the Waterloo Office*** since the last paper.

The DoH is still dragging the chain on repairs, hence the dirty rubbish bins, broken fences, security lights not working, and broken clotheslines that everyone can see. DoH has failed for over five years in some cases to act, despite written requests to do so.

DoH has been asked to make arrangements to clean the outside of those ground floor windows that have security screens fitted, particularly those where elderly or disabled people live. The DoH has new policies allowing DoH to move tenants for "Compelling Reasons" and to control who can stay over as a visitor/guest of a tenant.

For further information contact the HCAP worker at The Factory in Raglan Street. There has been no news from the Redfern Waterloo Authority as to what will happen to the Waterloo Estate – the place where we live. Remember that the Precinct Meetings give you the opportunity to speak directly to the DoH and to get answers to your questions. See you at the next meeting.

Ross Smith Precinct Representative.

TURANGA

The tenants and I would like to give a special thanks to the "Odd Jobbers" for the fantastic way they have helped the new incoming tenants and as always thanks to James.

Last year we had to say Good Bye to Charlie Leaver. Although he was a tenant at Matavai, Charlie was also loved here at Turanga. Condolences to family and friends who lost their loved ones last year and in the few months of this year.

We were promised that by Xmas last year our foyer windows would be cleaned please don't hold your breath. We have a tenant here who had her 100th birthday before Xmas 2006. She is just wonderful, before I reach my car she has gone past me and is already waiting for the bus. Congratulations and may we join your spirit, your courage and your happiness for very many years to come!!

Although we have some problems at Turanga, tenants not happy, DoH not doing what was promised I must say overall Turanga is a very peaceful, multicultural and happy building.

The bus services on Thursday and Fridays and the service given by the South Sydney Community Transport is superb!! We love it and we use it!!!

We are all getting older and with the exceptionally hot summer our patience is sometimes tested to the limits but please realise we live in a beautiful country, we are free, we have a roof over our heads and our fridge is full (every fortnight) either with food or beer.

Let us all be happy!!

Barbara & Marlene

RedWater News

Editorial Group

RedWater News is produced by and for Redfern and Waterloo tenants

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With Special Thanks

To all the Precinct
Representatives who
voluntarily deliver
the magazine

Published

The Redfern and
Waterloo NAB's

Circulation

4,500

Redfern and Waterloo needs YOU!

Anything about your community you are not happy with? Not a lot you can do about it? YES you can ! We would encourage you to become involved in community life and help to make a difference.

In fact, the only way anything will ever change is if people take positive action. Why don't you become involved in rebuilding your community. Shake off the winter blues and get involved. It is the small things that lead to big changes.

Like what, exactly? Well, here are a few examples that might at least get you thinking and then hopefully acting.

Because **YOUR** Community needs **YOU!**

- Volunteer to help out with one of the numerous groups working in the area.
- Join a group or community activity - look at our community contacts page - there are lots that you can get involved in.
- Find out about local courses in you area.
- Get informed about what's going on in the Community, get in touch with your local community Centre staff or Precinct representative.
- Start your own social or support group.
- Help out your elderly neighbours.

You can either sit back and complain or you can help to shape our community! It is your community so make it happen and get involved and support you other local volunteers.

Volunteers make a tremendous difference to our community. They contribute not only their time, but also their energy, skills, individual perspectives and talents, thereby enhancing our community local services and people's lives.

A big thank you goes to everyone active within the community. Keep up the good work and fight the good fight.

Cheers Mike HCAP @ The Factory CC

Would you like to sponsor this newsletter?

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Contact HCAP on 02 9698 9569 or email info@the-factory.org.au

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A very great proportion of the violence in our communities is associated with grog and drugs. The court convictions and clinic records show this clearly. It is clear that strategies to combat violence will not get very far if they are not primarily aimed at our grog and drug problem.

Text from Noel Pearson, July 2001. The original can be viewed at www.capeyorkpartnerships.com

The real question that we have to confront the government with is *"Why are all of the available resources going into dealing with the results of our grog and drug problem (which is within their domain) – injuries, chronic diseases etc that are dealt with in the hospitals and clinics – and there are no resources going into the (most obvious) cause of these problems: the grog and drug epidemic within the community?"*

The answer is that there is an entrenched health care *industry* that is sustained on the perpetuation and exacerbation of the health problems in our community.

In fact grog and drug abuse is frequently the determinant of poor housing and environmental

health, overcrowding, smoking, stress, poor nutrition, spread of STDs, lack of exercise, even unemployment and of course injuries.

How can people who are struggling with the violence, social disorder, monopolisation of resources and stresses associated with grog and drug abuse think about dealing with smoking, exercise and diet? They can't. We have to get on top of the grog and drug problem first. The grog and drug epidemics are then, *today*, the main cause of the alleged "determinants" of ill health (bad housing, social dysfunction etc).

Of course much misery existed before the substance abuse epidemics, but it is obvious that material and human resources are just swallowed up by the epidemics. The epidemics frustrate and prevent solutions to social and economic problems. Of course this model for understanding our grog and drug problem is a simplification too, but it has been necessary to point out the large hole in the thinking of the government and the health industry generally, the lack of discussion about the self-perpetuation epidemics that are the main obstacles for progress today, and the causes and dynamics of these epidemics.



ARTWORK IN PROGRESS

Various agencies and residents have been working together on producing a major artistic mosaic to improve the entrance of the Marton Community Gardens. Young and old have been working together designing and creating the mosaic through a series of local workshops. On site work is due to commence on Friday 6th July between 11 and 2. There will be a family fun fete which will take place on the same day. The fete is being sponsored by the Waterloo NAB. The day will include a BBQ, Bouncy Castle for kids, music, and various other family fun activities. So come along, and have fun, get involved in making history by helping to build this mosaic.

For more information please contact HCAP



PHOTO VOICES

Legal graffiti art runs along the side wall of the old Redfern Public School. The school will soon be redeveloped as the National Indigenous Development Centre- a new sport training centre for Indigenous kids. The fate of the graffiti wall is unknown but it is unlikely to be retained. Tagging now adds an extra layer of graffiti that is not so artistic or popular with local residents.

Join the winter/spring session of Photo Voices and discover the changing face of Redfern/Waterloo.

Meet fellow residents of the area and learn how to document the visual and vocal history of South Sydney.

For more info contact Mike 8399 1011 or Irene 0416 410 374



WALK MORE FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

The First Step

Many of us know we should take more exercise to benefit our health and well-being. This does not have to be vigorous physical activity. Just 30 minutes a day of moderate activity, such as brisk walking, is all it takes to feel the difference.

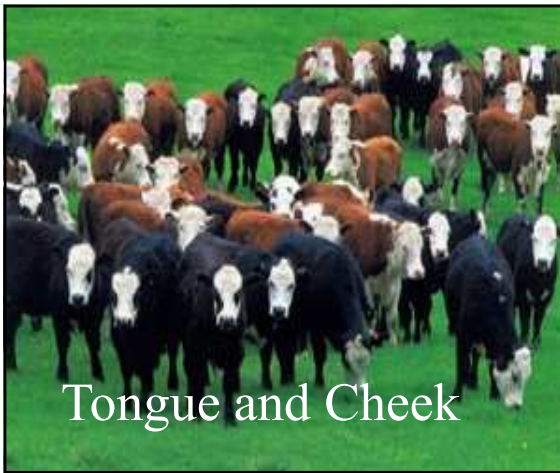
Being Active:

- > Reduces the risk of heart disease by half
- > Reduces the risk of a number of cancers particularly bowel and breast cancer
- > Reduces the risk of type II diabetes
- > Improves your mood and reduces the risk of depression

Active people live longer and have healthier lives than inactive people

Did you know that walking for just 30 minutes a day can:

- Make you feel good (you will feel fitter, your body will be more toned, and you will feel better about yourself)
- Give you more energy
- Help you sleep better
- Help reduce stress (have you ever noticed how it's difficult to walk and worry at the same time?)
- Reduce your blood pressure
- Help you manage your weight



Tongue and Cheek

A Queensland cow cocky was grazing his herd on the long acre of a remote pasture in outback Queensland when suddenly a brand-new and shining 4WD emerges from a dust cloud.

The driver, a bloke in an Armani suit, Gucci shoes, Bolle sunglasses and Yves St Laurent silk tie, slides down the window and asks the farmer, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf. The farmer looks from the man to the peacefully grazing herd and murmurs, "Why not?"

The well-dressed bloke whips out his notebook, connects it to his mobile phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get a fix on his location which he then feeds to

another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

Then he opens the digital photo in Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. Now he accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC-connected Excel spreadsheet on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized LaserJet printer, turns to the drover and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right." says the farmer. "Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," and he watches the man select an animal and stuff it into the boot of his car. "Hey," muses the grazier, "If I can tell you exactly what you do for a living, will you give me back the animal?"

The man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?" You're a Politician from Canberra" says the drover.

"Wow! That's correct! But how did you guess that?" "No guessing required." answered the farmer. "You showed up here though nobody invited you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about cattle. Now, give me back my dog." (source unknown)

Did You Know?

The Balnaves foundation is an exciting new pilot initiative to broaden community access to Sydney Opera House. They offer tickets \$5 to selected premium performances.

For more information call
02 9250 7145

SNIPPETS

Purcell Precinct residents have been successful in lobbying to have their lift upgraded. This is major achievement for the tenants. The upgrade will ensure that they have a safer and more reliable lift. So to all those Precinct Representatives and community activists out there, who are constantly lobbying for the rights of your fellow tenants, keep up the good work. Support your local Reps by getting involved in your precinct meetings!!.

MMHA are hosting a national Multicultural art competition for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, who have migrated during the last five years. Deadline for submissions is 5th August 07 for more details see www.mmha.org.au

Precinct Representatives from the Waterloo green, surrounding areas have been hosting meetings with agencies trying to tackle ongoing concerns about community safety issues in the area. Government agencies have promised that a community safety audit will be carried out and strategic action plan will be formed to try and tackle these longstanding issues. We will keep you posted of their progress. For more information contact HCAP

Missionbeat Australia

Missionbeat vans patrol Sydney's inner city Streets, providing assistance to people in distress and need. It also responds to calls from the general public, police, ambulance and other homeless services.

They offer a friendly, compassionate service to those people who live on the fringe of society.

Contact them on:

1300 306 461

www.missionaustralia.com.au

Police are urging people to take extra care to secure their personal belongings, following a number of bag snatches in the Redfern LAC area. Senior Constable Phillip Sharp, Crime Prevention Officer, Redfern LAC, said *“Thieves regularly operate in shopping centres, car parks and public toilets.” “Bag snatchers try to surprise their victim,”* he advises that. *“Being alert and aware of your surroundings is the best defence.”*



Police recommend that people let go of their bag if it is snatched, to avoid injury. However, there are simple precautions that people can take to reduce opportunities for thieves:

- Carry your bag close to your body. Don't dangle it by your side or let it swing from your shoulder.
- Don't wrap your bag's straps around your wrist.
- Always keep your bag zipped up.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and valuables.
- Do not mark keys with an address.
- When walking, stay away from the curb. Many bag snatchers will lean out of their vehicle to grab at bag straps.
- If your bag is snatched, try to remain calm and get an accurate description for police of the bag, its contents and the thief.
- If you are assaulted, don't resist. Let go of the bag or you could be seriously injured.
- Be alert! At ATMs, be aware of people around you. Put your money away as quickly as possible.
- Don't put your bag on top of your car while unloading shopping.
- Don't put your bag on counters or in shopping trolleys.
- Lock your car doors to avoid your bag being stolen while stopped at traffic lights.

For further information contact the Crime Prevention Officer, Senior Constable Phillip Sharp, and Redfern LAC on 8303 5199

This is a story about four people:

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it.

Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody knew that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Somebody wouldn't do it.

And It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody because Nobody did what Anybody could have done

Free Training for tenants

“Learn new skills and develop existing ones. Get involved, make new friends and contribute to your community”.

Your Local Tenants Resource Service is running free training sessions to help and enhance tenant involvements in tenant activities and groups.

**For more detail contact
David or Charmaine
Ph:9698 6558**

USEFUL CONTACTS

Department of Housing:

Waterloo	9310 8666
Redfern	9319 9333
Poets Corner	9698 1284
DOH 24Hours (Maintenance)	13 15 71

South Sydney Community Transport	9319 4439
UNSW Community Development Project	9245 1841
HCAP	8399 1011
Redfern Police	8303 5199
Interpreter Service	13 14 50
Tenant Union Hotline	9251 6590
Redfern Legal Centre	9698 7277
Barnado's Family Support	9698 9577
Woman's and Girls Emergency Centre	9360 5388
Mental Health Crisis	9867 5738
www.Redwatch.org.au (contact Geoff)	9318 0824
RICHSS (Home support Service)	9319 3587
Youth Health Service	9516 2233

FREE EXPERT ADVICE

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) is an independent, non-profit community centre dedicated to promoting social justice and human rights. We offer free legal advice, referral and casework to disadvantaged people and groups.

Opening Hours

Mon. to Thurs:

9am — 1pm

2pm — 6pm

Friday:

9am — 1pm

2pm — 5pm

Address:

73 Pitt Street, Redfern, NSW 2016.

Telephone: 9698 7277

Fax: 9310 3586

Want to meet new friends? Get support or advice?

Looking for a new hobby or interest group?

Looking to learn new skills?

Become involved in you Local Community Centre

The Factory Community Centre 9698 9569

The Settlement 9698 3087

South Sydney Community Aid MNC 9319 4073

Redfern Community Centre 9288 5713



Community Centres have variety of groups, training and support services to offer. For more information call any of the above centres who will be able give you details of their activities. There is something for everyone.

Did You Know?

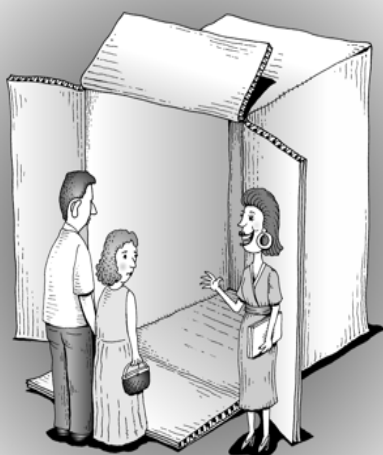
The Department of Housing encourages tenants to give them feedback on their performance. The Department of Housing respects the right of customers to complain if they receive poor service. They also welcome compliments and suggestions.

Tenants can give their feedback via the Client Feedback Unit who can be contacted on:

1800 652 059

This number is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Mon to Fri. (excluding Public Holidays)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



...AND IT'S ONLY \$500 PER MONTH!

ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT, SIR?



Waterloo Furniture Recycling Workshop

Open Saturday mornings

Located at the garages beside Waterloo Green
1 Philip Street
(volunteers required)
Call for more details
02 9698 9569