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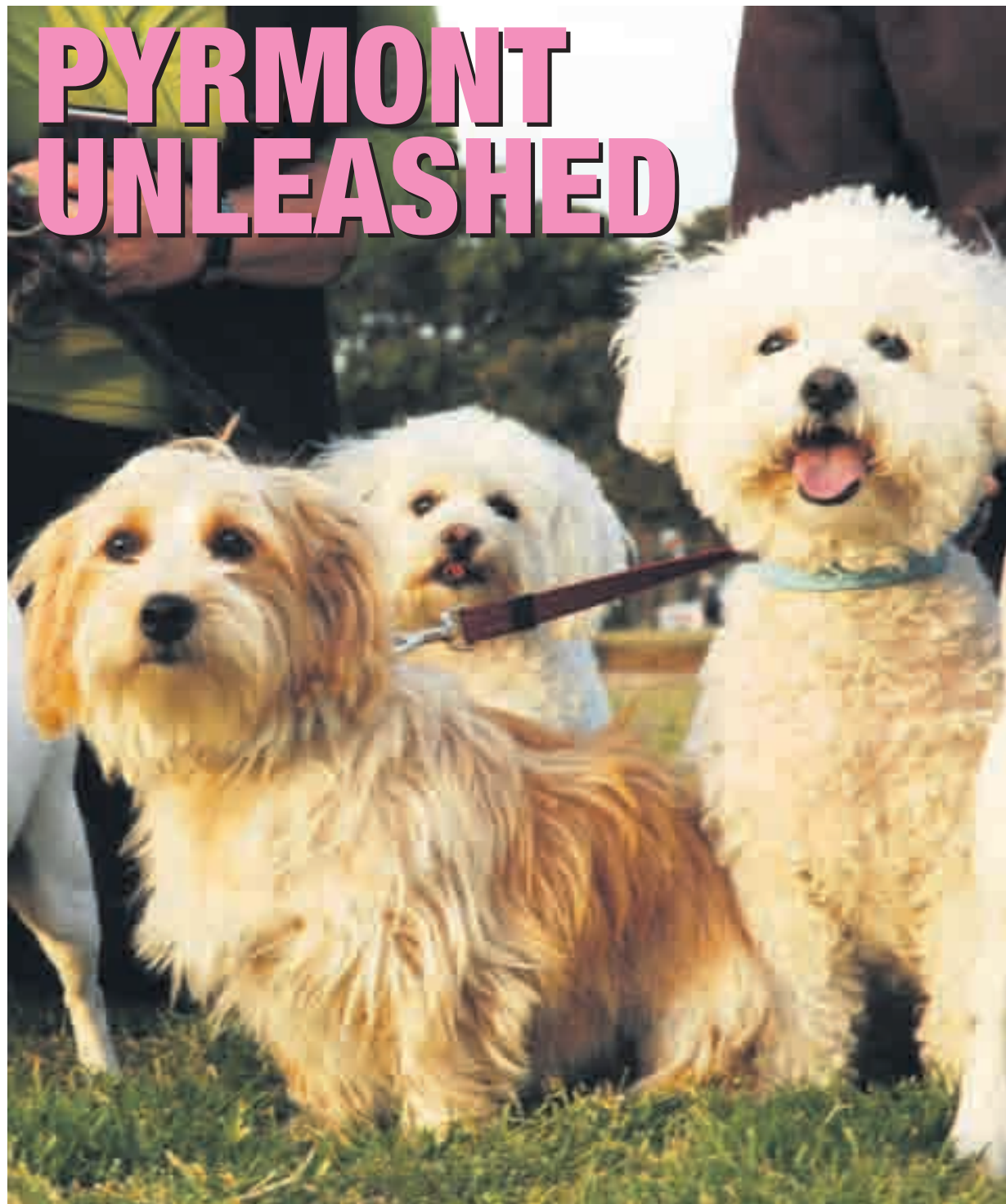
SYDNEY CITY NEWS

SYDNEY'S FREE WEEKLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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AUGUST 13, 2009

PYRMONT UNLEASHED



Waterfront park goes to the dogs

BY SHANT FABRICATORIAN

A vehement debate over the rights of dog owners at the Water Police Park site in Pyrmont came to a head at the City of Sydney Council meeting on Monday, with the park narrowly being voted as an off-leash site.

An amendment to make the Water Police site on-leash, while leave the adjoining Pyrmont Point Park off-leash, was defeated by Lord Mayor Clover Moore's casting vote, while the site's broader Plan of Management motion passed 6-4.

During the debate, Greens Councillor Chris Harris said a number of Pyrmont residents were unhappy with the proposed motion. "If we pass this tonight, there will be no park, for all intents and purposes, at Pyrmont Point that requires dogs to be on-leash," he said. "This does not reflect our policy - half the population there don't own dogs. A percentage of the population down there are probably terrified of dogs, and they won't actually go to the park."

Cr Harris said that while Pyrmont Point Park was technically on-leash, this rule was largely unknown and disregarded. "Has there been any enforcement on the Pyrmont Point Park since April 2008?" he said. "I'd be very surprised if there was."

The award for the evening's most heated spray, however, was awarded by a clear margin to Cr Phillip Black. "I'm sorry to say this, but again, we've got an unhappy part of the community which cannot accept the umpire's decision," he said. "This Council goes through a huge amount of public consultation...and we end up with a disgruntled rump of the community, who come back because they can't accept the majority's decision."

Cr Moore said she believed the issue was about equity. "We don't just provide our parks for certain groups, we provide them for everyone, and that includes dog owners," she said. "I'd really like to urge you not to punish the responsible majority for [the sake of] perhaps the irresponsible minority."

Deputy Lord Mayor Marcelle Hoff, who led the campaign to make the Water Police Park site an on-leash area, said the notion of making it off-leash was inequitable, unfair and undemocratic. "I don't have anything against dogs; I have an enormous amount of difficulty with irresponsible dog owners," she said.

The City's Director of City, Community and Cultural Services, Garry Harding, noted there had only been one official complaint about irresponsible dog behaviour from the parks over the previous three months.

"I think it's a very positive outcome," area resident and dog owner Deborah Croft told *The City News*. "One of the reasons we moved here was that it was pet friendly and allows us to socialise with other dog owners. It's a good atmosphere to catch up in and a relaxed environment."

Fellow resident Stella Phelan, also a dog owner, said she believed a compromise solution would have been preferable. "I had personally come to the conclusion that [a] shared [solution] would be best - perhaps split between morning and evening because of the use of it by babies and small children," she said.



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Future of Glebe festivities uncertain



The Glebe Street Fair will need corporate funding to survive

BY ANGUS THOMPSON
This year the Glebe Street Fair celebrates its 25th birthday, however it could be one of its last as the organisers struggle to secure long-term funding for the festival.

The City of Sydney has decided that it will cut funding to Sydney's largest street fair after 2010, a move that Glebe's Chamber of Commerce says could risk the future of the annual event if it does not find a corporate sponsor within the next two years.

"These sorts of events – these mid-tier events – require corporate sponsorship in a meaningful way, like five digits. If we don't get that, then the viability of the event is in doubt," said Paul Angell, President of the Glebe Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Angell said the Chamber tried seeking corporate funding for the event every year, but the City of Sydney remains the Fair's

only sponsor.

A spokesperson for the City did not say why it had decided to cut its funding, but Deputy Lord Mayor Marcelle Hoff said that cultural grants were primarily intended to kick-start community projects.

The anxiety follows news that Leichhardt Chamber of Commerce was forced to axe this year's Norton Street Italian Fiesta as it was unable to find an event organiser.

The City of Sydney has funded \$15,000 to the Glebe Street Fair since 2005. The financial contribution was doubled to \$30,000 in 2008 to support the Glebe community during the City's \$15 million street upgrade. This year the Fair will again receive \$30,000 from the City.

The rest of the event's expenses are covered through the cost of stalls, which Mr Angell said the Chamber could not raise the price of for fear of losing vendors.

"If we put it up more then

we'll risk having a quarter of the street empty – that's what we're trying to avoid. At the moment we're at that maximum threshold, we can't charge anymore than we're already charging," he said.

A City of Sydney spokesperson said that the City had a long history of supporting Glebe's commercial activities, including a recent \$30,000 grant for the suburb's new branding strategy, and helping it seek sponsorship from Tourism NSW.

"The City works closely with the Glebe Chamber of Commerce to enhance the economic viability and social amenity of Glebe, supporting the Chamber in making application to the recently announced Tourism NSW Precinct Event Funding program," said the spokesperson.

Mr Angell said he would like the City to work with the Chamber in finding corporate funding for the event.

Redfern riled over rail cuts

BY ANGUS THOMPSON
Commuters could be put at risk and vandalism dramatically increase following measures to axe 40 per cent of staff from Redfern Station.

As part of a State-wide review of station staff, Railcorp has cut numbers at Redfern from 73 to 47 workers.

Central Station is also going under the knife, and is expected to lose up to 100 frontline staff.

The NSW Government says the measures will save them approximately \$20 million.

John Maher, President of the Transport Division of the Australian Services Union (ASU), said the cuts were purely a cost-cutting exercise.

"I believe that with fewer people on stations will lead to an increase in vandalism and fare evasion, and that has to be discounted off the \$20 million."

"We're happy that the 73 people currently here can adequately resource the station but we certainly believe that 43 positions won't adequately resource the station."

More than 50,000 people use the Station every day, making it one of the most commuted stations on

the network.

A coalition of community groups, including the Friends of Redfern Station, REDwatch and the South Sydney Uniting Church vowed to oppose the measures, saying commuters would be put at great risk.

Commuter and Redfern resident Sally Quilter described the station as eerily quiet after 9pm. "There should be an increase in staff, not a decrease," she said.

City of Sydney Greens Councillor Irene Doutney, also a Redfern resident, supports the locals. "I think it's appalling that the Government is going to make cuts to Redfern Station, which is one of Sydney's busiest stations, servicing Sydney University, an international college and large housing estates," she said.

"Cutting staff will just make the station more threatening, while lack of access keeps it inequitable."

Rail Tram and Bus Union (RBTU) spokesperson Phillip Kessey called Redfern Station one of the most dangerous in the network.

The review was conducted at the end of last month between Railcorp management, RBTU and ASU representatives, initially

postponed because of disputes over lack of transparency.

Audits staged for Circular Quay and Martin Place train stations have been put on hiatus due to similar quarrelling.

A Railcorp spokesperson assured that no jobs would actually be lost, simply reallocated.

"There will be no loss of employment as a result of the station staff reviews though some positions may change," said the spokesperson.

"The station staff review is part of the continuing consultation with our staff and unions to implement a more flexible station staffing model that is better equipped to deal with and respond to customer and operational needs.

"RailCorp is very conscious of the special needs of some customers including those with a disability. The review at Redfern will include any local issues that affect staffing levels at the station and the customers that use it."

Disabled access to the station is limited with only escalators servicing two platforms. RBTU officials argue staff reductions would severely limit assistance to people trying to access the station.

Police car mows down pedestrians

BY MICHAEL GORMLY
Two pedestrians were hospitalised after they were struck by a police paddy wagon which careened onto the footpath. It had suffered a collision while speeding through a red light, according to an eyewitness.

The police car, with a male driver and female passenger, had been "T-boned" by a taxi while running the lights with siren on and lights flashing.

The accident happened on the corner of Pitt and Park streets in the city, outside McDonalds at around 1pm on Saturday. East Sydney resident John Boers, 47, said he had been crossing Pitt Street on the south side of the intersection when he saw the police car speeding towards him, north along Pitt.

"The pedestrians scattered and the police car slowed down a bit and then floored it into Park Street," he said. "I thought, 'What a bloody idiot', and then there was this huge bang."

A Police media person at the scene later contradicted this, stating that the police car had "stopped at the



The two vehicles on the footpath after the collision

intersection and beeped its horn before proceeding into the intersection."

"It was a low-speed accident," he said, adding that the police had been on an urgent mission.

Mr Boers said he ran across Park Street and saw a woman who had been hit by the police car "motionless on the ground and unconscious."

"There was a moment of silence when everyone froze," he said. "The policeman who had been driving got out and asked the policewoman if she was OK – then he seemed to run around in a panic for a while."

Police later said two pedestrians had been hit. Both were taken to hospital as a

precaution, one suffering grazes and the other with a possible fractured arm. The taxi driver and the two police were also taken to hospital for checks.

The taxi hit the passenger door of the paddy wagon and both the cab's front airbags had been triggered. The Fire Brigade attended and removed the rear door of the taxi to rescue the driver as the front door had been wedged close to the paddy wagon.

Whatever the speed of the police car, judging from the sideswept skidmarks on the road, it had travelled across two traffic lanes and mounted the footpath with all four wheels before the driver could bring it to a halt.

CITY NEWS

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Waverley Council



Message from the Mayor

Winter in Bondi during the Bondi Bohemia Festival was a lot of fun. I launched the Bondi Skate Park safety guidelines at the Bondi Skate Fest on a balmy Saturday afternoon that felt as if it was summer. The talent of our young skaters and some of the tricks they did were amazing. I'm really impressed with the positive partnership between Council and local skaters. Over the past year local skaters, in particular John Fox, have been very supportive and offered us a lot of time and ideas to help improve the skate park. One of the concerns is graffiti as it can make the bowl's surface quite dangerous. Council and skaters have embarked on an anti-graffiti campaign, which includes education and striking anti-graffiti murals. John and local skaters regularly clean the park and want to form a local skate club to hold competitions and help care for this great facility. Any local skaters interested in being part of the Bondi Skateboarders Club can email John at skatefox@hotmail.com. I was also delighted to welcome the Bondi Fashion Parade back to Gould Street, voted one of the sixth best places to shop in Sydney. Why not join us for Taste Orange @ Bondi from 24 to 30 August. Taste Orange, now in its third year, is a great food and wine festival featuring the wonderful cuisine, wine and entertainment from Orange. Throughout the week, Orange produce and wine will feature on menus and specials boards of some of our best restaurants, bars and businesses. There will be music from the Orange Conservatorium, wine

education sessions, cooking demonstrations, a charity breakfast and a wonderful 'Art Alfresco' art exhibition. So please join us in the fun! Waverley is using an internet chatroom to consult with our community. Interested residents, ratepayers and businesses can contribute towards our strategic plan and tell us what they think about our vision for the future. We are interested in our community's views on how we should manage our assets, environment and money. Please visit www.bangthetable.com until Friday 21 August. We believe we will be able to engage our busy mums and dads, people with access difficulties, tech-savvy teenagers and anyone else who simply can't make our 'Have a Say Day'. I really encourage you to check it out and for more information please see below. Congratulations to Maccabi and National Australian karate champion, Leon Goltsman (who suffers from severe psoriatic arthritis), shark attack survivor Glen Orgias and their teams for participating in this month's City to Surf Fun Run. They are raising funds for Arthritis Australia and Australian Red Cross respectively. Supporters can register to donate blood at www.runningonblood.com while those wanting to support Leon's effort can email leongoltsman@gmail.com or call 0424 379 079. Please show them your support.

Cr Sally Betts, Mayor

Events Calendar

August 2009

9 August

City to Surf 2009

CBD to Bondi Beach

Visit www.city2surf.com.au for more info

16 August

Mayoral Lawn Bowls Tournament

Bondi Bowling Club

For more info call 9369 7925

19 August

Seniors' Day Coach Tour

Glenorie

For more info call 9386 7900

24-28 August

Children's Book Week

Waverley Library

For more info call 9386 7720

24-30 August

Taste Orange @ Bondi

Bondi Beach and Town Centre

For more info call 6360 1990

2 September

Senior Citizens' Concert

Bondi Pavilion

For more info call 8362 3400

For more info visit our website
www.waverley.nsw.gov.au

ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS

During August you can learn about bicycling and bike maintenance, compost and worm farming, living with less chemicals, climate cuisine, and balcony and kitchen gardens. Council offers a range of free environment courses throughout the year. Bookings are essential, so please book ahead by calling the Eastern Suburbs Community College on 9387 7400.

WAVERLEY ART PRIZE

The winners of the 23rd annual Waverley Art Prize were announced last month. The prize is funded by Council and organised by the Bondi Road Art School. Some well-known past winners are Janet Lawrence, Noel McKenna, David Fairbairn, Tom Carment, and the 1996 Archibald winner, Wendy Sharpe.

As well as contributing to the running costs, Council sponsors three prizes – the Open Prize (\$5,000) awarded to Stephanie Burns for her work 'Table Tennis'; the Mayor's Prize – Celebrating 150 years of Waverley in 2009 (\$1,000) awarded to Alanah Dreise for her print 'Life Saver'; and the winner of the Printmaking Prize (\$1,000) Marco Luccio for 'Wheel as Advancing Insect.' Congratulations to these artists and to the other prize winners: Camilla Connolly, Ann Cahill, Niki McDonald and Justin Cooper.

Thanks to Bondi Road Art School for organising this successful event, as well as Charles Hewitt Gallery, Art Spectrum, Matisse Derivan, Bondi Beach Dental and a private collector, for their generous support.

MAYORAL LAWN BOWLS TOURNAMENT

Don't miss out on the Mayoral Lawn Bowls Tournament on Sunday, 16 August, 9.30am-4.30pm at the Bondi Bowling Club, Warners Avenue.

Now in its third year, the Waverley Bowling and Recreation Club, Diamond Bay Bowling Club and the Bronte Bowling Club will challenge last year's winner Bondi Bowling Club for the trophy. Everyone is welcome. If you haven't played before, come along as it is loads of fun and have a 'Learn to play lawn bowls' session or watch the round-robin competition between the clubs.

This tournament was rescheduled due to inclement weather. For more information call Eleanor Raftery on 9369 7925.



SESQUICENTENARY BOARDWALK

As part of our commemorative Council meeting at Charing Cross Hotel last month Council named our new coastal boardwalk the Sesquicentenary Boardwalk (Sesquicentenary of course meaning 150 years).

Due to be completed later this month, the new boardwalk hugs the cliffs near the Waverley Cemetery and really makes the walk from Bronte to Randwick something very special.

Give yourself a break from lawn mowing.
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Come along to have your say (and a free sausage sizzle) on **Saturday 15 August 2009**

Roscoe St Mall, Campbell Pde, Bondi Beach, from 10am-3pm

Online

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Knitting stunt leaves Taylor Square in stitches



Guerrilla knitter Denise Litchfield gives Taylor Square the soft touch

BY ANGUS THOMPSON
First it was a tank in Denmark, then a petrol station in New York State before a bus in Mexico was also hit. Now the men's toilet block in Taylor Square has become the latest target of guerrilla knitting attacks around the world.

Last Saturday local 'graffiti knitter' Denise Litchfield set out to cover the above-ground surrounds of the former Men's Convenience public toilets in patches of gold, red and white cotton wool, and even attached a plush condom vending machine to the plythe.

'The Knitted Convenience' was staged as part of the

Sydney Design 09 festival and is Sydney's first major outdoor knitting installation.

Ms Litchfield has made her mark on sign poles, parking meters and trees around Newtown but had her sights set on a bigger stunt, originally targeting Ken Unsworth's 'Stones Against The Sky (Kings Cross's affectionately known Poo on Sticks).

"It was great because I had my eyes on a bigger prize – a bit like those little chipmunks from a Bugs Bunny cartoon. You know, where they jump from the peanut to the Brazil nut to the coconut," she said.

"I've always thought the

toilet was a good spot for a lot of reasons, because it's... generally ignored and it's quite a beautiful piece of architecture and history, too."

Ms Litchfield was recently invited to create a major knitting installation out the front of the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra with the founder of the global Knitta Please movement, Magda Sayeg.

Ms Litchfield and a cohort of 11 other guerrillas spent the whole of Saturday installing the piece designed to playfully greet locals, tourists and partygoers. The material from the event will be made into blankets and donated to an inner city charity.

Sparks fly at Council over radical group grant

BY SHANT FABRICATORIAN
The City of Sydney Council meeting on Monday night was enlivened considerably, when Liberal Councillor Shayne Mallard was censured for failing to withdraw a remark that Lord Mayor Clover Moore's fingerprints were "all over" a proposed \$8,000 grant to radical animal rights group Animal Liberation.

A point of order was raised by Cr John McNerney in response to Cr Mallard's comment. "You can't just throw a statement down, in front of a public gathering like this, saying the Lord Mayor's fingerprints are all over this particular [proposal]," he said. Cr Mallard then clarified his position, responding that Cr Moore's fingerprints were all over it because she "control[led] Council".

Cr Moore asked Cr Mallard to withdraw the imputation that she had interfered with the grant assessment process. When he refused, a motion was introduced to censure Cr Mallard.

During the debate, Deputy Lord Mayor Marcelle Hoff said that the comments took her back to "thinking about fingerprints, and criminal activity." However, Greens Councillor Chris Harris said he saw nothing worthy of censure, arguing that his interpretation of Cr Mallard's comments was that it reflected Ms Moore's values, thinking and political stance on matters.

Cr Mallard, who described the motion as "offensive", defended his stance, arguing that Animal Liberation were a radical grassroots movement who advocated breaking the

law through direct action. He said they were under investigation by Police in NSW and Queensland for allegedly contaminating kangaroo meat destined for export.

Ms Moore said an arms-length advisory process had been set up, on whose advice Councillors acted.

Along with Cr Mallard, Crs Harris, Irene Doutney and Meredith Burgmann, all spoke against the censure motion. Cr Burgmann cited some similar concerns to Cr Mallard over activities undertaken by Animal Liberation, but along with the rest of Council, did not support Cr Mallard's proposed amendment to withdraw funding from the group. The censure motion was upheld 6-4 along party lines.

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New York strategy to fight homelessness

BY SHANT FABRICATORIAN

The State Government has announced a major new attack on homelessness, adopting the same 'Common Ground' strategy successfully employed in New York.

The proposal involves redeveloping the land between Pymont Bridge Road, Lyons Road, Lambert Street and Layton Street in Camperdown. The site, owned by Housing NSW, will play host to purpose-built accommodation for homeless people, designed to help them back on their feet and ease their transition back into mainstream society.

"Common Ground focuses on prevention rather than just offering crisis accommodation," said Premier Nathan Rees. "We are looking at a building with up to 90 housing units as well as key social services. We are offering more than a just a short-term bed."

Supportive housing was created by non-profit organisations in the US as a more holistic response to homelessness. It offers permanent housing for the formerly homeless, people with mental and/or medical disabilities, the elderly and the disadvantaged. However, unlike traditional public housing, residency

is combined with social services such as mental health and substance abuse counselling, job training and placement, and community activities.

The Common Ground program was initiated in New York in 1990, and according to their website, "has enabled more than 4,000 individuals to overcome homelessness." Two long-term government studies in the US have shown that more than 83 per cent of individuals placed in supportive housing have remained in permanent housing and reintegrated into mainstream society.

Housing Minister David Borger said the chosen site had vacant land, so building the Common Ground facility would not involve relocating large numbers of existing tenants, he said. He added it was, "situated close to important service facilities like the hospital."

The fact that homelessness rates in NSW had not declined demonstrated that a new approach was needed, he said.

Construction is envisaged to begin on the new development by the end of the year.

But the area's residents have raised concerns in particular relating to the Government's commitment to the plan. A report in *The Sydney Morning*

Herald cited an unnamed former member of a working group set up to develop the scheme, who believed the current proposal, while praiseworthy, reflected a desire to cut costs.

Mr Borger said all efforts would be made to allay residents' concerns. "We believe this is an appropriate site to meet the needs of homeless people in Sydney," he said. "[The concerns of residents] need to be balanced with the need of homeless people to provide them with safe, secure and affordable long-term accommodation."

The initiative comes on the back of what has been described as a crisis in housing affordability for Sydney's homeless. The City of Sydney's Homeless Person's Information Centre said it had received a record 66,610 calls over the previous twelve months, an increase of 13,000 calls over the 2007/8 period.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said it was imperative the City provide support to those in need and reduce housing stress in local communities. Housing stress – primarily caused by failure to keep up with rent payments – was cited as the primary reason for homelessness, alongside family breakdown.



The park in Camperdown earmarked for Sydney's first Common Ground housing project

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UTS puts Ultimo on the drawing board

BY ANGUS THOMPSON

Students at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), have been charged with the mission of transforming Ultimo from a 'placeless' dead zone to the city's innovative and cultural hub.

An exhibition by students in the Masters of Architecture at UTS will show the fruits of a new course designed to help revitalise the area known as the Ultimo Cultural and Education Precinct.

Course coordinator and curator of the exhibition titled 'Uterior Motives', Adam Russell, said that Ultimo, characterised by large 'closed-off' institutions such as UTS, ABC and the Powerhouse Museum, was desperate for a pedestrian network to activate the undiscovered corridors off Harris Street and other main roads.

"It's widely accepted that it is a neglected area, and suffering urban decay, and doesn't have any real sense of civic life or pedestrian activation and yet it has a lot of pedestrians using it every day," he said.

"There's this idea of creating some permeability between the public realm and the closed insitutions.

"There's a hell of a lot of interesting things happening but it's usually behind closed doors." One student's solution to this is to revive dead-end streets with scaffold-like galleries that connect



Architecture student Francisco Layson wants to transform Ultimo with his energy 'seeds'

pedestrians to existing buildings.

Another student suggests several localised energy 'seeds' for the area, which control food production and energy production waste renewal in a sustainability push.

A snake-like promenade was also pitched to intertwine through all the major institutions along Harris Street.

UTS vice chancellor, Ross Milbourne, has flagged that the winning design for the first stage of the university's Broadway redevelopment could set a precedent for the precinct's creative reinvention.

With the 12-storey building boasting massive gill-like shields and pulsing LED lighting on the glass faade, Professor Milbourne said it was an inspirational piece of architecture that

would come to be as well-known as the Sydney Opera House.

Also housing a sunny atrium connecting pedestrian and cycleway access to China Town and the Fraser's Broadway development, the design is just one of several proposed new buildings along the busy stretch.

The City of Sydney suggests the area could be the city's key creative industries hub and recognises the need to make the area pedestrian-friendly, planning to extend the Ultimo Pedestrian Network that runs from Central Station, behind the ABC building, as well as create a cycleway network throughout the suburb.

The exhibition runs from August 13 to October 25 at Customs House, Circular Quay.

Leading from the front



Photo: Michael Gormly

BY MICHAEL GORMLY

Queensland student Michael Shelley (left) leads early in Sunday's City 2 Surf run, here entering the Kings Cross Tunnel in William Street. He went on to win the race in a time of 41.02 minutes. It was his third attempt at the run.

Pymont Community Bank® Project

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THE BONDI VIEW



'We're not wowzers, but...'



Generation gap: top, a typical young crowd in the Cross; above, a much older group at a local anti-alcohol 'summit'

BY MICHAEL GORMLY
Council's campaign against late-night entertainment precincts is gathering pace, with two small bars and The Sugarmill Hotel in Kings Cross recently bearing the brunt.

Councillors are egged on by a barrage of complaints from organised groups of older residents usually starting with "I'm not a wowser but..."

The campaign now relies heavily on two pieces of research Council commissioned to establish the reality of a 'Saturation Point' of licensed venues in Kings Cross and Oxford Street, beyond which point 'Alcohol-Fuelled Violence' increases exponentially, a 'Cumulative Impact' effect. If this saturation point has been exceeded then licensed premises should be reduced in number and opening hours.

Only residents were surveyed in the research, a self-centred approach. A fundamental role of a city is to be a destination. All roads lead to Sydney – just look at a road map. Residents of a city enjoy fabulous benefits of location but they must deal with

large numbers of visitors in the streets – it's a fundamental of urban life. So to consider only residents when forming urban policy is selfish. In Kings Cross on a Thursday night only 21 per cent of people approached by the survey were locals. The other 79 per cent have no rights, it seems. It's a classic Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) approach. "Why don't these people party in their own suburbs?" asked one local resident group member. Folks, that's a bit difficult if you live in Pymble.

Some locals around Kings Cross held an 'alcohol summit' last year and invited speaker Tony Brown, the man behind the pub lockouts in Newcastle. "The Act says residents have a right to Quiet and Good Order," he said. "But it doesn't say 'except in Kings Cross!'" Cue applause.

But should the same rules apply to Kings Cross as Pymble? Such fundamentalism denies the right and need of people to party and of a global city to have an entertainment precinct.

Even with its residents-only bias, the research still failed to

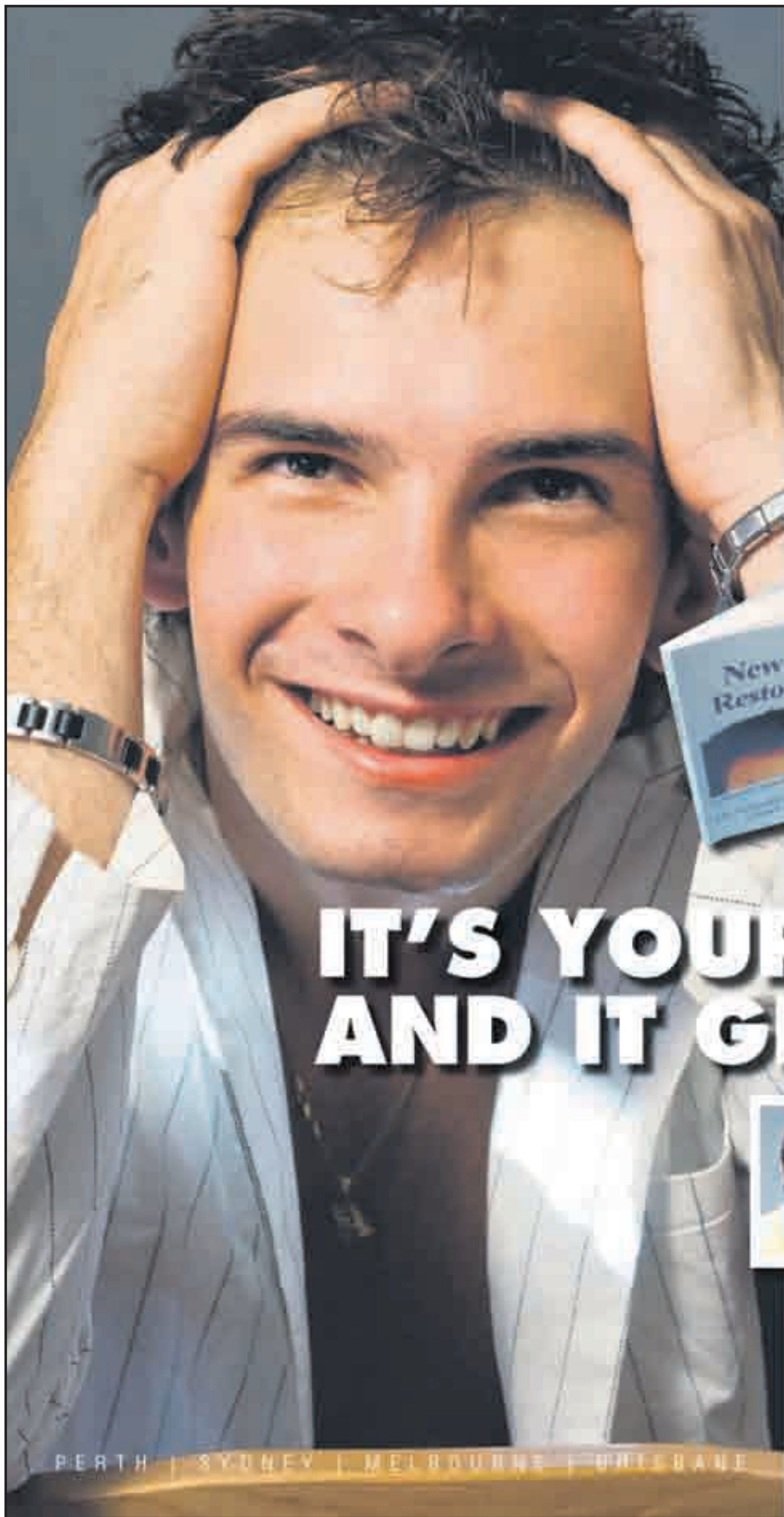
establish the desired outcome. It does not establish any 'Saturation Point', and it shows that only a tiny minority of residents are creating all the fuss.

Under "Suggestions for improving Kings Cross," in the opinion survey, only 16 per cent of residents answered "Restrict opening hours/alcohol outlets". That's Malcolm Turnbull's current poll rating, hardly a mandate.

Only 21 per cent wanted fewer nightclubs in Kings Cross. At the same time, 19 per cent wanted more small bars. This does not endorse Council's current agenda – rather the opposite.

Yet many of the 190 people surveyed still acknowledged the downside. Asked which aspects of Kings Cross they most disliked, 54 per cent named "Drunkness/disorderly behaviour", and this is the type of figure being quoted at Clover Moore's 'spinformation' roadshow at Community Forums. Still, only 16 per cent wanted to restrict pubs, so it seems the majority do in fact

Continued on page 12



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Continued from page 10

understand that the fallout from visiting revellers is the price they pay for the "culture and vibrancy" they like.

Consistently, younger respondents were more positive about pubs and clubs, and about feelings of personal safety, while older residents more negative. This is hardly surprising – the anti-alcohol resident activists are mostly over 50 and so are our Councillors, so this conflict can be seen as Old vs Young, with the oldies wielding the power.

Opinion surveys aside, Council's separate research into the saturation point/cumulative impact idea also fails to support the concept.

The report uses data only between 2001 and 2006 to link the number of licensed premises with alcohol-related violence. However in 2008-09, several large new venues opened in Kings Cross, adding a floor capacity of 3,000 to the small precinct. As the research attempts to establish that a 'saturation point' had already existed by 2006, it is reasonable to expect that alcohol-related incidents would increase exponentially with this increase in floorspace. In fact the opposite occurred and Kings Cross Police Commanders at community meetings consistently reported a downward trend over the same period.

A recent short-term increase in police numbers in response to the bikie scare predictably reduced problems even further. While this shows that more police will reduce problems, the underlying downward trend has



"It's getting worse," is a refrain of unhappy Cross residents. But the blurb on this pulp fiction novel from the early 60s describes teenagers in much the same terms as today's rhetoric.

been consistent over a much longer period.

At Clover's roadshow, faithful acolytes run Powerpoint shows claiming that once a precinct reaches 22 venues per 10,000 residents a 'tipping point' is reached at which alcohol-related problems multiply. Sydney city has 115 premises per 10,000 residents and Kings Cross has 97.3, way over the 'tipping point'.

And yet, according to Police linking data, none of the top 20 'worst' pubs in NSW are in these concentrated areas. Current 'worst' is Penrith Panthers followed by the Mean Fiddler in Rouse Hill, both of which essentially sit isolated in sprawling suburbs. Hardly concentrated. Coogee and Manly both have worse violence rates than Kings Cross but a lower concentration of venues.

The problem is the concentration of macho idiots, not pubs.

Clover has also been repeating that, compared to the NSW average, Sydney City has five times the concentration of venues and four times the level of violence.

Doesn't this mean we in Sydney are 20 per cent safer per venue than the NSW average? Isn't four less than five? Doesn't this alone blow a hole in the 'saturation point' theory?

One of Clover's roadshow acolytes spoke in terms of "normalising" Kings Cross. Never mind that the very definition of Kings Cross is to be NOT normal. That's the thing that makes it different from other city 'villages' and defines its cultural function in wider Sydney.

Anyone with the slightest genuine belief in diversity would be encouraging this difference, not squelching it.

Kings Cross is the essential escape valve and refuge for people who cannot bear the constrictions and hypocrisy of suburban tidy-townsville, where a veneer of normalcy hides all the same horrors and vices that the Cross tolerantly flaunts. Until five bodies are found in a house... The problems of Kings Cross ARE the problems of suburbia made visible.

Nothing in the research shows any reason why people who intensely dislike Kings Cross cannot move somewhere quieter. And nothing in their rhetoric explains why their minority view should prevail over the majority of residents and tens of thousands of visitors.

First Gallipoli flag stolen

BY SHANT FABRICATORIAN

The theft of a priceless piece of Australian history has cast a pall over the renovations of the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park.

The first flag to be carried ashore by Australian troops during the infamous Gallipoli landings on April 24, 1915, has been stolen from ANZAC House. Staff discovered the loss last Monday, but as yet it is unclear when the artefact was taken.

The flag originally belonged to the 9th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, and was temporarily being stored at ANZAC House while upgrades to the Memorial are completed. NSW State President of the RSL, Don Rowe, said it was clear the flag had not simply been misplaced. "The flag had been framed along with relevant documents, and staff discovered the frame had been opened and the flag removed," he said.

Mr Rowe said the flag had sentimental and historical value, and described it as "irreplaceable". It includes the signatures of Albert Windsor, Duke of York (later King George VI); Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester; and Lieutenant-General Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement.

Police have been notified and forensic investigators have taken fingerprints from the



The missing flag represents a unique part of Australia's heritage

flag's mounting and frame. If people have any information of the whereabouts of the flag, they are urged to contact their RSL State Branch or nearest RSL Club.

REGROW MORE OF YOUR OWN HAIR OR YOUR MONEY BACK... GUARANTEED

WE DON'T STICK WIGS LIKE OTHERS DO TO SHOW A FULL HEAD OF HAIR!!! BE VERY WARY ABOUT WHAT YOU HEAR AND SEE!!

ALL OTHERS SAY "TRY OURS, IT MAY HELP". NO 'IFS' AND 'BUTS' WITH US. WE GUARANTEE TO REGROW MORE OF YOUR OWN HAIR OR YOUR MONEY BACK. PLEASE REMEMBER, THE DHT AFFECTED HAIR ROOTS COULD DIE WITHIN 4 YEARS. THEREFORE, WHEN YOU ARE OFFERED A 'MONEY BACK GUARANTEED HAIR REGROWTH PROGRAM', WHY WOULD YOU EXPERIMENT WITH VARIOUS OTHER PRODUCTS? DEAD HAIR ROOTS CAN NOT BE REGROWN.

SOME SO CALLED 'HAIR TREATMENT' ORGANISATIONS HAVE PROMOTIONS SHOWING 'A BALDING HEAD' COVERED TO A 'FULL HEAD OF HAIR', THESE ARE ACTUAL WIGS OR HAIRPIECES AND HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED ON TODAY TONIGHT AND A CURRENT AFFAIR AND IN NEWS PAPERS

DO LASERS, HIGH FREQUENCY MACHINES AND MESSAGES BLOCK THE BALDING GENE (DHT) NO!

'Wigs' are a 'last resort' for very bald people with no hope of re-growth &/or transplants.

Before signing contracts, ask a lot of questions and ensure that:-

- You take home copies of photographs of all the bald or balding areas of your scalp to make progressive comparisons
- Are you consulting a doctor at your initial visit to so called Medical Hair Centers?
- Are Lasers and High Frequency machines Medically approved as a DHT blocker?
- Ask for proof of accuracy of Mineral Hair Analysis and are they Medically approved? (To check their authenticity, do not forget to provide them with 2 sets of samples of your own hair with different names – the results will amaze you)
- Are frequent visits, enabling them to keep a grip on you and your money necessary? Though Cosmetic products are useless and unnecessary and not treatments for 'Hair Regrowth', is ongoing purchase, causing recurring expenditure, necessary?
- Obtain a favorable 'Full Money back Guarantee' in writing, in case of failure
- At your initial consultation, they must specify exact period of the treatment, all the associated products and total cost of the program
- Is it a life time commitment and if so, approximate future expenditure

As a 'precaution' and with the intention of helping you with more than 35 years experience, the above is for your information and guidance.

Please remember, the DHT affected hair roots should die within 4 years. Therefore, it is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that, from the very beginning you treat your hair loss with the most effective treatment to block the balding gene 'DHT'. What can be better than our 'money back guaranteed 'Hair Re-growth' Program???

My Name is Sam Cohen, hair loss and hair replacement specialist for more than 35 years. Using prescribed topical and oral pharmaceutical products, natural extracts and herbal preparations, I have helped thousands of

men, women and children with "genetic baldness" re-grow their own natural hair back. Solved many hair and scalp problems, such as, itchy scalp, dry or oily hair, etc. Innovated and custom designed the most versatile and natural looking "hairpieces", improved "hair implantation" procedures and advised and consulted on all types of "hair transplants". With my knowledge and practical experience, I can also achieve great results for you, provided you act soon, because the DHT affected dormant hair roots usually die within 4 years.

With IHRB, you pay far less and treat yourself in the privacy, convenience and comfort of your own home. Further, those who do not or are not able to visit our Clinic, need not worry. We will send you a questionnaire with all the relevant information and instructions explaining the cause and how the treatment works for you to do it at home. Free ongoing advice and check ups for 25 years is also included with all our programs. Wigs, Hairpieces, Toupees: is a big turnoff, therefore, most organizations confuse prospective clients by disguising them with various names, such as, "Non Surgical Hair Replacements", "Medic Hair", "Hair Again", "Derma Hair", etc.

Mineral Hair Analysis: Please be informed that majority of baldness occurs "Genetically", yet some clinics will claim that, if a persons minerals, toxicity, stress factors, etc, can be corrected, hair regrowth will take place. There is NO CURE for "genetic baldness". The "balding Gene" (DHT) can be blocked with a combination of our various "state of the art" prescribed medications and topical solutions, herbs, natural extracts, good hygiene products, etc, enabling regrowth to re-commence and continue with a little "maintenance".

Cost: Try to enquire prices of programs from most organizations on the telephone? You will rarely receive a direct reply.

If you have tried or are currently trying treatments without success or feel you are paying too much, then you MUST check our hair treatment program that offers "guaranteed results or your money back". If you are interested in "Hair Regrowth", "Hair Transplants", "Hair Implants" or "Hairpieces", you will certainly benefit by talking to us.

We look forward to speak to you soon.



Dear Sam,

The first time I came to see you I found it hard to believe it was possible. After only 6 months my hair has improved so much with more body than ever before and my regrowth at this time is a great improvement from the bald patches I had. My hairdresser is so amazed with the improvement that she is telling everybody about you. Thanks again Sam!

Sincerely, Gillian Drew

To Sam and the I.H.R.B. team, I have been your customer for 10 months and I am extremely impressed with the results. I have spoken to many organizations and people promising hope with false guarantees. I always walked away feeling taken, cheated and lied to. Meeting Sam for the first time, he honestly explained the limitations and told me "not to expect to re-grow a full head of hair". Believe me, this statement sold me his program and I started to trust him. The IHRB team have always been friendly and accommodating. On many occasions I walked in to see Sam and on each time he did. This meant a lot to me. In my opinion Sam strongly believes in his work and as a result is successful, giving many of us new found hope and confidence in our day to day lives. SAM I owe you more than you more than you know. Sincerely, Sydney Police Officer.

I can't believe my hair is growing back! I looked around, and was a bit skeptical with all these different advertisements everywhere claiming to grow your hair back. It's easy, you do not have to change your lifestyle. No regular visits. The treatment is performed in the comfort of your own home and its worth it. My hair is a lot thicker and I look and feel younger as well. I would strongly recommend anyone with hair loss to contact IRHB, soon than later, as it is much easier to tackle the problem in its early stage. Don't leave it till you're 42!

Yiami Zleonas

Dear Sam

After years of 'balding' I gave up hope until I came across your advertisements showing amazing transformations along with their testimonials. I was skeptical, but I gave it a go and never regretted it. Dramatically my hair has become thicker with new regrowth within 8 months. My only regret is that I didn't start your program earlier. I will not hesitate to recommend your treatment program to every man, woman or child with hair loss.

Sincerely, Jason Crose



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EAT & DRINK by Jackie McMillan

FOODIES' DIARY

New Lease About Life for Bondi

Being the newest Woolworth acquisition, even if it was a Thomas Dux branded store, probably wasn't going to work out well for the "grand old lady of organics" as Jodie Stewart affectionately dubs her second About Life store. The Macro store she's saving first launched an astounding twenty two years ago. Woe betide anyone who heralded organics as a fad. But this is all last month's news. Eschewing straight reportage, I thought I would wait until the dust settled and then go and see the changes in store first hand.

My first sigh of relief came as I saw the staff - Stewart took on all the existing Macro staff. She has stuck one of her Rozelle managers in charge to assist in bringing over the flavour of About Life. A keen nutritionist, the lass has also taken up surfing with a vengeance and plans to move into the area. She got me interested in an alternative sweetener - Dark Agave Syrup (\$6.99/250ml). Made from a cactus (so perfect for vegans) it also boasts a low Glycemic index and is diabetic friendly. Agave is used in the imported OrganicVille Organic Ketchup. It's not loaded with sugar like most conventional ketchups, and in a side by side comparison taste test it won hands down on flavour. The food miles of course aren't awesome, but we all need treats.

Bondi residents can also look forward to being well catered for in the pre-made meal department. I am usually a stickler for making my own marinades. All that changed when I took home Moroccan Chicken Thighs (\$19.42/ 0.918 kg) and a Rosemary and Garlic Lamb Roast (\$18.52/ 0.788kg). It really was great quality, tasty meat with excellent flavours particularly the chicken which was set off by a bit of char from our barbeque. They may have a convert.



This weekend is a great time for you to try their range. All their hormone free meats spiced up with About Life marinades like garlic and lemon chicken breasts or rosemary and thyme lamb cutlets are available for ten dollars (usually priced at \$16-\$18). You can also get their nutritious 'heat and eat' meals which include Asian Chicken Hot Pot or Potato and Cauliflower Curry at five bucks (normally \$8). If I lived in Bondi I'd be thanking my lucky stars - while I sipped on a Toby's Estate Coffee of course. Sometimes the good guys win.

About Life, 31-37 Oxford Street, Bondi Junction
(02) 9389 7611 www.aboutlife.com.au

PRICING

\$ - mains less than \$15

\$\$ - mains between \$15-\$22

\$\$\$ - mains between \$22-\$30

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EASTERN SUBURBS & BEACHES

Fishmongers

While this store does really great fish and chips, I'll be returning for their briny Oysters (\$2/each) and smoky Aussie barbeque flavoured Baby Octopus (\$6), which was unmatched in my experience. Surprisingly satisfying are the Tempura Vegies (\$9.50) chock full of diverse and interesting vegies like broccoli, mushrooms and corn on the cob, a little turmeric to enhance the flavour and sea salt to make them sing! Check out their specials for interesting daily grilled options, like Tandoori Dory (\$15) served with lemon and hand-cut skin on Sebago chips. Eco-friendly and there are no endangered species on the menu as a company policy.
42 Hall Street, Bondi Beach
(02) 9365 2205 www.mongers.com.au
Fish \$-\$\$

Elysium Restaurant

Chicken Liver and Port Parfait (\$17) with a 2006 Two Sisters Pinot Noir (\$60) sold me on this comforting Randwick bistro. Low light, a comfy banquette and a bowl of Cauliflower Soup (\$17) with smoked ham hock sealed the deal. Meat is well handled - try the wagyu beef cheeks in Braised Beef 'bourguignon' (\$29) served with creamy parsnip puree and green beans; and Roast Pork Belly with Honey and Black Pepper Glaze (\$29). French Style Crepes (\$13) with banana, caramel and

La Locanda *NEW*

Panic... the chalkboard menu of this intimate bistro is written entirely in Italian. Breathe... our charming waiter explains it, clearly with great diction, in a voice flavoured by a Southern Italian accent. He checks to see we both understand: 'Everything is a sign' His impressive waiting pedigree includes Buon Ricordo but he prefers the 'very personal' edge of this local Italian hero. Our fellow diners are movers and shakers, including Tony Squires one table over. The restaurateur next to us boasts he's 'been twice this week.' Tasting the sensual Gnocchi with Olives and Zucchini Cream (\$17/\$22) I can see why, instant umami, and the olives don't dominate the dish. Head Chef (and co-owner) Andrea Vagge hails from Milan. He handles pork particularly well, crunchy topped Pork Belly (\$15) has beautifully rendered fat, and is served up simply with Spanish onion and red currant jam. Later, a Pork Cutlet (\$28) is also perfectly cooked; set off by a buttery bed of lentils. The signature Pappardelle with Duck and Pea Ragu (\$17/\$22) is a simple dish, with a top note of roast duck. It lets the 2007 Inama Soave Classico DOC (\$54) we're drinking step to the forefront and it's very good. I leave smiling...
65B Macpherson Street, Bronte (02) 9389 3666 www.lalocanda.com.au
Modern Italian \$\$\$



peanuts round it off well. The bill isn't bad either with all mains south of the thirty dollar border.

133 Avoca Street, Randwick
(02) 9398 7766
www.elysiumrestaurant.com
Modern Australian \$\$\$-\$\$\$

Bei Amici

The rustic Italian cooking of owner/chef Felix Rutz has expanded to include; luckily the lovely Calamari with Pistachios, Cavolo Nero and Fregola (\$18) remain. The Snapper Carpaccio (\$22) on warm white polenta with mud crab dressing is good; as is the Poached Green Asparagus (\$18) teamed with a

bio-dynamic egg. The Duck Ragout Gnocchi (\$26) was light on the poultry, but flavoursome. For sweet Swiss bliss try the Torte de Panne (\$13) flavoured with fig jam and topped with pine-nuts. The decor's been improved by an amazing woven ball light casting pretty shadows; staff remain friendly and familiar.

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Cost: Entry is free. Wine glasses \$5

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Bookings: Pre booking of food and wine vouchers is possible from
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EAT & DRINK by Jackie McMillan

Nielsen Park Kiosk Café *NEW*

Some Sydney restaurants are all about location, and this is another one of them, but in this case the interior is as charming as the aspect. Easy parking, must be winter, so it's a great time to visit this homely venue with an English seaside resort feel. The 2007 Nepenthe Pinot Gris (\$9/glass, \$49/bottle) helps you slow to beach-time as you graze on an excellent (and well-priced) Antipasto Plate (\$18.50). The Truffle Group assures great produce (olives and prosciutto are standouts), but it's Chef Ant Ewart who twists them in unusual ways. His lemon oil topped Eggplant Dip could be Sydney's best and smokiest; his Avocado Dip also surprises. Very few grissini make the sharing platter perfect for the carb-conscious Eastern Suburbs ladies-who-lunch set. Eggs Benedict (\$15.50) wins me easily with the promise that the Hollandaise is made from scratch for each order, you can taste the difference. Fresh oregano gives the mouth a workout in the incredibly light Veal Meatballs with Orecchiette and Baked Pepper, Tomato and Olive Sauce (\$18.50). Clean, simple plating is a relief, and effervescent Café Manager Nicholas Szabo makes good crema on a Latte (\$3.50). Don't let the toffs keep this one to themselves; it's affordable, good and for the people!

Nielsen Park, Graycliffe Avenue, Vaucluse (02) 9337 7333 www.nielsenpark.com.au
Café \$\$



INNER WEST (Pyrmont/Balmain/ Leichhardt/Glebe)

Elio

Chef Daniele Giannuzzi brings to life a clever menu of "emotional Italian". Gorgeous grassy olive oil with Pane di Casa (\$3); meaty marinated Green Sicilian Olives (\$7); seductively sinful Ricotta and Potato Gnocchi (\$21) with New Zealand rabbit ragu and a soft egg on a mound of toothsome, house-made Straccetti Pasta with Duck Leg Maryland (\$23) topped with Umbrian black truffles. Stop me, I'm dribbling. The mains were humbling - jet black Squid Ink Risotto (\$29) and Eight Hour Beer Braised Angus Beef Cheeks (\$29) with roast chestnuts and porcini mushrooms. I'm floored but quickly revived by house-made rosewater in a Vanilla Bean Pannacotta (\$16). Applause.

159 Norton Street, Leichhardt
(02) 9560 9129 www.elio.com.au
Modern Italian \$\$\$

Yots Café and Bar

Round from Darling Harbour is a quiet boat-bound oasis with deck frontage, a quaint lighthouse, a tall ship and a panoramic view. Who knew? The menu's what the location demands, generous Beer Battered Fish and hand-cut Chips (\$19.50) or Seared Scallops with Prosciutto (\$21.50). Add a cheap, approachable Marlborough Park Riesling (\$5.50/glass, \$23.50/bottle) and you have lunch; or duck round for a spot of breakfast - Eggs Your Way with Crispy Bacon on Caramelised Onion Toast (\$13.50) and a D'Oro Latte (\$3.50). Children are valued guests; \$12.50 gets them a meal and a drink while they babble excitedly about boats.

2 Murray Street, Pyrmont
(02) 9211 5144
www.yotsdarlingharbour.com.au
Café \$-\$

Ripples Sydney Wharf

Making waves in a great niche on Sydney's picturesque harbour with fantastic plastic chairs and an al fresco boardwalk location is Ripples Sydney Wharf. Head Chef Richard Park's Yamba Prawn Tart (\$19) is tasty and nicely plated; so is his Char-grilled Asparagus, Warm Potato, Herb de Provence and Soft Egg (\$17). With the wintery weather, (there are heaters, but take a jacket), I suggest the nicely cooked Fish and Chips with Tartare Sauce (\$24). My heart was won by Leatherwood Honey and Goats' Curd Parfait with Poached Quince and Fairy Floss (\$13). Owner Grant Andronicus



Agave Restaurante Mexicano

Finally Sydney's Mexican community begets a restaurant worth writing about! Eat Queso Fundido (\$12) with pockets of chorizo, mushrooms and chilli in a subterranean Mexican cellar with funky flamenco on the stereo. Don't come here looking for Tex-Mex, sour cream or burritos. The Sopa Azteca (\$12), a spicy tomato soup over crunchy tortilla strips wins; as do flambé Camarones a la Diabla (\$25), king prawns marinated in chipotle and tequila. Drink excellent frozen Hibiscus Margaritas (\$15), Mexican beers or Sangria (\$5/glass, \$13/500ml jug). Heat seekers try the superb Chipotle Salsa (\$2) - a side of Crema (\$2) is wise. The Flan (\$8) is a sweet and perfectly textured.

21410 Crown Street, Surry Hills
(02) 9326 9072
Mexican \$\$-\$\$\$

middle Australia. Food is resoundingly satisfying - local, seasonal, filling and familiar. Don't pass on the house-made bread and excellent Danish butter. Seared Scallops (\$16) with well-cooked clams a la Grecque are unique, well-thought out and substantial; while the Veal Sweetbreads (\$14) with black pudding were an absolute delight. Comfort and class reign in the main of Poussin Breasts with Confit Leg Pithivier (\$25). 'Pithivier' is just a fancy word for a round, puff pastry pie; pretension aside, the menu's got something to please all-comers.

102-104 Brook Street, Coogee
(02) 9665 5447
www.randwickrugby.com.au
Modern Australian \$\$\$

ROCKS & CBD

Sofitel Lounge

Meet in the casual yet classy surrounds of the Sofitel Lounge on Wednesdays for a deconstructed Belvedere Pure Vodka Martini (\$12), softly spoken staff will shake or stir at your table. Mondays are for Flights of Wine (\$16) matched with well-ripened Hunter cheeses. Add bar food like crunchy Duck Spring Rolls (\$8); skewered Lamb Kofta (\$8) with minted yoghurt; and mild Chorizo (\$8). Daytimes have a So Quick' Lunch (\$18) of soup, French baguette, savoury wrap or sandwich with a dessert item from the 'Afternoon Tea at the Wentworth' menu, eat in or packaged to return to the office.

Lobby, Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, 61-101 Phillip Street, Sydney
(02) 9228 9188 www.sofitelsydney.com.au
Bar Food \$ Pies \$

DARLO, KINGS X & SURRY HILLS

Dumpling and Noodle House

Little more than a hole in the wall, this grungy, atmospheric northern Chinese kitchen serves up authentic (and excellent) offerings like Chicken Short Soup (\$11.80). Order crisp, lacy fans of Fried Dumplings (\$11.50) but think: 'danger, hot liquid'. Crunchy Prawn Toast (\$2.50) is safer. A bamboo steamer with six toothsome Shrimp Dumplings (\$12.50) bursting with large prawns and bamboo shoots won my heart; but I struggled to keep sloppy Sheng Cai Bao (\$12.50) in lettuce. Round it out with a compelling plate of Boiled Green Vegetables (\$9.50) cooked in hot oil and black soy. Eat 'til stuffed; pay an obscenely small amount for the pleasure.

Shop 11165-167 Victoria Street, Potts Point
(02) 9326 9639
Chinese \$

Monkey Magic *NEW*

Monkey say: "To some of us, opinions are so precious that we will die for them, again and again." The bizarre look on my dining companion's face took me back to the infamous 'Golden Century pipi incident'. I'd seen that look before. I knew it wasn't good. Sharp crab shell in the Crab Leaves (\$13/3 leaves) equals shaky beginning. Mortified I stare at walls, noting dark, moody, tasteful decor. Noisy room covers muffled curses emanating from across the table. A wasabi-based Ken Watanabe (\$16) helps steady my nerves; great cocktail, packs a punch. They had a tough night - newish chef, more patrons than expected, new floor staff. 'What is it that you don't like, the raw fish?' perhaps sounded more harsh than our server intended. With time hiccups will hopefully be honed, but for the price I wanted to fall in love, Japanese fusion is a favourite! Bright points were the Ox Tail Tortellini (\$18) with scallops and ox-tail wasabi jus - on the money for taste, but pasty in the pasta. Seafood Ceviche Salad (\$16) triumphs; shaved fennel is brilliant, fetta less so. Twice Cooked Pork Belly (\$32) popped with sweet carrot puree, but Julie Goodwin's kids might ask: "Where's the rest of it?"

3 and 4, 410 Crown Street, Surry Hills (02) 9358 4444
www.monkeymagic.com.au
Japanese Fusion \$\$\$

jackie@alternativemediagroup.com

Igloo Zoo *NEW*

What am I doing eating a frozen dessert in the middle of winter? Why am I eating something that's 99.5% fat free? Who came up with thirty things you could top yoghurt with? Why am I asking all these rhetorical questions? I suspect the frozen yoghurt craze will dazzle us all come summer. Everyone will be talking about it. Beat the crowds and check out this Darlo's new swish white epoxy 'culture bar'. Your local 'yoghurt station' gives you three types of super chilled yoghurt (original, pomegranate or green tea) with any number of toppings, either in a tub, or in a drink. The toppings are all pretty impressive; they're tasty and some have been selected based on nutritional values and stuff. I eschewed the so-called super food goji berries in favour of German organic white chocolate, passionfruit puree and coconut (mmm fat) on Original Super Chilled Yoghurt (\$6.50 medium includes three toppings). You know, I actually enjoyed it. I moved on to the Igloo Blend (\$5.95) which is pretty much a smoothie, in pomegranate yoghurt with strawberries. It was okay, but my dining companion blitzed it with a breakfast combination of original yoghurt with crunchy Sonoma muesli and pistachios. Choosing toppings is the best bit - take your time!
46A Macleay Street, Potts Point (1300) 360 881 www.igloozoo.com
Dessert \$



Sydney's tastiest pie. Christopher The (ex-Claude's) is doing quality baking in this tiny quirky space with rustic furnishings for eat-in fun.
277 Australia Street, Newtown
(02) 9557 8656
Cafe \$

Guzman y Gomez

If (like me) you rushed in here when they first opened, give them another go. They've tightened the menu, adjusted the chilli, improved the guacamole and added alcohol. I loved the Smokin' Hot Margarita (\$8) with chilli infused Tequila, and the Beef Chilli Nachos (\$9.90) with excellent black beans, tomato salsa, guacamole and chunky steak-rich chilli. A Steak and Onion Quesadilla (\$7 / 2 pieces) is fat with tasty filling; and the Mini Burrito (\$7) fits better in your mouth. The caramel Flan (\$2.80) will put out the fire. Also in Bondi Junction, Kings Cross and Australia Square.
175 King Street, Newtown
(02) 9517 1533
www.guzmanygomez.com.au
Mexican \$

Posh Spice

The Bollywood Mojito (\$10) Malibu, mint and soda is just one of the things I'd recommend at Amit Guha's re-branded restaurant. The bright room's decor is Bollywood Indian Princess; but it's the Veal Pasanda (\$25) that shines brightest, combining Indian flavours with French technique. Enjoy every drop of gravy with a Garlic Roti (\$3.50). The hung Harra Kebab (\$9) spinach patties are 'meaty' vegetarian; the fresh, fragrant spicing wins on the Kasoori Lamb Cutlets (\$13). For dessert you'll either love or hate the Rasmalai (\$7) home-made cream cheese cakes in a lovely rosewater and saffron sauce. Fun, flirty and group friendly.
First Floor, 196 King Street, Newtown
(02) 9557 6399 www.poshspice.com.au
Indian \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

The Cauliflower Hotel

This is a local pub serving simple food that people actually want to eat, like a Pork Schnitzel (\$17) with apple sauce and red cabbage or a 450g grain-fed T-Bone Steak (\$19) with great steak-cut chips and a decent pepper sauce. Serves are big, and the food is certainly not a bad representation of pub bistro fare. They even do a good value Weekend Breakfast (\$10) with a punchy Bloody Mary (\$8). There's also a Grazing Plate (\$12/\$20) with nice spicy prawns and avocado dip. You won't be a stranger here for long.
123 Botany Road, Waterloo
(02) 9698 3024
www.cauliflowerhotel.com.au
Pub Bistro \$\$-\$\$\$

GREATER SYDNEY

Grill'd

A bustling local lunch crowd jostle for healthier, tasty, affordable burgers served quickly by earnest youngsters. Funky space too! In my view the burgers look and taste better than offerings from the obvious competitors. The Hot Mama (\$11.90) sang with hot harissa, tangy dill pickles and lean, flavoursome beef on a traditional bun moistened with tzatziki. The Caesar's Palace (\$11.90) layers smoky bacon with moist chicken pieces well marked by the grill, springy baby cos leaves, parmesan and a free range egg. Herbed Chips (\$4.90) also rate. It all gets a little juicy so grab an extra serviette at the counter.
57 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest
(02) 9436 0699 www.grilld.com.au
Burgers \$

has chosen a lovely coffee in Karmee too.
Between Wharfs 9 & 10, 56 Pirrama Road, Pyrmont (02) 9571 1999
www.ripplescafe.com.au
Cafe \$\$\$

**NEWTOWN & ENVIRONS
(Marrickville/Petersham
/Dulwich Hill/Waterloo)**

Black Star Pastry
Is this Sydney's best pastry shop?

Strawberry Crumble Tart (\$4.50) is a vivid strawberry explosion with a buttery pastry shell. Rose and Lilac Macarons (\$3.50) are texturally perfect; Custard Tarts (\$5) are rich and creamy. White Nectarine Jelly Panna cotta (\$5) gives restaurant quality dessert for very little coin! Well-made Little Marionette Coffee (\$3) comes quickly, from affable staff. Savoury treats like Zucchini and Pumpkin Muffins (\$3.50) are moist and tasty; the Lamb Shank Pie (\$6.50) is a contender for



Souvlaki Hut *NEW*

Tougher economics mean I'm attempting to diversify this section with meals that suit all budgets, but price isn't the only reason I'd recommend this place. The style of food promotes sharing (with tongs and cutlery made of actual metal); the cuisine's recognisably Greek and the fine print reads it's better for you unless salt is a problem. Staff are helpful and friendly, making this an easy place to go Greek for the first time. The Family Platter (\$32.95) is a steal for the price; it includes two dips (Tzatziki's great and garlicky), a fresh salad with tasty tomatoes and crisp cucumber, chicken and lamb, very good chips, and a choice of grilled haloumi or meatballs (take the tasty cheese). The chicken bests the lamb; the grilled pita bread bests everything. You can also eat the tasty grilled bread in four pita-wrapped souvlaki in the Family Stimulus Pack (\$19.95) which feeds four with chips and a 1.25L drink. Locally baked Greek sweets - Kataifi or Galaktoboureko (\$4.95 with coffee) - were the real surprise here, accompanied by a well-blended Frappe (\$3.50). The window seat gave me a perfect view of their neighbouring Sword of Damocles - a red and white Colonel. Choose life, eat Greek.
317-319 Victoria Road, Gladesville
(02) 9816 2111 www.souvlakihut.com.au
Greek \$



Libiamo *NEW*

Loris Ragazzi has managed to inject a little warmth into the cool fish tank that once was Zeffirelli. The menu's got a few issues, the reading of the specials takes too long; and they may be a shade pricy unless you come in on a 'locals' special - get 'in the know' on their email list. However their wood-fired pizza has an excellent, tasty crust. I'd order the Montanara (\$23) layered with beautifully thin rashers of deli-sliced speck, Asiago cheese, tomato and porcini mushrooms again. I prefer lighter batter than the one presented on the Zucchini Flowers (\$15); but the Italian cheese stuffing was approachable. If you like things sweet, try their House-Made Pumpkin and Amaretti Tortelloni (\$24) with a butter sage sauce - lovely pasta, cooked deftly, soft, fresh sage. For a big manly steak, their 300g 6+ Wagyu Steak (\$43) was well cooked, and suited the homely (and more-ish) Green Beans with Marjoram and Chilli (\$8) included with this main. A recommended bottle of Sardinian Pala Vermentino (\$38) was a bright, potpourri of flowers that suited our meal. Overall wine is a strong suit, decent in price, lots of Italian. The Crema Catalana (\$12) had a lemony cheesecake edge, but I had a good crack.
2-14 Bunn Street, Pyrmont
(02) 9552 1509 www.libiamo.com.au
Italian/Pizza \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

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RUSSIAN RESURRECTION
2009 FILM FESTIVAL

BY SOPHIE MALLAM

Suckle the delights of Mother Russia's cinematic rebirth at the 2009 Russian film festival, running for ten days in late August at Paddington's Chauvel Cinema. Showcasing 19 classic and contemporary Ruski realisations, its a smorgasbord best chased with a shot of high-grade vodka and a zest of revolutionary zeal (wear red for true dramatic effect). Unmissables include Todorovsky's musical comedy *Hipsters*: a slightly surreal boy-meets-girl radiating colour, clothes and general whimsy; as well as *We're From the Future*, billed as a 'rite of passage time travel drama' about some contemporary cool kids who stumble back to war time, 1942, while hunting for money-making Nazi relics. Hmmm. For

traditionalists there's a literary plethora of period goodness like the striking *Morphine* about a country doctor's descent into addiction in the midst of the 1917 uprising, drawn from a selection of stories by Mikail Bulgakov. Karen Shakhnazarov's *Ward no6*, another medical meditation based on a work by Chekov and shot, in part, in a real-life psychiatric hospital, is also sure to intrigue. You can then heat up the (albeit Sydney) winter dregs on the fire of what's being described as Russia's very first erotic thriller, *Soundtrack of Passion*. Cosy up to a comrade, they'll be sure to say, 'da'.

Aug 21-Sept 2, Chauvel Cinema, Cnr Oatley Rd & Oxford St, Paddington, \$10-40 (opening night), russianresurrection.com



EXHIBITION: WOODSTOCK

BY ANGELA BENNETTS

There's been a lot of hoopla about reaching the 40-year milestone of the moon landing. Small step, giant leap, yadda yadda. But there's another cultural harbinger ringing in its ruby anniversary this year. Woodstock, baby, in all its mud-soused, Star Spangled Banner-burning, illicit drug-drizzled glory. Held in Bethel, New York, on Aug 15 1969, it attracted over 300,000 long-haired revolutionaries and was ranked in *Rolling Stone's* 50 Moments That Changed the History of Rock and Roll. But what now looms large in cultural

memory was made up of tiny moments in time, experienced by lovers, dreamers ... and photographers like Burk Uzzle, Henry Diltz, Elliott Landy, and Amalie Rothschild. Offering a snapshot of an era, *Woodstock: 3 Days of Peace & Music* is thick with images billowing purple haze, groovy threads, and an almost palpable hope that the world is about to take a giant leap into a better future.

Until Aug 25, Blender Gallery, 16 Elizabeth Street Paddington, 9380 7080 or blender.com.au

EXHIBITION: PRINTMAKING
IN AGE OF ROMANTICISM

BY SOPHIE MALLAM



Antoine-Louis Barye: Lion of Persia (1832)

Fancy an escape from the global recession grind? Explore the juxtaposition of the romantic ideals of personal transcendence, awe and the rugged natural world with technological developments made possible only through the very industrialisation the romantics were rejecting in this collection of 150 rare European prints. Spanning the period of romanticism's peak in the decades before the mid-19th century through to the late 1870s, the show includes works by Turner, Blake and Delacroix as well as lesser-known masters of the medium such as Samuel Palmer and Edward Fuseli. Featuring a range of romantic leitmotifs such as wild land- and sea-scapes and ruined abbeys, these depictions of the sublime and the beautiful will be sure to unleash your inner Byron. Keep an eye out for the impressive accompanying 'celebrity talks' by the likes of Bill Henson and former Opera Australia artistic director, Moffatt Oxenbould.

Aug 6-Oct 25, Art Gallery of New South Wales, free, 9225 1744 or artgallery.nsw.gov.au

ULTIMO SCIENCE FESTIVAL

BY KATE BRITTON



"Interesting things with a scientific bent," is how curator Derek Williamson describes the upcoming Ultimo Science Festival at the Powerhouse Museum. From crochet coral reefs to climate change, the science festival has something for everyone. That's what it's all about, "giving people access to science in a way that best suits them," says Derek. Whether that be bringing the kids along to one of the open days at ABC, Tafe, UTS or Ultimo Library, catching one of the talks, conducting an experiment of your own or testing your limits by being shut inside a coffin, the Science Fair is sure to have something to release the inner-squint. 'Dark Science', the adults-only events over two nights, explore the themes of Flesh and Psyche, giving over-18s the chance to stretch their imagination through watching suspension artists, tattooists, body piercers and a huge range of performers. For the more gung-ho, you can let spiders crawl all over you, lock yourself in a coffin, or perhaps even be pierced yourself.

Aug 21-30, Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo, prices vary, 9217 0111 or powerhousemuseum.com

TALKS: BERNHARD SCHLINK –
GUILT ABOUT THE PAST

BY KATE BRITTON

Internationally bestselling author of *The Reader*, Bernhard Schlink, is in town this month to talk about his collection of essays *Guilt About the Past*. The book looks at notions of collective guilt, forgiveness and reconciliation, in both a German and universal context. "The world is full of guilt," Schlink says, "that has never been forgiven and which cannot be forgiven." These thought-provoking essays ponder the Third Reich, Indigenous experience and colonialism in terms of forgiveness and reconciliation. "Reconciliation means freedom from the wreckage of the past, allowing it to be both remembered and forgotten." For anyone interested in the effect of the past on a nation's future, collective and universal guilt or reconciliation and forgiveness more broadly, this talk promises to address issues often shied away from in public discourse. Don't miss your chance to get philosophical with this world-renowned novelist, essayist and thinker.

Aug 24, City Recital Hall, 2-12 Angel Place, Sydney, \$20-25, 8256 2222 or cityrecitalhall.com

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Aida

Grand opera doesn't get much grander than *Aida*, and this production from Graeme Murphy promises to be an extravagant treat for the senses. Performed in Italian with surtitles. Until 19 Sep. Sydney Opera House. \$55-68. 9250 7777. www.sydneypoperahouse.com

Avenue Q

A riotous satire performed by a comedic alliance between Australian actors (Mitchell Butel, Michala Banas, Natalie Alexopoulos) and a whole lot of puppets. Avenue Q won three Tony Awards in 2004, and has just celebrated six years on Broadway. Until 6 Sep. Theatre Royal, 108 King St, Sydney. 1300 795 012. www.ticketek.com.au

Azazel's Feast

Set at a dinner party in hell, hosted by the devil, *Azazel's Feast* tells the story of a disillusioned author, and his timid niece, who are astonished to find themselves in hell with Jack The Ripper, and various ghouls and demons. A fresh take on the traditional radio play. Until 15 Aug. Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. \$17-25. 1300 723 038. www.carriageworks.com.au

The Capulets and the Montagues

Juliet Capulet and Romeo Montague are in love, their families at war, and Juliet is betrothed to Tebaldo. As Juliet's wedding day approaches Romeo grows desperate. Performed in Italian with surtitles. Until 9 Sep. Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay, Sydney. \$93-256. 9318 8200. www.opera-australia.org.au

Chi Chi & Cha Cha: Hispanic Attack

Latin Burlesque at its best, featuring the talents of Sydney cabaret couple Lesley Hancock and Trevor Ashley. Until 26 Aug. Slide Bar, 41 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. \$20-60. 8915 1899. www.ticketek.com.au. www.slide.com.au

A Choral Pilgrimage

In celebration of the famous pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the Sydney Philharmonia Chamber Singers will perform at six iconic churches across Sydney. 21 - 30 Aug. Various venues. \$45. 9251 3115

David Helfgott in Recital

David Helfgott returns to Angel Place with a performance that will feature two iconic works: Beethoven's Waldstein Sonata and Mozart's A Minor Sonata. 21 Aug. City Recital Hall, Angel Pl, Sydney. \$65-69. 8256 2222. www.cityrecitalhall.com

Dealing With Clair

Young real estate agent Clair is selling a property in a booming market. The owners tell her they'd 'like to behave honourably' but all bets are off when an enigmatic buyer offers cash for the house - and something else altogether for Clair. What would you pay for a stake in the game? And where do you draw the line? Until 15 Aug. SBV Stables Theatre, 10 Nimrod St, Kings Cross. \$26-30, \$15 Monday Rush. 8002 4772 or www.griffintheatre.com.au

El Circo

Romance and the circus have always been intertwined. Excitement, wonder, mystery and new discoveries are its hallmark; and running away to the circus was always a fantastic dream. It is here that the inspiration



Photo by Klaus Handner

DANCE: EVA YERBABUENA

BY SCOTT WINTER

For those who didn't get to experience the histrionic flamboyance of *Noche Flamenca*, you'll be excited to know that Sydney's next amazing flamenco infusion arrives in the form of a legendary Seville-based flamenco dancer, Eva Yerbabuena. With a surname meaning, 'aromatic rambling herb' this dramatic show, like the beautiful little flower that covers the north American mountainside, has wildly embellished stages across Europe and America. Eva successfully combines passionate flamenco traditions with contemporary dance sequences, including ballet. She reprise some of the outstanding flamenco choreography she has created and performed over the years, holding true to the traditional Andalusian style. This explosive artist, who emanates true Sevillana prowess, standing at less than five feet tall, performs mesmerically alongside her husband, Paco Jarano. Paco is himself a leading flamenco guitarist and known for his flirtatious improvisations with jazz through the burning rhythmic melodies of southern Spain. With the accompaniment of three male vocalists, a percussionist and two rhythm guitarists, Eva Yerbabuena will stomp you through the orange groves and deliver the true essence of her homeland and all its hot, sandy, olive coloured provinces.

Aug 27-30, Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House, \$69-109, 9250 7777 or sydneypoperahouse.com

for El Circo was born.

Until 30 Aug. Slide Bar, 41 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. \$90, includes dinner. 8917 1899. www.ticketek.com.au. www.slide.com.au

Fidelio

The cruel Don Pizarro has falsely imprisoned Florestan, and his wife, Leonore, is determined to free him. Disguised as a man, she must win over the gaoler Rocco - and dodge the attentions of his daughter - to reach the man she truly loves and win a victory for justice, in Beethoven's one and only opera. Until 29 Aug. Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay, Sydney. \$93-256. 9318 8200. www.opera-australia.org.au

Jeff Duff in Time Traveller

Each week Jeff Duff curates five of his most accomplished works in a musical odyssey through the past, present and future. Hit *The Road Jack* (16 Aug) will be followed by *The Prophets* (23 Aug) and *Ground Control* to Frank Sinatra (30 Aug). Until 30 Aug. The Vanguard, 42 King St, Newtown. \$20-99. 9020 6959. www.thevanguard.com.au

Lady Sings it Better

Six women take on some of the greatest male musicians of the 20th century and reinvent them as sassy old-school cabaret. It's *Midnight Oil*, *AC/DC*, *Leonard Cohen*, the *Beatles* and the *Rolling Stones* as you've never heard them before, with special guest Kate Duffy. Until 16 Aug. Red Rattler Theatre, 6 Faversham St, Marrickville. 1300 306 776. www.mca-tix.com.au. redrattler.org/sydney

The Little Dog Laughed

A satirical take on Hollywood spin by American playwright Douglas Carter. Until 15 Aug. Ensemble Theatre, 78 McDougall St, Kirribilli. \$39-63. 9929 0644. www.ensemble.com.au

Manon Lescaut

Cheryl Barker makes her role debut as Puccini's free-spirited Manon Lescaut, who must choose between the three men in her life, and thus between passion, comfort or happiness. Performed in Italian with surtitles. Until 13 Aug. Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay, Sydney. \$93-256. 9318 8200. www.opera-australia.org.au

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus

The Chorus's Sydney debut promises an intimate performance, nine

exquisite prayers and lamentations from across more than four centuries of music.

22 Aug. City Recital Hall, Angel Pl, Sydney. \$40-45. 8256 2222. www.cityrecitalhall.com

Morphia Series

Performance Space presents this boutique performance, which promises to transport the audience through a series of sensory experiences. Inspired by Morpheus, the Greek god of dreams this is a vivid encounter with image, sound, text and movement. Until 14 Aug. Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. \$20. 1300 723 038. www.ticketmaster.com.au. www.carriageworks.com.au

New Directions

The New Theatre's annual showcase of contemporary plays. Until 15 Aug. New Theatre, 542 King St, Newtown. \$22. 1300 306 76. www.newtheatre.org.au

Norm & Ahmed/Shafana & Aunt Sarrinah

This double bill from the Alex Buzo Company explores old and new Australia. Until 29 Aug. Seymour Theatre Centre, cnr Cleveland St and City Rd, Chippendale. \$27-38. 9351 7940

Once and For All We're Going to Tell You Who You Are So Shut Up and Listen

With all the frenzied energy of adolescence, the performers on stage initially appear to conform to stereotypical notions of teenage behavior: getting high, spitting, kissing and scrapping. They flit between rebellion and aggression, vulnerability and sweetness. A complex vision of what it means to be young. 14 - 29 Aug. Wharf 2, Sydney Theatre Company, Pier 4, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay. \$30-50. 9250 7777. www.sydneytheatre.com.au

Poppea

Cole Porter meets Monteverdi by way of burlesque in Barry Kosky's contemporary remix of the operatic masterpiece *The Coronation of Poppea*. Sung in German with English surtitles. Until 16 Aug. Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House, 2 Macquarie St, Sydney. \$57-89. 9250 7777. www.sydneypoperahouse.com

The Promise

From Russia, with some very tangled love: love triangle, teenage hope and the tests of time are all explored in

this latest offering from director Simon Stone. *The Promise* features the talents of three young actors to watch: Alison Bell, Ewen Leslie and Chris Ryan. Until 23 Aug. Belvoir St Theatre, 18 Belvoir St, Surry Hills. \$34-56. 9699 3444. www.belvoir.com.au

Risque Revue

Straddling the line between nu burlesque and old erotica, *Risque Revue* is a new dining showcase that takes inspiration from the legendary Paris Lido and Crazy Horse - only here it's lashings of fine food, top wines and edgy entertainment that'll leave you breathless. 14 - 21 Aug. Slide Bar, 41 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. \$20-80. 8915 1899. www.ticketek.com.au. www.slide.com.au

Rock, Paper, Scissors

Pat and Ronnie work the lighthouse on an isolated Scottish island, which plays home to 46 million puffins and not much else. Each day, Pat, Ronnie and the new keeper Dougie play a game of rock, paper, scissors to determine who will rule the lighthouse. A funny look at the truth and lies isolation can help create. Until 22 Aug. Old Fitzroy Theatre, 129 Dowling St, Woolloomooloo. \$17-29 or \$25-35 with dinner. 1300 483 849. www.rocksurfers.org

Run

This new performance installation from De Quincey Co invites audiences into unpredictable spaces, where objects and bodies become integrated elements of a massive, warping environment; where suspended objects oscillate between stability and chaos. 20 - 29 Aug. Performance Space, Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. \$20-30. 1300 723 038. www.ticketmaster.com.au. www.carriageworks.com.au

Saturn's Return

Playwright Tommy Murphy plays with shifting perspectives on identity, time and place as his three navel-gazing characters face up to their extended adolescence, and the prospect of a future of adult responsibility. Until 30 Aug. Sydney Theatre, Pier 4, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay. \$30-75. 9250 7777. www.sydneytheatre.com.au

Sunstruck: A Premonition of Events

Sunstruck is billed as an intimate experience of the fluid and dislocating qualities of memory: "Like

a dream half remembered, a future half imagined, this poetic elegy of dance, light and sound explores the dense interrelationships of people and place."

Until 15 Aug. Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. \$20-30. 1300 723 038. www.ticketmaster.com.au. www.carriageworks.com.au

Thom Pain (Based on Nothing)

Meet Thom Pain: one man facing an audience with only a razor sharp suit, a wicked attitude and a broken heart. *Thom Pain (Based on Nothing)* is billed as "part stand up comedy, part existential meditation and part elegy for a lost love affair."

Until 16 Aug. Belvoir St Theatre, 18 Belvoir St, Surry Hills. \$23-29, \$10 Cheap Tuesdays, \$20 preview. 9699 3444. www.belvoir.com.au

Under Ice

Turfed from his job in a leading consulting firm, Paul Niemand has simply ceased to exist. *Under Ice* rips into the slick world of corporate absurdities; where spin-doctors have spun out of control and human emotion, reason and life are rather beside the point. 21 Aug - 12 Sep, previews 19 - 20 Aug. SBV Stables Theatre, 10 Nimrod St, Kings Cross. \$26-30, previews \$23. 8002 4772 or www.griffintheatre.com.au

Under the Influence

Tim Draxl returns for his first Sydney shows in four years, with musical director Michael Tyack. Until 22 Aug. The Supper Club, 134 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. \$30-35. 1300 438 849. www.moshtix.com.au

COMEDY

Thursday 13 August

Barry McLeod, Peter Egner, Darren Sanders - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$10-15)
A Mic in Hand - Friend in Hand Pub (\$8-10)
Quick... Some Comedy, Quick - Star Bar (\$9)
Tony Woods - Sydney Comedy Store (\$10-30)

Friday 14 August

Barry McLeod, Peter Egner, Darren Sanders - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$20-25)
Comedy Court - Star Bar (\$15)
Scared Scriptless - The Roxbury Hotel (\$10)
Tony Woods - Sydney Comedy Store (\$30)

Saturday 15 August

Barry McLeod, Peter Egner, Darren Sanders - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$20-25)
Celebrity Theatresports - The Enmore Theatre (\$38-45)
Hale & Pace - Lyric Theatre (\$69)
Stand Up Comedy Cruise Sydney - Rhythmboat (\$55)
Tony Woods - Sydney Comedy Store (\$30)

Monday 17 August

Monday Night Comedy - Fringe Bar (\$10)

Tuesday 18 August

Best of British: Eddy Brimson & Jeff Green - Sydney Comedy Store (\$10-30)
- Marble Bar (\$10)
Comedy Competition - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$10)
Gagging for It: Matt Dytinski, Sam Bowring, Paul Hancock - The Sugarmill (\$10)
Heaven by Storm: The Umbilical Brothers - Sydney Opera House (\$34.90-44.50)

Wednesday 19 August

Best of British: Eddy Brimson & Jeff Green - Sydney Comedy Store (\$10-30)
Dynamite Comedy Night - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$10)
Heaven by Storm: The Umbilical Brothers - Sydney Opera House (\$34.90-44.50)
Quest for the Best - The Roxbury Hotel (\$12-15)

Thursday 20 August

Best of British: Eddy Brimson & Jeff Green - Sydney Comedy Store (\$10-30)
Heaven by Storm: The Umbilical Brothers - Sydney Opera House (\$34.90-44.50)
A Mic in Hand - Friend in Hand Pub (\$8-10)
MC, Sarah Levett, Mick Meredith - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$10-15)

Quick... Some Comedy, Quick - Star Bar (\$9)

Friday 21 August

Best of British: Eddy Brimson & Jeff Green - Sydney Comedy Store (\$10-30)
Comedy Court 50th Show Celebration - Star Bar (\$25)
Scared Scriptless - The Roxbury Hotel (\$10)
Steve Philp, Sarah Levett, Mick Meredith - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$20-25)

Saturday 22 August

Best of British: Eddy Brimson & Jeff Green - Sydney Comedy Store (\$10-30)
Heaven by Storm: The Umbilical Brothers - Sydney Opera House (\$34.90-44.50)
Stand Up Comedy Cruise Sydney - Rhythmboat (\$55)
Steve Philp, Sarah Levett, Matt Dytinski - Laugh Garage Comedy Club (\$20-25)

Sunday 23 August

Heaven by Storm: The Umbilical Brothers - Sydney Opera House (\$34.90-44.50)
Local Laughs - The Local Taphouse (\$10)

FOR THE KIDS

Baby Loves Disco

Children up to the age of seven are invited to come and dance their hearts out in an afternoon of games, balloons and music. 23 Aug. 1pm-4pm. Slide Bar, 41 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. \$17. 1300 438 849. www.moshtix.com.au. www.slide.com.au. www.babylovesdisco.com/australia

Torchlight Tours

Kids aged 6-12 will get a kick out of exploring some of the spookier mysteries of the Australian Museum after dark, by torchlight. Until 27 Aug. Australian Museum, 6 College St, Sydney. \$10-30, bookings essential. 9320 6295. www.austmus.gov.au

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

Art Gallery Of New South Wales

Contemporary Collection until 2 Oct et al: *maintenance of social solidarity* until 13 Sept
Intensely Dutch until 23 Aug
Nicholas Mangan: Between a Rock and a Hard Place until 13 Sept
Silk Ikats until 11 Oct
Sydney Long until 30 Aug
The Dreamers until 18 Dec
10am-5pm, 7 days a week. Art After Hours - every Wed until 9pm. Art Gallery Rd, The Domain, Sydney. 9225 1744. www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au

**THEATRE:
THE LONESOME WEST**

BY ANGELA BENNETTS

"You could be in China and relate to it," says Peter Carstairs of his production, *The Lonesome West*. The third in the Leane trilogy by acclaimed Irish playwright Martin McDonagh, it stars Travis Cotton and Toby Schmitz as two bitterly feuding brothers who bury their father under decidedly shady circumstances. "It's at the blackest end of the spectrum, but it also explores universal themes like forgiveness and being able to forgive before we can have proper loving relationships." Having established his reputation as a film director with the 2007 *September* (featuring Tim Burton's soon-to-be-Alice in Wonderland Mia Wasikowska), theatre was, "new territory in many ways ... I tried not to treat the piece with too much of a cinematic eye, stripping it back to its bare essentials." It seems fitting that Carstairs' first foray onto the stage is using a writer who also 'crossed over' from theatre to the big screen with the script for *In Bruges*. Either way, the aim is to tell a story – one that could resonate in the crowded East.



Aug 22-Sept 13, Belvoir St Downstairs Theatre, 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills, \$23-29, 9699 3444 or belvoir.com.au

At The Vanishing Point
Sculpting [with] the Air until 16 Aug
Thur 10am-8pm, Fri 10am-6pm,
Sat – Sun 10am-5pm. 565 King St,
Newtown. 9519 2340,
www.atthevanishingpoint.com.au

Australian Centre for Photography
Christopher Ireland: Breathe and Francesca until 22 Aug

Edward Burtynski: Australian Minescapes until 22 Aug
Francesca Rosa: Interior Disaster until 22 Aug
Tue – Fri 12pm-7pm, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm. 257 Oxford St, Paddington. 9332 1455, www.acp.org.au

The Australian Museum
Climate Change: our future, our choice until 16 Aug
Dinosaurs until 15 Mar
Mon – Wed 6am-10pm, Thur – Fri 6am-11pm, Sat – Sun 8am-11pm. 70 Riley St, East Sydney. 9361 4613, www.austmus.gov.au

Australian National Maritime Museum
Charles Darwin: Voyages and Ideas that Shook the World until 23 Aug
Exposed! The Story of Swimwear until 25 Oct
9.30am-5pm daily. 2 Murray St, Darling Harbour. 9298 3777, www.anmm.gov.au

Breenspace
Gary Carsley: Bark Art until 22 Aug
Tue – Sat 11am-6pm. 289 Young St, Waterloo. 9690 0555, www.breenspace.com

Brett Whiteley Studio
Floating World until 6 Sept
Sat – Sun 10am-4pm. 2 Raper St, Surry Hills. 9225 1744, www.brettwhiteley.org

Carriageworks
Grind House Alley until 15 Aug
The Hosts: A Masquerade of Improvising Automats 14 Aug – 12 Sep
Tracksuits of St Marys until 29 Aug
Mon – Sat 12pm-8pm, Sun 4pm-8pm. Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. 8571 9099, www.carriageworks.com.au

Charles Hewitt Gallery
Aaron Kinnane: Bandit Moon and the Bastard Son and other stories until 25 Aug
Mon – Sat 10am-6pm. 335 South Dowling St, Darlinghurst. 9331 4988, www.charleshewitt.com.au

Craft NSW
Riches of the Earth until 26 Jul
Mon – Sun, 9.30am-5.30pm. Craft NSW, 104 George St. 9241 5825, www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au

Customs House
Transclimatic Exhibition until 26 Aug
Mon – Fri 8am-12am, Sat 10am-

12am, Sun 11am-5pm. 31 Alfred St, Circular Quay. 9242 8551, www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/customshouse

Darren Knight Gallery
Rob McHaffie: Step out of character, become yourself until 29 Aug
Tue – Sat 11am-6pm. 840 Elizabeth St, Waterloo. 9699 5353, www.darrenknightgallery.com

Depot Gallery II
David Fairburn: Captured until 16 Aug
Tue – Sat 11am-6pm. 2 Danks St, Waterloo. www.2danksstreet.com.au

Dickerson Gallery Sydney
Nicholas Hutcheson 19 Aug – 6 Sep
Tues – Sat 11am-6pm Sun 1pm-6pm. 34 Queen St, Woollahra. 9363 3358, www.dickersongallery.com.au

Firstdraft Gallery
Names and Places until 29 Aug
Wed – Sat 12-6pm. 116-118 Chalmers St, Surry Hills. 9698 3665, www.firstdraftgallery.com

Gaffa Gallery
Alter Ego: The Other I until 25 Aug
Mon – Fri 12pm-6pm, Sat 11am-6pm. 1/7 Randle St, Surry Hills. 9281 1103, www.gaffa.com.au

Gallery@28
Michael Fairweather: Newtown Idyll until 18 Aug
Mon – Sun, 11am-5pm. 28 Queens St, Woollahra. 9363 9892, www.galleryat28.com.au

Gallery 4A
Hogi Tsai: Composition until 14 Aug (sunset – sunrise)
Tue – Sat, 11am-6pm. 181-187 Hay St, Sydney. 9212 0380, www.4a.com.au

Gallery 9
Brad Westmoreland: Sleepwalkers and Dreamers until 15 Aug
Wed – Sat 11am-6pm. 9 Darley St, Darlinghurst. 9380 9909, www.gallery9.com.au

Gallery 41
Group Exhibition until 15 Aug
Wed – Sat 1pm-6pm. 41 Riley St, Woolloomooloo. 0408 226 827, www.gallery41.com.au

Gallery Adagio
The Sesqui Show: 150 Years of Glebe until 23 Aug
Tue – Sun 11am-6pm. 91 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. 9552 2833, www.galleryadagio.com

Gig Gallery
Editions: Rebecca Coote, Emma Borland, Tim Shaw and others until 30 Aug
Mark Ward: Ruminations 18 – 30 Aug
Richard Black until 16 Aug
Tue – Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 1pm-5pm. 70A Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. 9660 2785, www.giggallery.com

Global Gallery
Creative Kicks until 16 Aug
Wed – Sat 11am-6pm, Sun

12pm-4pm. 5 Comber St, Paddington. 9360 5728, www.globalgallery.com.au

Harrison Galleries
Silvana Angelakis, Nona Burden & Margie Sheppard until 27 Aug
Tue – Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm. 294 Glenmore Rd, Paddington. 9380 7100, www.harrisongalleries.com.au

James Dorahy Project Space
Matt Glenn: Raven until 16 Aug
Tue – Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Suite 4, 1st floor, 111 Macleay St, Potts Point. 9358 2585, www.jamesdorahy.com.au

Justice & Police Museum
Femme Fatale until 18 Apr
Mon – Fri 10am-5pm, daily in school holidays. Cnr Phillip & Albert St, Circular Quay. 9252 1144

Kalimang Gallery
Ms & Mr: There There Anxious Future until 15 Aug
Tue – Sat 11am-5.30pm. 56 Sutherland St, Paddington. 9357 2273, www.kalimangallery.com

Kudos Gallery
Kathy Yeh: 410kg/second until 18 Aug
Wed – Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 11am-4pm. 6 Napier St, Paddington. www.cofa.unsw.edu.au/galleries/kudos

Macleay Museum
Footprints in the Mythic Landscape: A Bark Painting Story until Dec
Griffith Taylor: Visionary, Environmentalist, Explorer until 18 Oct

Macleay Reworked permanent
WS Macleay and the Natural History Cycle until Dec
Mon – Fri 10am-4.30pm, Sun 12pm-4pm. Gosper Ln, near the Footbridge St entrance to the University of Sydney. 9036 5253

Meyer Gallery
Before Your Eyes until 23 Aug
Thur – Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 12pm-4pm. 269 Bourke St, Darlinghurst. 9380 8014, www.meyergallery.com.au

Museum of Contemporary Art
Louisa Bufardecchi & Zon Ito until 25 Oct
Ricky Maynard: Portrait of a Distant Land until 23 Aug

Rising Tide: Film and Video Works from the MCA Collection until 23 Aug
10am-5pm daily. 140 George St, The Rocks. 9245 2400, www.mca.com.au

Museum of Sydney
Glenn Murcutt: Architecture for Place until 10 Oct
Shooting Through: Sydney by Tram until 18 Oct
9.30am-5pm daily. 37 Phillip St, Sydney. 9251 5988, www.hht.net.au

Nicholson Museum
Charles Nicholson: Man and Museum until Dec

Egypt: Life and Death in the Black Land until 18 Feb
The Sky's the Limit: Astronomy in Antiquity until Dec

Mon – Fri 10am-4.30pm, Sun 12pm-4pm. Southern entrance to the Quadrangle, the University of Sydney. www.usyd.edu.au/museums

Peloton
Geoff Kleem until 5 Sep
Kate Scardifield until 5 Sep
Thur – Wed 1pm-6pm, Fri 1.30pm-6pm, Sat 1pm-6pm. 19 & 25 Meagher St, Chippendale. 9690 2601, www.peloton.net.au

Powerhouse Museum
Contemporary Japanese Fashion until 30 Aug
Living in a Sensory World: Stories from People with Blindness and Low Vision until 1 Jan

10am-5pm daily. 500 Harris St, Ultimo. 9217 0111, www.powerhousemuseum.com

Ray Hughes Gallery
Frank Gohier: Target until 19 Aug
Tue – Sat 10am-6pm. 270 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 9698 3200, www.rayhughesgallery.com

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery
Michael Parekowihi: Seldom is Herd until 15 Aug
Tracey Moffat: Mother until 15 Aug

Tue – Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-6pm. 8 Soudan Lane, Paddington. 9331 1919, www.roslynoxley9.com.au

Sarah Cottier Gallery
Tony Schwensen: Exasperations until 22 Aug
Wed – Sat 11am-5pm. 3 Neild Ave, Paddington. 9356 3305, www.sarahcottiergallery.com

SciTech Library
Small Step, Giant Leap: Celebrating Apollo at 40 until 10 Sep
Mon – Thu 9am-8pm, Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm. Lvl 1, Jane Foss Russell Building, 160 City Rd, Darlington. 9351 3021, www.libraries.usyd.edu.au/libraries/scitech

Sheffer Gallery
Reiko Azuma, Meriela Brozky, Lorna Grear, Bridget Ralph, Samantha Whittingham until 15 Aug
Wed – Sat 11am-6pm. 38 Lander St, Darlington. 9319 5683, www.sheffergallery.com

Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation
Kazuyo Sejima & Ryue Nishizawa until 26 Sept
Wed – Sat 11am-5pm. 16-20 Goodhope St, Paddington. 9331 1112, www.sherman-scaf.org.au

Somedays Gallery
Demola: The Portraits until 17 Aug

Mon – Wed & Fri 10am-6pm, Thur 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm. 72B Fitzroy St, Surry Hills. 9331 6637, www.somedays.net.au

Stills Gallery
Anne Feran: Lost to Worlds until 15 Aug
Ricky Maynard: Portraits of a Distant Land until 15 Aug
Sat 11am-6pm. 36 Gosbell St, Paddington.

Three Foot Square Gallery
Gemma Messih until 1 Dec
Tue – Fri 11am-5pm. College of Fine Arts, UNSW. Cnr Oxford St

and Greens Rd. 9385 0684, www.cofa.unsw.edu.au/galleries/threefootsquare

UTS Gallery
Fashioning now: Changing the way we make and use clothes until 28 Aug
(Re)skin: Contemporary Knitting until 20 Aug

Mon – Fri 12-6pm. Lvl 4, 702 Harris St, Ultimo. 9514 1652, www.utsgallery.uts.edu.au

Wilson Street Gallery
Michael Keighery: Neurotica until 19 Aug
Wed – Sun 11am-6pm. 30-34 Wilson St, Newtown. 9516 3144, www.wilsonstreetgallery.com.au

TALKS AND EVENTS

The Colony
Author Grace Karskens speaks about her new book with Shirley Fitzgerald. 20 Aug, 6.30pm for 7pm. Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. \$7-10. 9660 2333, www.gleebooks.com.au

The Corporate Capture of Childhood
Sharon Beder appears in conversation with Jane Caro to discuss Beder's new book *This Little Kiddy Went to Market: The Corporate Capture of Childhood*. 19 Aug, 6.30pm for 7pm. Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. \$7-10. 9660 2333, www.gleebooks.com.au

Dogs in Space
Starring Michael Hutchence and Saskia Post, the forerunner to films like *Trainspotting* and *24-Hour Party People* is back in all its remastered glory. A Q&A with writer/director Richard Lowenstein and hosted by Brendan Young will follow the screening. 17 Aug, 7pm. Greater Union, Bondi Junction. \$16-18. www.popcornmtaxi.com.au

Further We Search
2006 Byron Bay Film Festival Young Filmmaker of the Year, Darius Devas, is bringing his first independent feature film to Sydney for a one-off screening. Shot with a budget of just \$8k, the film tells the story of a young man who heads to Melbourne, searching for some meaning in his life. 19 Aug, 7pm. Chauvel Cinema, Paddington Town Hall, cnr Oxford St and Oatley Rd, Paddington. www.chauvelcinema.net.au

Galileo on Free Fall
Dr Ofer Gal, Director of Sydney University's Unit for History and Philosophy of Science, introduces the work of one of history's great thinkers, Galileo. 19 Aug, 6.30pm for 8pm. Lecture Theatre 101, New Sydney Law School Building, Eastern Ave, University of Sydney. Free. www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/thoughts_thinkers/index.php

Grind House Alley
Guy Ben-Ary and Tanya Visosevic will speak about their new Carriageworks installation. 15 Aug, 3pm. Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. Free. www.carriageworks.com.au

The Hosts: A Masquerade of Improvising Automats
Artist Wade Marynowsky will speak about his new Carriageworks installation. 15 Aug, 2pm. Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. Free. www.carriageworks.com.au

Hunting for Antimatter: the 2008 Nobel Prize in Physics
Why is there something instead of nothing? Come and hear about the issues at the cutting edge of physics: from musings on elementary particles, to whether or not it's safe to shake

the hand of intergalactic aliens. 20 Aug, 6.30pm. Slade Lecture Theatre, School of Physics, University of Sydney. Free, but bookings recommended. 9351 3472, outreach@physics.usyd.edu.au

In Two Minds: Tales of a Psychotherapist
Author Paul Valent appears in conversation with Professor Louise Newman, Director of the Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology. 13 Aug, 6.30pm for 7pm. Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. \$7-10. 9660 2333, www.gleebooks.com.au

The Lost Mother: A Story of Art and Love
Author and editor Ann Summers in conversation with Dr Ann Stephen, senior curator of the University Art Gallery. 19 Aug, 6pm. University Art Gallery, War Memorial Arch, northern entrance to the Quadrangle, University of Sydney. Free. 9351 6883, www.usyd.edu.au/museums

Revenge of the Spellmans
Lisa Lutz talks about her new book, the latest in the Spellman series. 13 Aug, 6pm. Kinokuniya, Lvl 2, The Galleries Victoria, 500 George St, Sydney. Free, but bookings recommended. 9262 7996

Swords and Sandals
Film screenings (*Gladiators and Fights* 18 Aug, *Hercules the Hero* 25 Aug)

Elvis Costello
He's collaborated with the likes of Burt Bacharach and Paul McCartney, but this time music veteran Elvis Costello is doing it for himself. He'll embark on a national tour in October, with support from Shelley Harland. Boasting a back catalogue of over 40 albums, Costello's Australian concerts will feature songs spanning his entire career. An extra show has been added as a response to heavy demand; tickets went on sale Monday. 17 Oct. Enmore Theatre. 132 849, www.ticketek.com.au

The Falls Music & Arts Festival
Forget the number of mossie bites gracing your forearms, the best way to tell that summer's on its way is to listen out for festival line-up leaks. It's no secret anymore that the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Moby, Hilltop Hills and Grizzly Bear will all be making appearances at the Falls this year. But what's less well known is that if you want to get your hands on tickets, your best bet is to subscribe for the ballot online before 24 Aug. Remaining tickets will go on sale 3 Sep. 29 Dec. www.fallsfestival.com

Pearl Jam
The rather unfortunately named Pearl Jam (Google it) have announced a series of outdoor shows around the country, off the back of their new album *Backspacer*. It's the band's first time down south in three years, and they'll be playing alongside Ben Harper, Relentless7 and Liam Finn. Tickets on sale 17 Aug. Sydney Football Stadium. \$99.90-123.90. 132 849, www.ticketek.com.au

Hot Tix

Elvis Costello
He's collaborated with the likes of Burt Bacharach and Paul McCartney, but this time music veteran Elvis Costello is doing it for himself. He'll embark on a national tour in October, with support from Shelley Harland. Boasting a back catalogue of over 40 albums, Costello's Australian concerts will feature songs spanning his entire career. An extra show has been added as a response to heavy demand; tickets went on sale Monday. 17 Oct. Enmore Theatre. 132 849, www.ticketek.com.au

The Falls Music & Arts Festival
Forget the number of mossie bites gracing your forearms, the best way to tell that summer's on its way is to listen out for festival line-up leaks. It's no secret anymore that the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Moby, Hilltop Hills and Grizzly Bear will all be making appearances at the Falls this year. But what's less well known is that if you want to get your hands on tickets, your best bet is to subscribe for the ballot online before 24 Aug. Remaining tickets will go on sale 3 Sep. 29 Dec. www.fallsfestival.com

Pearl Jam
The rather unfortunately named Pearl Jam (Google it) have announced a series of outdoor shows around the country, off the back of their new album *Backspacer*. It's the band's first time down south in three years, and they'll be playing alongside Ben Harper, Relentless7 and Liam Finn. Tickets on sale 17 Aug. Sydney Football Stadium. \$99.90-123.90. 132 849, www.ticketek.com.au

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will be followed by discussion from ancient history experts.

18 – 25 Aug, 6.30pm. Nicholson Museum, southern entrance to the Quadrangle, University of Sydney. \$20. 9351 2812, www.usyd.edu.au/museums

The Water Dreamers

Historian Michael Cathcart discusses how the great hopes of the first settlers evaporated in the arid zone of Australia – and how the later hydro-engineers dreamed that they could transform that zone. 20 Aug, 6.30pm. Seymour Theatre Centre, cnr Cleveland St and City Rd, Chippendale. \$15-20. 9351 7940, www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas

FESTIVALS

Latin American Solidarity Fiesta

Featuring Armandito Y Su Trovason, a traditional Cuban band based in Sydney, along with flamenco dancers, Latino DJs, Latin American food and cocktails.

15 Aug, 6.30pm. Leichhardt Town Hall, cnr Marion St and Norton St, Leichhardt. \$10-15. 9690 1977

Russian Resurrection: 2009

Russian Film Festival
With its biggest line-up of films so far, the Russian Film Festival also has a few events up its sleeve, including an audience with director Andrei Kravchuk.

21 Aug – 2 Sep. Various venues. www.russianresurrection.com

Sydney Design 09

The 13th international design festival programme will focus on ways design makes a difference in our lives, how designers are addressing the bigger issues of social and environmental responsibility, and will provide a unique insight into the creative processes of designers and architects. Events include seminars and speakers, film screenings, design markets, walks and tours, awards and exhibitions.

Until 16 Aug. Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo. \$16 for a festival pass, \$69 for an opening night pass, \$79 for a combination pass. www.sydneydesign.com.au

Ultimo Science Festival

National Science Week is back, celebrating the contribution of Australian scientists to the world, and Ultimo Library is getting into the spirit of things with science events featuring guests including Clio Cresswell, Questacon and SCINEMA. Many events are free, although some require booking. Until 30 Aug. Ultimo Community Centre, 40 William Henry Street, Corner Harris Street, Ultimo

LIVE MUSIC

Thursday 13 August

Dragon – The Basement (\$30-35)
Loene Carmen, Cabins, Stammer – Hopetoun Hotel (\$8)

Organ Donors – Harold Park Hotel (free)
Paul Greene, Karl Broadie – Notes Live (\$14.50)

Friday 14 August

Bright Yellow, Ripping Dylans, The Shakin Howls – Ivory Lounge (\$12)
Dukes of Windsor, Trial Kennedy, Midnight Youth – Annandale Hotel (\$20)

Five Finger Death Punch – Metro Theatre (\$49.30)

The Hands, Hi Fi Doley T – The Basement (\$16-22)

Hot Little Hands, The Tutts, Kids at Risk – Spectrum (\$10-12)

Hendrix & Heroes Tribute, Steve Edmonds – Notes Live (\$20)
Lungs, Paper Arms, Backyard Surgeons

– Sandringham Hotel (\$10)

The Paper Scissors, Ernest Ellis – Oxford Art. Factory (\$12-15)

Saturday 15 August

Doomsday, Pod People and guests – Sandringham Hotel (\$20)
I Heart Hiroshima, DZ – Hopetoun Hotel (\$11.50)

Kooky, Sideways Hitchhiker and guests – Hermann's (\$12)

Lowrider, Ray Mann Three, Empire Rising – Annandale Hotel (\$13)

The Prayer Circle – Oxford Art Factory (free)

Something with Numbers, The Galvatrons, Slow Down Honey – Metro Theatre (\$25)

Sunday 16 August

The Dawn Collective – Hopetoun Hotel (\$6)

Old Time Glory, Upside Down Miss Jane, Vertical Smirk – Sandringham Hotel (\$10)

Sun Sets, Mr Laneous & the Family-Yah – Fringe Bar (\$8)

Monday 17 August

Joel Sarakula – Opera Bar (free)

The Lost Cosmonauts – Hotel Hollywood (\$5)

Katy Perry – Enmore Theatre (\$75)

Tuesday 18 August

Adam Pringle – Harold Park Hotel (free)

Aunty Richard, Tina Harrod Band – The Excelsior Hotel (\$8-12)

Fernando Aragonés – The Basement (\$15)

Katy Perry – Enmore Theatre (\$75)

Kranksy Sisters – Sydney Opera House (\$34.90-44.50)

Shelly Harland – Notes Live (\$10)

Wednesday 19 August

Jungehammer – The Basement (\$20)

Kathleen Williamson, Chris Gillespie, the Wandering Heads – The Vanguard (\$10-15)

Upstarts, Waysiders, The Joysticks, Bearhug – Spectrum (\$8)

Thursday 20 August

The Audreys – The Basement (\$33.20-35)

Persist, Time Will Tell, Own Worst Enemy and others – Sandringham Hotel (\$7)

Topology – The Sound Lounge (\$20-22)

Virna Sanzone, Edoardo Santoni – The Vanguard (\$17-22)

Friday 21 August

The All-American Rejects, Hoobastank, The Sundance Kids – Enmore Theatre (\$63.80)

The Dolly Rocker Movement, Downhills Home, Driftwood Drones – Spectrum (\$10)

James Valentine – Harold Park Hotel (free)

The Lucksmiths, Darren Hanlon – The Factory Theatre (\$22)

Mick Thomas, Michael Barclay – Hopetoun Hotel (\$18.20)

Playjerise, Planet of the Stereos, Boy & Bear, Stu Larsen – Notes Live (\$19.50)

Saturday 22 August

Cavan Te – Marble Bar (free)

Dappled Cities, Philadelphia Grand Jury – Metro Theatre (\$18-22)

Diafrix – Annandale Hotel (\$12)

The Favourites, Rebekah Jensen, Marty Hailey – Opera Bar (free)

Kid Sam, Otouto – Hopetoun Hotel (\$10)

The Prayer Circle – Oxford Art Factory (free)

Shady Lane, Megastick Fanfare, Danimals – Curious Works Studio (\$12)

Sunday 23 August

Architects – Hermann's (\$17-20)

The Dawn Collective – Hopetoun Hotel (\$6)

Taylor King – The Roxbury Hotel (\$5)

PUBS, CLUBS AND BARS

Annandale Hotel:

Cnr Nelson St and Parramatta Rd, Annandale. 9550 1078, www.annandalehotel.com.au

The Argyle:

18 Argyle St, The Rocks. 9247 5500, www.theargyle.biz

Bank Hotel:

324 King St, Newtown. 9557 1692

The Basement:

29 Reiby Pl, Circular Quay. 9251 2797, www.thebasement.com.au

Beach Road Hotel:

71 Beach Rd, Bondi Beach. 9130 7247, www.myspace.com/beachroadbondi

Candy's Apartment:

22 Bayswater Rd, Kings Cross. 9380 5600, www.candys.com.au

Club 77:

77 William St, Kings Cross. 9361 4981, www.myspace.com/club_77

Cricketers Arms Hotel:

106 Fitzroy St, Surry Hills. 9331 3301

The Different Drummer:

185 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. 9552 3406, www.differentdrummer.com.au

The Duke Hotel:

148 Enmore Rd, Enmore. 9519 1935, www.duke-hotel.com

Empire Hotel:

32 Darlinghurst Rd, Kings Cross. 9360 7531, empirehotel.net

Enmore Theatre:

130 Enmore Rd, Newtown. 9550 3666, www.enmoretheatre.com.au

Excelsior Hotel:

64 Foveaux St, Surry Hills. 9211 4945, www.excelsiorhotel.com.au

The Factory Theatre:

105 Victoria Rd, Enmore. www.factorytheatre.com.au

Friend in Hand Pub:

58 Cowper St, Glebe. 9660 2326, www.friendinhand.com.au

Fringe Bar:

106 Oxford St, Paddington. 9360 5443, www.thefringe.com.au

Gaelic Theatre:

64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 9211 1687, www.thegaelic.com

Gaslight Inn:

278 Crown St, Darlinghurst. 9360 6746

The Harold Park Hotel:

70A Ross St, Glebe. 9660 4745, www.haroldparkhotel.com.au

Hopetoun Hotel:

416 Bourke St, Surry Hills. 9361 5257, www.myspace.com/hopetounhotel

Lansdowne Hotel:

2-6 City Rd, Chippendale. 9211 2325

The Laugh Garage:

Cnr Church and Market St, Parramatta. 8883 1111, www.thelaughgarage.com

The Loft:

University of Technology, 15 Broadway, Sydney. 9514 2000, www.myspace.com/utloftbar

Manning Bar:

Lvl 1, Manning House, Manning Rd, University of Sydney. 1800 013 201, www.manningbar.com

Mars Lounge:

16 Wentworth Ave, Surry Hills. 9267 6440, www.marslounge.com.au

Melt Bar:

12 Kellett St, Kings Cross. 9380 6060, www.meltbar.com.au

Metro Theatre:

624 George St, Sydney. 9550 3666, www.metrotheatre.com.au

The Nags Head Hotel:

162 St Johns Rd, Glebe. 9660 1591, www.nagshead.com.au

Newtown Theatre:

Cnr King St and Bray St. 9519 5081, www.newtowntheatre.com.au

The Oatley Hotel:

8 Oatley Ave, Oatley. 9580 1117, www.oatleyhotel.com.au

Opera Bar:

Lower Concourse Lvl, Sydney Opera House, Sydney. 9247 1666, www.operabar.com.au

Oxford Art Factory:

38-46 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. 9332 3711, www.oxfordartfactory.com

Rag & Famish:

199 Miller St, North Sydney. 9955 1257, www.ragandfamish.com.au

The Roxbury Hotel:

182 St Johns Rd, Glebe. 9692 0822, www.roxbury.com.au

Roundhouse:

University of New South Wales, Anzac Pde, Kensington. 9385 7784, www.unswroundhouse.com

Ruby Rabbit:

231 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. 9332 3197, www.rubyrabbit.com.au

The Sound Lounge:

Seymour Centre, cnr Cleveland St and City Rd, Chippendale. 9351 7940, www.seymour.usyd.edu.au

Sandringham Hotel:

387 King St, Newtown. 9557 1254, www.sando.com.au

Sapphire Suite:

2 Kellet St, Kings Cross. 9331 0058, www.sapphiresuite.com

South Sydney Juniors:

558A Anzac Pde, Kingsford. 9349 7555, www.southsyoungsters.org.au

Spectrum:

34 Oxford St, Darlinghurst. 1800 438 849 (moshtix), www.pashpresents.com

Star Bar:

600 George St, Sydney. 9267 7827, www.starbar.com.au

The Vanguard:

42 King St, Newtown. 1800 438 849 (moshtix), www.thevanguard.com.au

World Bar:

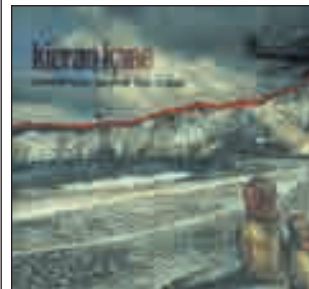
24 Bayswater Rd, Kings Cross. 9357 2755, www.theworldbar.com.au

The White Horse:

381-385 Crown St, Surry Hills. 8333 9999, www.thewhitehorse.com.au

CD REVIEWS

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KIERAN KANE – SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE ROSES

Kieran Kane, the name says it all. It doesn't say fly-by-night idol; nor is it the moniker of a bullet-riddled self-promoting gangstar; it's not even a once-I-was-in-a-boy-band-but-now-you-should-take-me-seriously type name. It is a solid name, a name with quiet self-confidence in its ability to do what it does and do it damn well. It is a name that fears not fashion, will out-live fad, and by god, it's a name you could take home to meet the parents! It is also a name belonging to a 60 year-old acclaimed Nashville singer/songwriter/instrumentalist. Somewhere Beyond the Roses is Kane's first solo album since 2002, and joining him on the album is Deanna Varagona (from Lambchop) on baritone sax, Richard Bennett on guitar, and his son Lucas Kane on percussion. Homegrown and homespun, Kane has developed a folk-blues style that draws on each of his six decades on this earth, and his use of Varagona's saxophone and Bennett's guitar beautifully balances with his own banjo work here. While maintaining such a simple four instrument base, the subtleties of playing and arrangement gives the album a feeling of far more complexity – there is no substitute for experience. Sometimes it's the nature that becomes the name. (CP)



THE ANTLERS – HOSPICE

We detest most not we oppose, but that which we could have loved, if it did not disappoint us. Case in point: *Hospice*. The Antler's is the project of one Ron Siljerman, native of Brooklyn; his is one of those melancholy male voices, somewhere between Bon Iver and Jeff Buckley. Perhaps we should be thankful, then, that this album only rehearses the basic structures of sad indie music with a few idiosyncratic touches in the mix, which turn the pop anthems (*Sylvia* or *Two*) and the long-form crescendos (the excellent *Atrophy*, *Wake*) alike into strange sonic journeys. But where the music sounds ambitious, the lyrics are usually teenage and distracting. *Kettering* is ostensibly a song that starts softly with piano and suddenly explodes into a mess of drums, synths and fuzzy guitars, produced with the kind of intimacy that you only get out of a bedroom album like this, but hearing, "I wish that I had known, in that first minute we met ... you were abused ... there was no saving you *et cetera*" only serves to ruin the effect. With such interesting production values, *Hospice* makes for a pleasurable listen; it's a shame there's little in the way of song-writing chops to back it up. (SM)



SHELLEY HARLAND – RED LEAF

What part does "place" play in music? That is the location of the writing, playing and recording. A significant one according to Shelley Harland. Harland has an impressive CV of collaborations with the likes of Josh Abraham, John Cale, Guru and Junkie XL; and has lived in the self-proclaimed cultural meccas of London and New York, homes she now shares with Sydney. In her own words: "The music I made changed when I moved to Australia... My tastes have always been about *The Beatles*, *Motown*, *The Carpenters*, *Bjork*, *Portishead* and *Fleetwood Mac*. But while New York made me feel electric, Sydney was so laid back and beautiful that my music took on that flavour". There is no doubt that *Red Leaf* reflects a very cruise and organic artist; there is not a hint of the New York rush-hour, or London cold-chic. Rather there are large slabs of Tori Amos crossed with a very chilled Stevie Nicks (forget the drama, think the *Valium!*). It is an album of "beautiful" sounds, sounds designed to cocoon, lull and soften your hard edges. To that end she could do with some of Amos' spike to enliven proceedings; but it will be Harland's strength of voice, her silken tones, and her intimate ambience that will be your lasting impression. (CP)



JIMMY BARNES - THE RHYTHM AND THE BLUES

When a vocal artist reaches a certain point in their career and their critical accolades have slowed to a trickle, then it's time to create an album of nostalgic standards, in a genre of artist's choice. Jimmy Barnes' has already been down this road with his "Soul Deep" series. This time, our old rocker has opted to record in Los Angeles with a shit-hot session gang and crank out some old R'n'B favourites. It seems to make sense in theory as Barnes' distinct shriek definitely was informed by the black soul singers of his childhood, but in practice it's not so attractive. Here we have some fine rock'n'roll classics - *Keep A Knocking*, *Hallelujah I Love Her So*, *My Baby Just Cares For Me*... all performed with pizzazz and vintage skill by the band, and with full-bodied enthusiasm by Barnes himself. The problem is his voice; aside from an admirable turn of soul crooning in *A Fool In Love*, for the most part a crinkled and barrel chested Scotsman shrieking down the microphone feels a little awkward for this homage - which as a whole is affectionate, but a little grating. At least old Barnesy is doing it with balls. Let us not forget Human Nature's attempt at the same thing. (AR)



For more album reviews go to www.altmedia.net.au

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Shop 9, 2 East Circular Quay, Sydney, 9247 3800

GEORGE ST CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX
505 George Street, Sydney, 9273 7431

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Fox Studios
Bent Street, Moore Park
9332 1633

PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
3a Oxford Street, Paddington, 9361 4453

PALACE VERONA
17 Oxford Street, Paddington, 9360 6099

DISTRICT 9

South African director Neill Blomkamp astounds us with a concept so original, a subtext so thrilling, and an ending so clever that the film's publicist had to beg reviewers, "Please, no spoilers." Fair enough. Now just imagine a million aliens arriving on Earth in a derelict spaceship. They are benign, more than that, totally helpless, and as producer, NZ's Peter Jackson explains, "they can't even feed themselves and have no particular desire to do anything. They come to Johannesburg, of all places, and no one knows what to do, so they end up in a township similar to Soweto." The solution, twenty years after "the prawns" (slang for the actually quite human aliens) first settled, is told in part-mockumentary, part comedy and part splatter-action sci-fi. It is compulsory viewing. No excuses. (RE)



BALIBO

Australia's murky role in East Timor affairs at the time of Indonesia's invasion, and subsequently, as "liberator" and overseer of that small nation's vast natural resources is little known in this country. Will Robert Connolly's dramatisation of the infamous deaths of five journalists in 1975 help us understand? Perhaps not, the story told here is too unfocused and confused. But it's fitting that Australia is represented by the overweight, lazy and cynical journo Roger East (Anthony LaPaglia, also executive producer). Why did our heroes put themselves in danger? Why was the Australian government (the ALP) petrified into inaction? No answers here, but Oscar Isaac, playing the young José Ramos Horta as a charismatic firebrand, has a cracker of a role. At least someone comes across well. (RE)



CORALINE

There is no squeak of Disney in this so-called 'family film'. Darker than the witching hour, with more surreal flourishes than a Dali and a hard-knuckled moral lesson to boot (be careful what you wish for!), it's a fantastical modern fable for all. Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning) feels neglected by her mud-hating, 'gardener' parents, and so when she discovers a secret door leading to 'other Mother' (Teri Hatcher), she is all too happy to indulge in the ego-driven fantasy world complete with a table and wardrobe swollen with plenty. But when she refuses to have her eyes sewn shut with buttons, things take a turn for the worse, leading Coraline on an adventure 'too weird for words' ... (AB)

ANGELS AND DEMONS Ron Howard's latest offering is a truly visual and often visceral experience. Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) once again delves into the enigmatic world of the Catholic Church. For fans of *The Da Vinci Code* this film is not one to miss. (MK)

BANDSLAM Nerdish new kid Will (Gaelan Connell) overcomes many obstacles, but mainly his Mum (Lisa Kudrow), has his heart broken by a gorgeous but troubled babe (Aly Michalka), forms a band and learns something about life. This is fun but exceptionally wholesome. (RE)

BEAUTIFUL KATE For her directorial debut, Rachel Ward channels *Picnic at Hanging Rock* with a tragic, gothic tale of family dysfunction, death and redemption set against the isolated outback. Led by Ben Mendelsohn, *Beautiful Kate* is flawlessly executed, jarring and totally unforgettable. (RK)

BRÜNO Brüno is like Borat's effeminately gay Austrian cousin, as the latest character delivers similar shtick, once again designed to shock and offend. Bruno's guide to seeking fame through desperate and attention-seeking acts is a funny and entertaining lesson in crudeness and slapstick, plus clever observation of society's own hypocrisy and use of shorthand stereotypes. (NS)

CEDAR BOYS Serhat Caradee's powerful debut deserves to do well everywhere, but especially in Sydney's south west. In an explosive exposé of our city's cultural and class divide, Les Chanery plays the young Leb whose dreams for a better life lead him to tragedy. (RE)

CHÉRI In Stephen Frears' witty adaption of Colette's infamous novel, Michelle Pfeiffer is a wealthy and beautiful "courtesan", but today we would call her something else. Her affair with a young androgynous

(Rupert Friend) is doomed, of course, but it takes a while to be told why. (RE)

COCO AVANT CHANEL A dramatic biopic about Coco Chanel's (Audrey Tautou) formative years following early abandonment and poverty prior to achieving success as a fashion vanguard. Tautou embodies this complex woman and is complimented by stunning cinematography and gorgeous costumes, making for an elegant and stylish homage to a truly inspiring woman. (NS)

ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS For fast paced, 3D action these school holidays look no further than *Ice Age 3*. Following the successful formula of its predecessors this film does not disappoint. Watch the gang navigate new threats and challenges as they define the true meaning of family. (MK)

THE ESCAPIST Frank (Brian Cox), a lifer, is the ringleader of a jailbreak after discovering that his estranged daughter is on the brink of death in this taut, emotionally-rich tale from first-time director Rupert Wyatt. (AB)

THE HANGOVER Two days before his wedding, Doug takes his three best friends to Vegas for his bachelor party. The next morning, the groomsman discover he is missing, and they have no recollection of the night whatsoever. Impeccable writing and performances make *The Hangover* an absolute must see. (NG)

HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE After ruining her best friend Lilly's birthday, and getting into a shoe fight with Tyra Banks, teen superstar Hannah Montana (Miley Cyrus) goes back to her hometown to gain some perspective. Cheesy songs, and a cameo from Taylor Swift ensure this movie is perfect for tweens. (LR)

I REALLY HATE MY JOB Oliver Parker directs a cast of (mostly) pretty young things who work hard at disguising the shortcomings of an uneven script. Five restaurant toilers share their frustrations with each other and us. Neve Campbell is the chief and most irritating whinger. (RE)

LAST RIDE In the familiar genre of Australian films focusing on criminals, this offering from first-time feature length director Glendyn Ivan is a rare gem. Stunning cinematography and exceptional performances from Hugo Weaving and Tom Russell make *Last Ride* unmissable. (TR)

THE LIMITS OF CONTROL Jim Jarmusch's deadpan spy thriller (is it?) which has cameos by an A-list of the uber-cool is so chic that it almost hurts. Very pleasing on the eye though, especially the stunning young actress wearing nothing but spectacles and a gun. (RE)

LUCKY COUNTRY is a convincing psychological thriller that generally strikes gold. It's 1902, and a series of dark events unfold following the arrival of three soldiers to the remote homestead of father Nat (Aden Young), daughter Sarah (Hanna Mangan-Lawrence) and son Tom (Toby Wallace). (AB)

MY LIFE IN RUINS Nia Vardalos stars as a Greek-American expatriate who rediscovers her passions while working as a tour guide in her picturesque mother country. An unlikely group of hollow and stereotypical characters (with the exception of Richard Dreyfuss' Irv) make cringe worthy 'jokes' in this light rom-com that is ultimately contrived and predictable holiday fluff. (NS)

MY FRIENDS, MY LOVES A bookseller moves to London and for under-explained reasons decides to shack up with his

divorced pal, a prissy architect. They're both straight, so this tepid French 'bromance' is all terribly confusing, especially for their kids. Us too. (RE)

MY SISTER'S KEEPER Anna (Abigail Breslin) refuses to be an organ donor for her dying sister, giving her family led by super-mom (Cameron Diaz) plenty of tears. But not us, Nick Cassavette's bathos-by-the-bucketload treatment of an interesting idea is way too burdened with manipulative tricks. (RE)

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 When the magical tablet leaves the Museum, Larry must find allies to help him retrieve it from the forces of evil. With new and familiar faces in the cast, as well as some memorable cameos, kids will love this film. (AEB)

OBSERVE AND REPORT Seth Rogen is sworn to serve and protect. And that's exactly what he'll do. Unshamedly vulgar, utterly disturbing, and very funny. An unpretentious comedy that only seeks to entertain, *Observe and Report's* jokes will look wrong, but feel right. (AEB)

A PAIN IN THE ASS Pignon is a depressed middle-aged photographer. In the next hotel room is Ralph: a suave, cool-headed professional hit man. After a botched suicide attempt, the two men's lives collide head-on. Fast-paced French comedy that just misses the mark. (LR)

THE PROPOSAL A controlling city gal (Sandra Bullock) devises a sham marriage to her long-suffering assistant (Ryan Reynolds) to avoid being deported. Opposites attract in this charmingly funny and typical romantic comedy. (NS)

PUBLIC ENEMIES Tells the chilling real-life gangster drama about notorious public enemy, John Dillinger (Johnny Depp), and associates. The narrative misfires,

but the visuals are excellent with lots of gun fights between a cocky Dillinger and a frustrated FBI agent, Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale). It is ultimately a compelling yet flawed cat and mouse game. (NS)

RED CLIFF The most expensive Asian film ever made, John Woo's hugely extravagant historical epic has little room for realism. There's brotherhood and blood, great gushing spurts of it. The cheesy, propagandist style is probably ironic, but it's telling us something too: China rules! (RE)

RUDO Y CURSI sees *Y Tu Mama Tambien* stars Diego Luna and Gael Garcia Bernal reunited on screen in a tale of two brothers whose lives are turned upside down when they're recruited as professional soccer players. (AF)

SAMSON & DELILAH Indigenous teenagers, Samson and Delilah attempt to escape from their mundane existence. Despite falling in love, their failure to enter the outside world takes them to despair and destruction. Although emotionally underdone, you'll be transfixed by this visually stunning yet silent love story. (MP)

SHALL WE KISS? A pair of strangers shares the story of a couple of friends-turned-lovers whose affair was created with a single kiss. A slow-burning but sophisticatedly layered-romance film that is heavy on dialogue and a little lacking in narrative weight. (NS)

SUNSHINE CLEANING Brilliant casting and a tender script make this tale of two sisters who start a crime scene cleaning company genuinely affecting and at times hilarious. Starring Amy Adams, Emily Blunt and Alan Arkin, this second release from *Big Beach* doesn't disappoint. (AF)

TENDERNESS The dark adaptation of Robert Cormier's novel is ultimately an intense and

suspense-filled story. An allegedly reformed serial killer takes a road trip with an infatuated and abused admirer. A cop follows the pair; certain the criminal will repeat offend. (NS)

TERMINATOR SALVATION Following John Connor and his fellow Resistance fighters as they do war against Skynet's machines, *Terminator Salvation* sets the stage for all the familiar components of the series, but introduces some new and steely upgrades. Action packed and fun to watch. (AEB)

TYSON The subject of James Toback's stunning doco seems surprised that at 40, he is still alive. Mike Tyson talks and talks. And we see, with the tears on his tattooed face, the essence of what it is to be a man. (RE)

WAKE IN FRIGHT Mateship quickly deteriorates into mayhem in this startling, surreal study of the Australian national character. Originally released in 1971, it has now been remastered and features standout performances by Gary Bond, Jack Thompson and Chips Rafferty. (AB)

WINGED CREATURES Five survivors of a horrific mass shooting to come to terms with the tragedy in (mostly) predictable ways. Rowan Woods has made an ambitious but somber ensemble piece with an A-list cast (Kate Beckinsale, Forest Whitaker) and a decidedly sudsy feel. (RE)

Free Will Astrology

BY ROB BREZSNY

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19):

I started producing some good work within ten years of launching my writing career, but I didn't hit my stride until the 18th year. From what I hear, many other skills require a long training period as well. According to an Aikido adept I know, for example, a practitioner may require 30 years to master the moves and spirit of that martial art. And as for the ability to carry on a successful intimate relationship: It usually takes a lifetime. I hope this line of thinking helps you get a more practical perspective on the specific prowess you're trying to develop, Aries. Keep in mind that it probably wouldn't be worth learning if you could become a wizard in a flash. There's no rush. Give yourself credit for how far you've come already.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20):

Talk to yourself more and better. Not just with streams of chatter that meander aimlessly. Not with darts of self-deprecation mixed in with grandiose fantasies. No, Taurus. When I urge you to talk to yourself more and better, I mean that you should address your self with focused tenderness. I mean that you should be driven by the bold intention to lift up your mood, praise your skills, shower blessings on your vulnerabilities, and love yourself down to the core. You will attract cosmic assistance if you do this playful work. You will bathe your subconscious intelligence with healing luminosity.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20):

I climbed the endless steps to the sanctuary, brushing off large spiders that kept landing on me. I stood in the rain for hours waiting for the gates to open. The guardian of the threshold wouldn't let me in until I answered his tricky and sometimes insulting questions. Through it all, I maintained my patience and poise and reverence. At no time did I give in to the temptation to curse the difficulties. And when I finally entered, when I got my chance to penetrate to the heart of the rose petal-strewn labyrinth, my persistence was rewarded. As I knelt there in amused awe, face to face with the sacred jokester, I got a useful answer to the most important question in my life. Would you like a comparable experience, Gemini? It's possible in the coming week.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22):

Visionary philosopher Buckminster Fuller said that "Pollution is nothing but resources we're not harvesting." If that's true, Cancerian, you've got a lot of resources available to you right now, although they will have to be converted from their smoggy and effluvial state. So for example, if you're a songwriter, the noxious emotions floating around could be raw material for a sparkling tune. If you're a lover, the peculiar vibes you're dealing with could inspire you

to prevent a dumb pattern from repeating itself.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):

monsoon rains have not blessed eastern India with their usual downpours this year. In response, frustrated farmers have resorted to a radical ritual: asking their unmarried daughters to get naked and plow the fields. They believe that this will embarrass the weather gods into acting correctly. In general, I approve of being creative in making appeals to deities, but I recommend that you use a different approach. Rather than shaming them into providing you with more love and mojo, try flattering them. As if you were celebrating Halloween early, go around impersonating a god or goddess who is overflowing with love and mojo.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Two annoyances that had been bugging you before your exile have been neutralized. But you've still got at least one more to go, so don't relax yet. In fact, I think you should redouble your vigilance. Check expiration dates on your poetic licenses and pet theories. Scrub the muck from your aura, even if your friends seem to find it "interesting." And learn to read your own mind better so you can track down any disabling thoughts that might still be lurking in remote corners.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

Your upcoming adventures will probably make no sense — unless you redefine what constitutes "sense." If you do that, your adventures could make absolutely lucid sense in a backward, upside-down way that will rejuvenate you sexually, spiritually, and emotionally. Here's another approach to understanding the point I'm trying to make: The epic drama you're about to begin may yield no apparent lesson and provide no practical guidance — unless you empty your mind and give up hope for extracting specific lessons and guidance — in which case you will be flooded with wise insights.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

What tricks have you employed to outwit your fears in the past? Remember them. Review them. Next, think about the people who have inspired you to be more courageous than you imagined were capable of. If you take these two actions, you will prepare yourself well for the week ahead. I'm not saying that the things you're scared of will be any bigger or badder than usual. But I want you to know that you now have the potential to gain a robust new power over them.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

You are currently getting more miles per gallon and more bang for the buck than you have in a long time. Your IQ is creeping higher. Your knack for scoring good parking places is at a peak. I'll even go so far as to say that it's been quite a while since

you've been teased by such thoroughly useful temptations. And get this, Sagittarius: I suspect that you have an enhanced instinct for taking smart risks. The only downside of all this good news is that you may not know your own strength. That means you should test it fast; find out more about its potential. Otherwise, you might break someone's heart by accident, or prematurely shatter the illusions of a person who's not yet ready to stop living in fantasyland.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

I wouldn't be surprised if your whole life passed instantly before your eyes one day soon. Not because you'll come close to literal physical death or anything dangerous at all, but rather because you will have a brush with a magic power that could be yours in the future — a magic power that will be possible for you to fully own only if you cut the umbilicus that links you to a dying source. Wow. Did I really say that in a fun little astrology column? And are you really prepared to change your life because of something you read in a fun little astrology column? I hope so. In the coming weeks, it'll be the fun little things that have the greatest potential to align you more closely with your soul's code.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

In the days ahead, you may not realize what you're looking for until you find it. I advise you, therefore, to put into action the following five-point plan. 1) Suppress any know-it-all tendencies you might have. 2) Revive your childhood talent for being voraciously curious about everything. 3) Ask more questions than you've ever asked before. 4) Figure out how to be receptive without being passive, and how you can be humble without muffling your self-confidence. 5) Consider the possibility that you have a lot to learn about what's best for you.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):

I've borrowed a fable from the ancient Greek writer Aesop to create a parable you can use in the coming weeks. Once upon a time there was a very thirsty crow. Rain hadn't fallen in a long time, and the creek from which she'd always drunk had dried up. Searching and searching for a bit of moisture, the crow finally happened upon a tree under which sat a ceramic pitcher with some water in it. But the pitcher's neck was narrow, and the crow couldn't fit her beak past it to reach the water. Inspired by desperation, the crow at last got an idea. Why not drop small rocks into the pitcher, making the water's level rise? And that's exactly what she did. How sweet it was when at last she quenched her thirst.

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Homework: Do what you must do in order to break a bad habit that's sapping your vitality. Report results to uaregod@comcast.net.

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