

# REDWATER NEWS

December 2007

The Redfern and Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Boards Newsletter

## National Indigenous Development Centre



The National Indigenous Development Centre has received approval from the Minister of Planning. The vision for the Centre is as a facility to nurture sporting excellence and personal and leadership development among Australia's Indigenous community. The Centre will provide sporting and educational facilities to be used by Indigenous groups from across the country. Many of the facilities will be available to the local community on a user pays basis.

It will be sited on the old Redfern Public School. The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is now finalising the tender documents to be used to select a list of builders. The call for tenders will go out shortly. It is expected that the selection process will take a number of months and it is likely that a builder will be signed up in the first quarter of 2008. Construction is likely to commence in the second quarter of 2008, with an approximate construction program of 18 months.

### Promises of 'Community Engagement'

ILC states that it will continue to ensure that the local community is kept informed over

coming months. Updates will be emailed and posted out on a regular basis, and the on-site signage will be kept up to date with latest news. Shortly before construction starts ILC will hold an open house information event on site. This will be attended by the project team, including representatives from the ILC and the builder, and will be an opportunity for the local community to learn about how the Centre will look, how it will be used and managed, the range of facilities available for community use, and how the construction is to be conducted. It will also provide an opportunity for questions and feedback from the community. This event will be open to everyone with an interest in the project. Further details will be provided closer to the event. If you have questions or would like additional information about the NIDC, please contact Stuart Waters at Twyford Consulting Phone: 1800 11 00 55

## STOP PRESS

This will be the last Edition of the REDWATER NEWS until additional funding is secured.

The editorial committee would like to thank those who have supported this production. We are liaising with various sources to try secure the future of this valued community newsletter.

Our readers could help by writing letters of support to the editorial committee at 67 Raglan Street, Waterloo 2017.

We will pass them on to the appropriate funding bodies. If funding is not secured we may only be able to produce an electronic version of this newsletter.

The editorial committee also want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Prosperous, Happy and Healthy New Year.

# Waterloo

## Summer on the Green

**Friday 7th December 10 till late**  
**Waterloo Green**  
(behind Marton Building off Raglan and Pitt Street)

**10 till 11**      **Let the Dog Out Event**  
**11 till 2**      **Older Peoples Picnic**  
**3 till 5**      **Kids Christmas Party**  
**5 pm**      **Summer Sunset Show**



**For more details contact**  
**The Factory Community Centre on**  
**02 9698 9569**

**Come along and join us for some summer fun**

### **Waterloo's Summer on the Green – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Local residents and community workers are proposing to hold an all day celebration entitled 'Waterloo's summer on the Green'. Support is being sort from community organisations and the broad community to participate in the event. The proposed event will take place on Friday 7th December 2007, within the Green Area beside the Marton Gardens. The event will be presented in four stages including 11am – 2pm for the older residents' picnic themed event; 3 – 5pm for the young people's Christmas party and 5-8pm for The Factory Community Centre pearl anniversary family entertainment party. We hope to have appropriate activities such as light music, stage performances, bouncing castles, BBQ, information stalls, face painting, sports activities, and guest appearances. It is hoped to also mark International Disability Day, and celebrate the success of local community projects such as the Marton Gardens mosaic. The event will provide great opportunity for people to consult local organisations, which will promote their services and groups. If you would like to host a stall or a family fun activity at any of the events (space is expected to be limited) or would like more information please contact HCAP at The Factory Community Centre on Ph: 8399 1011.

**RedWater News is produced by and for Redfern and Waterloo tenants**

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### With Special Thanks

*To all the Precinct Representatives who voluntarily deliver the magazine*

### Published

*The Redfern and Waterloo NAB's and currently funded by DOH/ and The Factory*

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4,500

## The changing face of Redfern and Waterloo

With the call for tenders to redevelop Rachel Foster Hospital, residents are seeing the loss of yet another public facility, this time to the private housing market. Dependent on the success of this project is the revitalisation of the Court House as a Community Health Centre. Thus we see the loss of three facilities - hospital, court, and police station - to facilitate the movement of the health centre from the Rachel Foster site, thus making way for the commercial redevelopment of the hospital site. Without the development of one we can't have the creation of the other.

The following facilities have now been lost to area residents - the Public School, Rachel Foster Hospital, the Missionhome aged care facility, the courthouse, and the Old Police Station with its overnight holding cells. They are to be reinvented as an Indigenous sporting complex, private apartments and the relocated Health Centre. All these properties now stand empty waiting for eventual redevelopment. There is nothing new here for local residents, however with the loss of Rachel Fosters Hydrotherapy unit leaving older residents to find places out of the area. The practice of public redevelopment by private investment is now to be extended to the Redfern Railway Station upgrade. Unlike other railway stations which have been redeveloped by Railcorp and the Transit Authority, Redfern Station must be paid for by other developments in the area. The selling of one piece of land to pay for the development of another is the plan of the Redfern Waterloo Authority (RWA) for the area. These plans are expressed in the Built Environment Plan which calls for the privatisation of urban revitalisation.

As with the redevelopment scheme that has been established by the Department of Housing to develop the Elizabeth St block opposite Redfern Park, so will more redevelopment involve these type of arrangements? We can expect to see old style walkups make way for more of these redevelopments in the near future as the RWA makes its final recommendations for changing the face of Redfern and Waterloo. No other suburb has its own Minister or a development authority to oversee its redevelopment and one must wonder why Redfern/Waterloo has to be the guinea pig for such an experiment. Residents must wonder what gains they will get from all this as we are made to pay again and again for what should be government supported services.



Would you like to sponsor this newsletter?

Why not use this space to advertise ?

Would you like to be involved in the running of this newsletter?

Contact the Editorial Committee on 02 9698 9569 or email [info@the-factory.org.au](mailto:info@the-factory.org.au)

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## DOH POTTERY TEAM GOES FUNCTIONAL

John Perry Team leader at Redfern has advised the RWN of some important changes.

The Department's Clients Service Team managing the Surry Hills and Redfern properties has undergone a change in managing workloads. Client Service staff are currently placed in a Property Portfolio managing the day to day tenancy issues relating to approximately 400 dwellings. This meant that all work involving the property was directed to one officer placing heavy demands on their time and ability to manage a multitude of tasks. The changes we have made are designed to improve efficiency and performance and allow specific tasks to be managed by specific officers. Each officer will remain in charge of their list of properties. They will still take clients enquiries based on the property the

client resides in. This means the contact phone numbers remain the same however, following discussion with the client the officer will be able to make a referral to another officer who is responsible for processing a specific function. The functions include Transfers, Arrears Recovery Management, Nuisance & Annoyance cases, Client Feedback, Ministerial and Local Member of Parliament Enquiries, Allocation Processes and Lawn Care & Cleaning Contracts.

These changes should provide a more consistent approach to managing the work loads and allow the team to reduce delays in processing and improve response times to our clients

RedWater news editorial committee would be interested in feedback on how this new system is working for tenants, please send us your views.

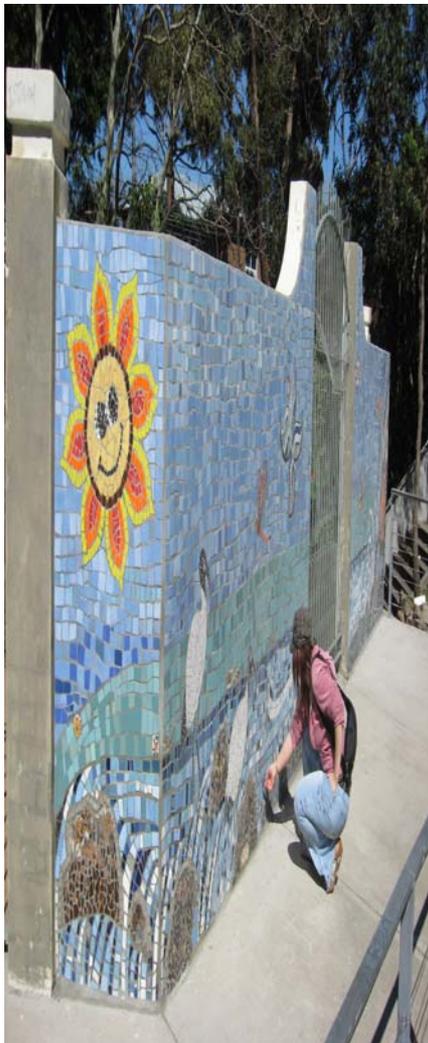


Details of 2008 volunteer award scheme will be available soon from HCAP.

Congratulations to all those whose efforts were recognised and celebrated at the above event. Thank you to all those who supported this long overdue successful event.

# Volunteer Formal Recognition is Coming

RedWater news has been informed of plans that the Department of Housing is to form a Volunteer policy giving official recognition of Volunteers within social housing. Minister of Housing stated in a letter "that the Department values the significant contribution made by volunteers in our society by contributing to the development of vibrant and healthy communities." This is a significant change in the previous entrenched attitude and denial of volunteer usage by Department of Housing in service delivery. It is believed historically that there was a fear that with formal recognition came the obligations of Volunteer Training, insurance, reimbursement of expenses incurred, occupational Health and Safety compliance - all a small price to pay for the overall benefit, both financial and in terms of Service Delivery achieved by the DoH. RedWaternews welcomes the Ministers support and recognition of volunteers and we look forward to being consulted on this positive new policy. Above pictures were taken at volunteers award night organised by Redfern NAB with support from HCAP and UNSWCDP.



## Waterloo Green Action Plan has arrived !

RWN reported in our last edition that Waterloo residents and frontline workers with the assistance of HCAP formed an action group. The group was set up in response to significant concerns about safety issues in the popular Waterloo Green space which provides highly valuable recreational and open space to the local residents of the Waterloo public housing estate. The RWA in response, worked with, the Department of Housing and other government agencies to develop an Action Plan to make Waterloo Green a safer and more user-friendly place. The plan also adopted the recommendations of a community safety audit that was undertaken by the action group with assistance of Redfern Police.

Key actions in the plan include:

- Improving public safety and amenity on and around Waterloo Green.
- Reducing anti-social behaviour associated with excessive public drinking.
- Providing more information about services, events and local interest groups.
- Improving access to key human services.
- Making more use of meeting and activities spaces.
- Improving interaction between older residents and young people.

The Action group welcomes the plan as a significant step forward and will be monitoring it's progress closely to ensure we see some long awaited tangible results. For further info or copy of the Action Plan, contact the Department of Housing's Waterloo Team Leader, Warwick Sams, on 9310 8666 or HCAP on Ph: 8399 1011

# Make A DIFFERENCE

R.I.C.H.S.S is a community agency whose role is to provide assistance such as social support, home visiting etc.

This can include escorting to small shopping, appointments, and social outings. The aim is to assist people to remain in their homes and live independently in the community if they so wish. The service covers the areas of South Sydney and the City of Sydney L.G. A's.

Volunteers will see people who are:

Older or frail aged persons  
 People with mild disabilities  
 People with other support needs  
 Carers & Family

Training and on-going support will be provided.

(For assistance in seeking other volunteer opportunities contact HCAP at the Factory)

***If you can spare some time, would like to get involved with your community while increasing your skills,***

please contact Miranda at The Redfern & Inner City Home Support Service, 9 Ogden Lane, Redfern, Tel: 9319 3587

## Redfern and Waterloo Photo Voice Group

Learn to operate a digital camera  
 Take photos of local issues and share your stories

Learn to use computers to enhance your photographs  
 Meet fellow Residents and help create our exhibitions

For more info contact Mike on 9698 9569 or Irene 0416410374

The Factory Community Centre  
 67 Raglan Street Waterloo  
 Tel: 02 96989569  
 Activities include :-

Russian group  
 South Sydney Blind/Seniors Group  
 Chinese Group  
 English Lessons  
 Photo Voice  
 Salsa Dance classes  
 Swimming for women  
 After School Care  
 Computing lessons  
 REDWatch group  
 Mobile play Bus  
 RedWater News group  
 Drop in support / advice  
 Come along and join us

The Factory Community Centre recently worked with Our Lady of Mt Carmel School in Waterloo on the 'let the Dog out' Project. This was a ten week film and animation programme that used creative mediums to explore feelings of being bullied and being a bully.

Over ten weeks students created stories, illustrations, films and animations, to express their feelings and explore their creativity. Councillor Marcella Hoff attended Cana Café to celebrate the completion of this project and launch the three DVDs that were created by the students. (the project was sponsored by the Clover Moore MP Trust)



Clair from the Factory said "this project has been a successful pilot project and we hope to see similar projects to raise awareness of bullying in schools throughout Australia. Bullying is a worldwide problem in schools (and the general workplace) and current schools aids and activities in this area are limited and dare I say a little uninspiring for the students!"

**For more information on this or other projects at the Factory please give them a call on 9698 9569**



**The photo exhibition 'let the dog out ' is on display at the Cana Café on George Street. The other Photo Voice 'Changing Face of Redfern/ Waterloo' exhibition is on display at the Factory on Raglan Street ( see article page3)**

## Did you know ? Street Beat

The street beat Bus provides a late night transport service to young people. Young people can access the bus by calling a free call number up till 1am. It is not a taxi service and wont take you to a social venue it is designed to minimise harm to young people by taking them home or to another safe place

Contact 1800 114 114

## Grief with Graffiti ?

You can report graffiti problems to the City of Sydney , who will arrange a clean up . Call them on

9265 9333

Want to meet new friends? Get support or advice?  
Looking for a new hobby or interest group?  
Looking to learn new skills?

**Become involved in you Local Community Centre**

The Factory Community Centre	9698 9569
The Settlement	9698 3087
South Sydney Community Aid MNC	9319 4073
Redfern Community Centre	9288 5713



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

## The Balnaves Foundation Open House Program

offering \$5 tickets to  
'Concession card holders  
Santa Babies, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 07 ,  
12pm, Ages 2-5

Call the Opera House :  
9250 7777

(mention the Balnaves )

Group Bookings:  
02 9250 7812

Eva at the Factory on:  
9698 3775

Mondays: 10-2pm only

# PRECINCT LETTERS

## MOUNT CARMEL PRECINCT

Well graffiti is well and flourishing all over the estates. The last school holidays saw vandalism reach a new high. Parents your children are not angels, and I know mine weren't either. Remember if you don't know where your offspring are, you don't know what they are doing.

On another front thanks to the tenants who valiantly try to keep their premises in good order. Security breakdowns and non-functional doors seem to be an epidemic. It seems the department's technology doesn't keep up with progress. As a result several areas are suffering because of out of control teenagers who show no sign of responsibility or respect. They abuse one and all while their families appear to ignore their behaviour.

Please help your neighbours and do not put up with this bad behaviour. The police should be called and their numbers could rise if you report incidents.

Remember lock your car as you drive around.

Good luck and see you all soon.

Diana Precinct Rep

## PEOPLES PRECINCT

The DoH has had a conducted tour of the precinct to inspect the fences, grass, gardens, clothes lines, security lights, rubbish bins and common areas. In January 2007 they were supplied a set of photos showing the problems. We can only wait and see the outcomes.

The RWA, the people who sold our school and are now selling Rachel Forster Hospital, the courthouse and police station, have been looking at possible ways to redevelop the Estate. To date they have told us nothing despite having been discussing it for over 2 years. This brings back memories of the 1970s when the Housing Commission bulldozed the area to build the high-rises and people were forced to move to Minto. The first thing the locals knew of it was when armed police turned up and they were evicted at gunpoint. The bulldozers followed. Unions put a Green Ban on the area to try to make the government at least talk to the locals. Those who have been to the DoH office will have noticed the frequent changes in staff.

Hopefully there will be permanent staff soon so they can get to know the area, people and properties they are responsible for. Enjoy the Festive season and may the New Year be all you wished for.

Ross Smith Precinct Rep

## Party Plan

**No more surveys, no more lists. Time to give the talking a good bye kiss**

**there'll be time for thinking there'll be time for talk but who will do the legwork -who will do the walk?**

**Will there be some pretence Will there be some acts. Who will deal the results who'll provide the facts.**

**Lets just cut the bull crap. Lets just drown the spin Go and catch the turkey and bring the bacon in!**

Patrick Russell 2007

## TURANGA

Isn't time going fast, Christmas is nearly upon us again. We would like to welcome our new tenants and hope you will be happy and content in our community.

The community room has been inaccessible for some time and we have been discussing this with DOH, and with the help of our fellow tenants who are interested, we hope to make more use of the room. We could have discussions, play cards, hold birthday party's, So if you have any ideas or can help make this happen please get in touch.

We would like to have these activities up and running by February 2008 but it's success will depend on your support.

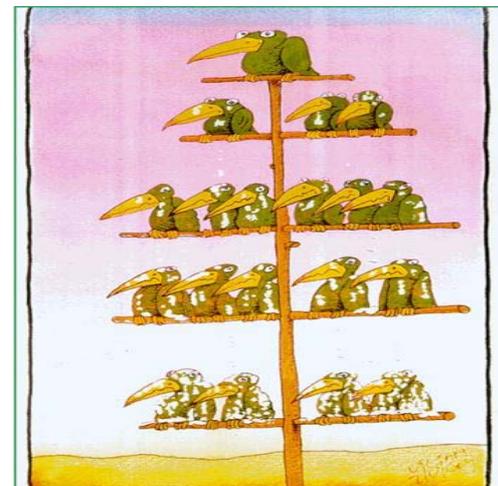
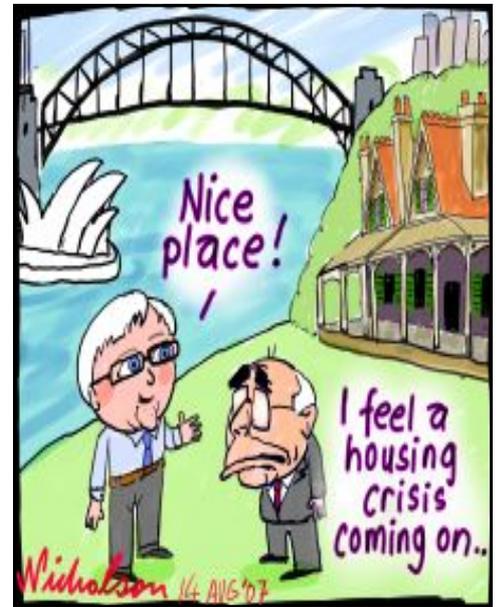
We will be having a Christmas get together for Turanga tenants in the Community room on Sat 22 Dec from 5pm, please come along and join in on the festive fun.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Barbara & Marlene Precinct Rep

# USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>Department of Housing:</b>	
Waterloo	9310 8666
Redfern	9319 9333
Poets Corner	9698 1284
DOH 24Hours (Maintenance)	13 15 71
<b>South Sydney Community Transport</b>	<b>9319 4439</b>
<b>UNSW Community Development Project</b>	<b>9245 1841</b>
<b>HCAP</b>	<b>8399 1011</b>
Interpreter Service	13 14 50
Tenant Union Hotline	9251 6590
Redfern Legal Centre	9698 7277
Barnado's Family Support	9698 9577
Woman's and Girls Emergency Centre	9360 5388
Mental Health Crisis	9867 5738
www.Redwatch.org.au (contact Geoff)	9318 0824
RICHSS (Home support Service)	9319 3587
Youth Health Service	9516 2233
Police assistance line	131 444
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000
Life Line	131 114
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800
Needle clean up hotline	1800 633 353
Alcohol and drug information line	9361 8000
Domestic Violence Hotline	180 656 463
Homeless persons	9874 5564



## Requesting Maintenance

When something in your unit or house needs repairing call the maintenance call centre 13 15 71 which is available 24 hours 7 days a week. All tenants should have a copy of the DOH guide for Maintenance work, which will help you describe what the problem is to the operator. You may also wish to have your Customer number on hand which can be found on your Rent payment card. Make sure you describe the problem in detail and how it is affecting you or your family. This will help the operator to decide what category your job falls under. Remember and ask for a copy of the Job Reference number in case you need to ring back later and what time frame you can expect the job to be completed. If you have problems getting the job completed consider contacting the departments feedback team who deal with complaints and compliments on 1800 652 059. If you have followed all these steps but still have a job outstanding issue ask to speak to your local team leader or contact your precinct Representative (details available from local housing office or HCAP) for advice or contact advice agencies such as the Redfern Legal Centre. (Daryl Dartnell)

### What are precinct representatives?

Any public housing tenant living within a precinct may be elected as a precinct representative. Precinct representatives call and chair meetings within their precinct to obtain tenant views on issues and provide information. The one of the most important aspect of the precinct representative's role involves listening to tenant's ideas, concerns and issues. Precinct representatives report these ideas, concerns and issues to the NAB or Housing Standards meetings and report back to the precinct on developments, action or initiatives. They are valued volunteers who support the development of the community. So get behind them and support them for more information contact your housing Team leader or HCAP on 9698 9569