

OBJECTION

The Federal Redistribution 2009
NSW



Objection Number 13

by

Mary Sidiropoulos and Family

18 Pages

19th August 19, 2009

Objections to the consideration of removal of the Reid Electorate

The radical redrawing of the federal electoral boundaries that would see Laurie Ferguson's seat of Reid abolished is ridiculous and astonishing. My family and I consider ourselves to be a concerned residence of over 30 years in the Guildford and Granville area. We object both on moral and political grounds to what we perceive to be an unfair ousting of a valuable and ethical member who has served his community for over 24 yrs. I ask what criteria are being used to justify this removal. Transparency of politics is as I understand a pre-requisite of an elected government body. I consider such transparency is conspicuously absent in this case. I would also appreciate some clarification as to what process rates in consideration of elector's concern e.i:- at the end of the day do you actually listen to the people. Your policies ultimately effect and are the electors taken into account or are the decision on government policy made regardless of fair representation.

AMALGAMATING GRANVILLE WITH PARRAMATTA WARD

In our boundaries, giving more jurisdiction of Granville to the Parramatta ward is absurd as it would only increase a workload to an already overstretched infrastructure and business intensive city. It is an impractical approach as the Granville community should share its resources with a domineering part of Parramatta city, Granville will surely be ignored. This is a very unfair burden for the Granville community.

AMALGAMATING BLAXCELL ST GRANVILLE WITH BANKSTOWN WARD

The Bankstown area does not have any affinity with South Granville as the train transport lines are completely divided and parallel. Most people in south Granville use Granville station not Bankstown station so this idea is badly organized. As I work in the taxi industry can acknowledge the main public usage is centralized within the 2 transport area of Granville and Bankstown station neither community regularly overlaps. The Granville community mainly uses the northern and eastern parts of the city for the daily routines and the Bankstown communities mainly use the southern eastern side of their area to commute. Making the 2 cities amalgamate is very unfavorable layout and there are absolutely no grounds for disturbing the unity within Granville and using unnatural boundary as a segregation point.

This new boundary segregation of the Granville community is promoting people not to vote at all due to the confusion in boundaries will generate particularly the elderly who cannot be mobile to move from one side of the suburb to another once they realize everything has changed. Due diligence was absent

when removing the Reid electorate as redistributing has been done without proper direction and consolidation.

AMALGAMATING AUBURN WITH A SUBURB LIKE CROYDEN

There is no affinity with the auburn electorate and Croydon electorate as they are financially, culturally and structurally are radically different in needs. Again the community which requires most attention will be at the mercy of a domineering fast paced developing one. These overzealous boundaries are disturbing and disproportionally distributed in terms of community needs and duty of care within an electorate. Removing the Reid electorate is a sell out for compromise. You have chosen the most difficult growing suburbs in the west that requires attention, to segregate and disperse. Any cohesive opportunity for improvements and stabilization is destroyed without the Reid electorate. The Reid electorate has been helpful and useful in keeping with its duty.

Removing Mr. Laurie Ferguson from the Reid electorate is inexcusable, as matter of fact it is a great loss to the community. The whole situation is quite distressing. Without exaggeration Mr. Laurie Ferguson is the most noteworthy, highly intelligent, instructive, ardent and blameless minister with no avarice. Sympathizing with the community problems. It is mind boggling how you have chosen the most valued member of the community whom is well respected to remove from the electorate and this will be a huge loss. I may be speaking out of turn. I will say this, an experienced, energetic and effective minister whose own father served before him in politics and only sought good throughout his life would come to this type of change is absolutely unjust.

I have enclosed just a few pamphlets of the Reid report on just what Mr. Ferguson has contributed to our community which is a useful insight to understanding of his commitment to the Reid electorate. The electoral commission must not turn a blind eye to this reality. If the Reid electorate is removed and Laurie Ferguson losses his electorate it would be another example of a public servant mismanagement of the whole situation. The very idea is worrying and unacceptable.

Yours sincerely



Mary Sidiropoulos & family

15 Woodville Rd Granville 2142

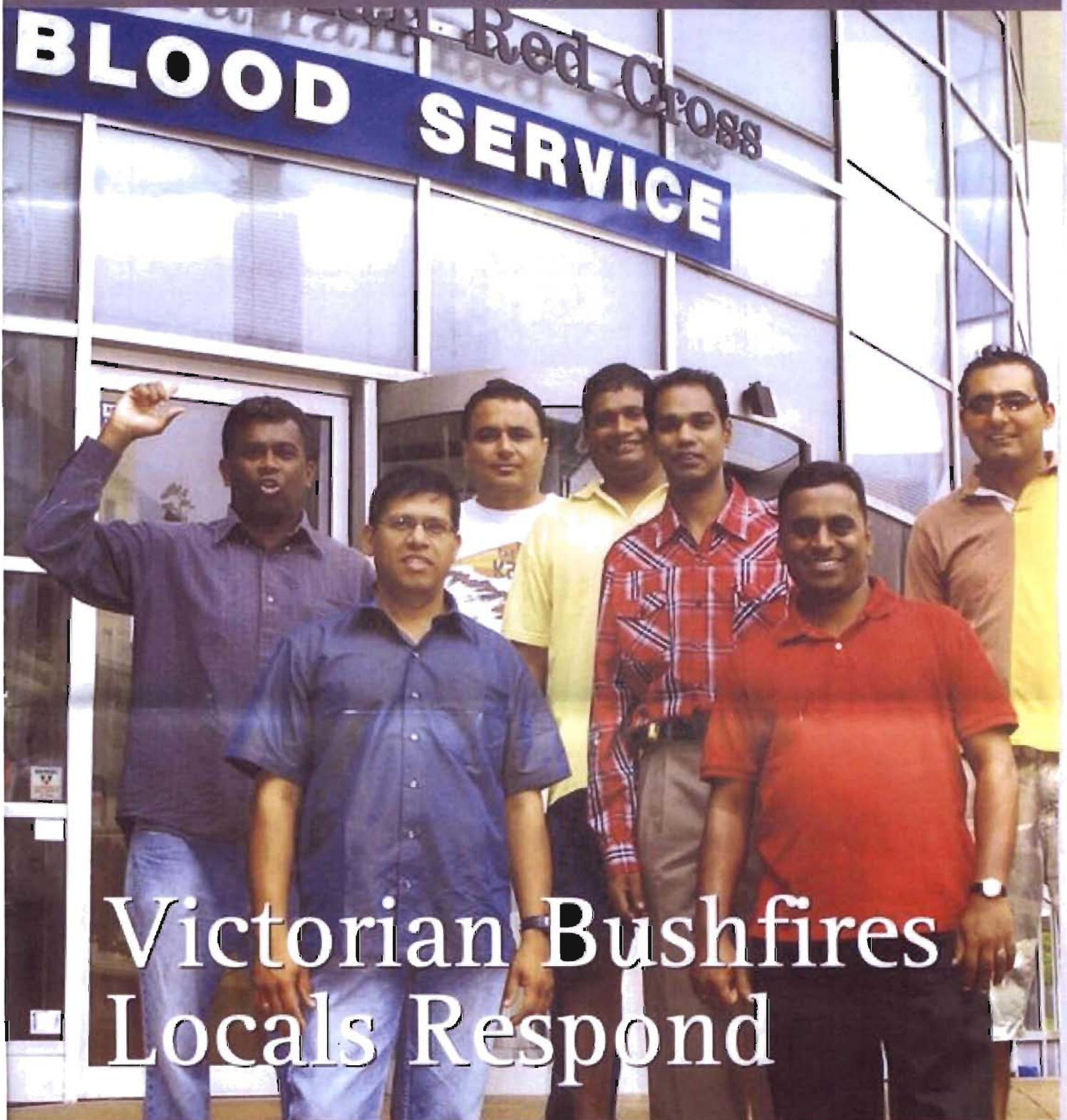


Laurie Ferguson's

Reid REPORT

www.laurieferguson.com.au

News from your Federal Member of Parliament
APRIL 2009



Victorian Bushfires Locals Respond

Suite 31 Granville Towers 10 Bridge Street Granville NSW 2142 Tel (02) 9637 4713 Fax (02) 9682 6320

Victorian Bushfires Locals Respond

The tragic deaths and property destruction of the bushfires has led to a natural outpouring of sorrow, but also overwhelming generosity throughout the country. It stretched from Parramatta Eels footballers, through Parramatta Council, to young school children's pocket money.

My Parliamentary duties have given me the additional opportunity to observe Australia at its best. A woman from Poland doorknocked the apartments and businesses where my office is located and raised money on behalf of the Australian Red Cross. The Chinese community of Sydney invited me to a function where nearly \$300,000 was handed over. Their effort now totals over half a million dollars.

The Pakistani community screened a film, "Son of the Lion," to raise money.

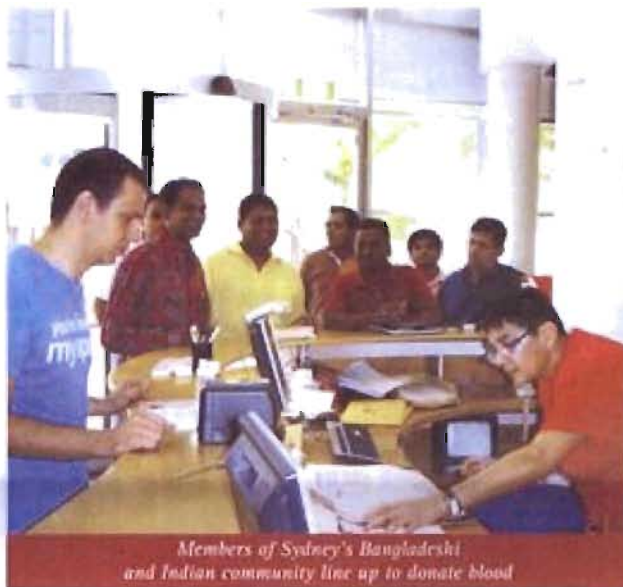
Locally, the Granville Youth Association, which holds Friday prayers at the Town Hall, raised \$2,000 from passing the plate around Granville's Muslim community. I salute Emad Ashour and Ismail Sirdah for this effort.

One of Australia's smallest ethnic groups, the indigenous tribal people from Bangladesh, conducted their own effort.

On another front, Westmead identity, Reji Varghese, joined with local Councillors, Prabir Maitra and Vasee Rajadura and 30 members of our Indian-Bangladeshi community to donate blood for the victims.

The London-based leader of North Auburn's Anjuman-e-Burhani group of Indian Muslims from Africa, donated \$7,000.

Long-term charitable identities, Shirley and Ray Wehbe, benefactors of so



Members of Sydney's Bangladeshi and Indian community line up to donate blood



Dellwood personalities, Jenny Donny (Dellwood Bably supervised by B

many causes, again threw open their house for a morning tea in support of the victims. Their same circle of friends, who, each year support fundraisers to combat cancer, were there to lend a hand.

The Australian-Sri Lankan Community of NSW held an impressive Food Fair at Carlingford in early March. While the primary objective was to fundraise for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal, it was also their gesture of gratitude for the enormous generosity of the Australian people following the 2004 Tsunami devastation in Sri Lanka. The community put on a wonderful spread, featuring the ever-popular Hoppers and Egg Roti amongst a plethora of other favourites. The food-fest was a very well attended day of friendship and fun and the Sri Lankans responded to the Appeal with their usual generosity - a total of \$15,500 was donated through the Red Cross.

Well-known Dellwood hatcher, Terry Ingrey and his neighbours, Tommy and Jenny, from Tommy's Chinese Takeaway Café, combined their culinary skills to stage a fundraiser in the shopping centre. The sausage sizzle was a sell-out, with no small thanks to the many helpers on the day, their humorous banter and popularity of the key players.

Auburn's Gallipoli Mosque and one of the major halal meat authorities, donated \$25,000.

Finally, Guildford's Coptic Church utilised their annual fete to raise some monies for the cause.



Laurie Ferguson cong
President of Auburn

Restaurateur Repays Australia



Tommy's Chinese Takeaway J; (left) and Tommy, (right) and butcher Terry Ingrey.



Peter Quach hands over the donation to Laurie Ferguson for the Australian Red Cross.



Ibrahim Din, owner of the Gallipoli Mosque.



Fundraisers extraordinaire, Ray and Shirley Webb.

Escaping from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded, tiny boat, Flemington restaurant owner Peter Quach finally reached Australian shores after an eight-day journey. The trip took a tragic toll on many of his fellow passengers, weakened by lack of food and water, disease and sea-sickness.

Back in 1975, as a former soldier in the South Vietnam forces Peter had fought alongside Australians. His first job here was as a chef, and he proudly stresses that he has never been unemployed since.

Twenty-four years later, Peter is happily married, has one child and is the proprietor of the popular Ta Fong's Chinese-Vietnamese-Thai Noodle House in Henley Rd, Flemington. His brother has a restaurant with the same name in California.

Like so many Australians, Peter was horrified at the loss of life and property wrought by the February bushfires in Victoria. He collected money from his customers, including Berala teachers, Michael Spicer and Nadia Repin. They were asked to find a person to verify the collection and accept it. That's where I came into it. Peter also gave US\$200 on behalf of his mother and brother. In total he collected \$2649.35 from his customers, staff and family.

Peter says, "Australia gave me everything. I owe the country so much and I will use this collection as a promotion for future fundraising."

What a great effort!

Mayoral Robes

No Use to Granville & Guildford

Local Councillors, Tony Issa and Paul Garrard, now have extensive influence in Parramatta Council. After all, they are, as Lord Mayor and Deputy, leaders of the Liberal-Independent team. It's all action now - no more complaining from the sidelines.

Residents are thus deeply disturbed that, under their dominance, the Reid electorate, in general, and more especially, Granville, Guildford, Merrylands, Parramatta, Harris Park, Rydalmere, etc, have fared so very, very badly in Parramatta Council's \$893,000 - yes, nearly \$1 million from the Commonwealth Government for infrastructure projects.

There are five Ward areas in Council. Messrs Garrard and Issa, with their team, have voted to give 60 per cent of this money to Lachlan Macquarie Ward - leafy Eastwood, Epping, Carlingford, etc. These are some of the suburbs which, mysteriously, seem to escape the excessive development of blocks of flats, although other Parramatta Council areas are burdened with them. Woodville Ward, Parramatta's most deprived area, received only 12 per cent and Elizabeth Macarthur Ward, a mere 10 per cent.

When we turn to electorates - Reid received only 12 per cent, with Parramatta electorate getting 29 per cent and Bennelong, a massive 59 per cent of the Commonwealth funding.

Councillor Garrard used his influence to make sure that significant monies went to upgrades of the Old King's School cricket ground at Parramatta. Quite frankly, this is not on Council land. It should not be given priority over the important needs in the Granville-Guildford area, no matter how much Councillor Garrard likes cricket. They did not even require a contribution from the Parramatta Park Trust who actually own the land. Meanwhile, the local Parramatta Rugby Union Club, which plays at Granville, cannot get proper fences and is facing possible exclusion from competition. It has hundreds of local youth in its junior and lower grades. Other local sporting grounds are also inadequate.

This is an appalling betrayal of local trust by these Liberal-Independent Councillors! The priority should be these issues, not mayoral chains.



The Old Kings School Cricket Ground - renovated at council's expense even though it is not council property.



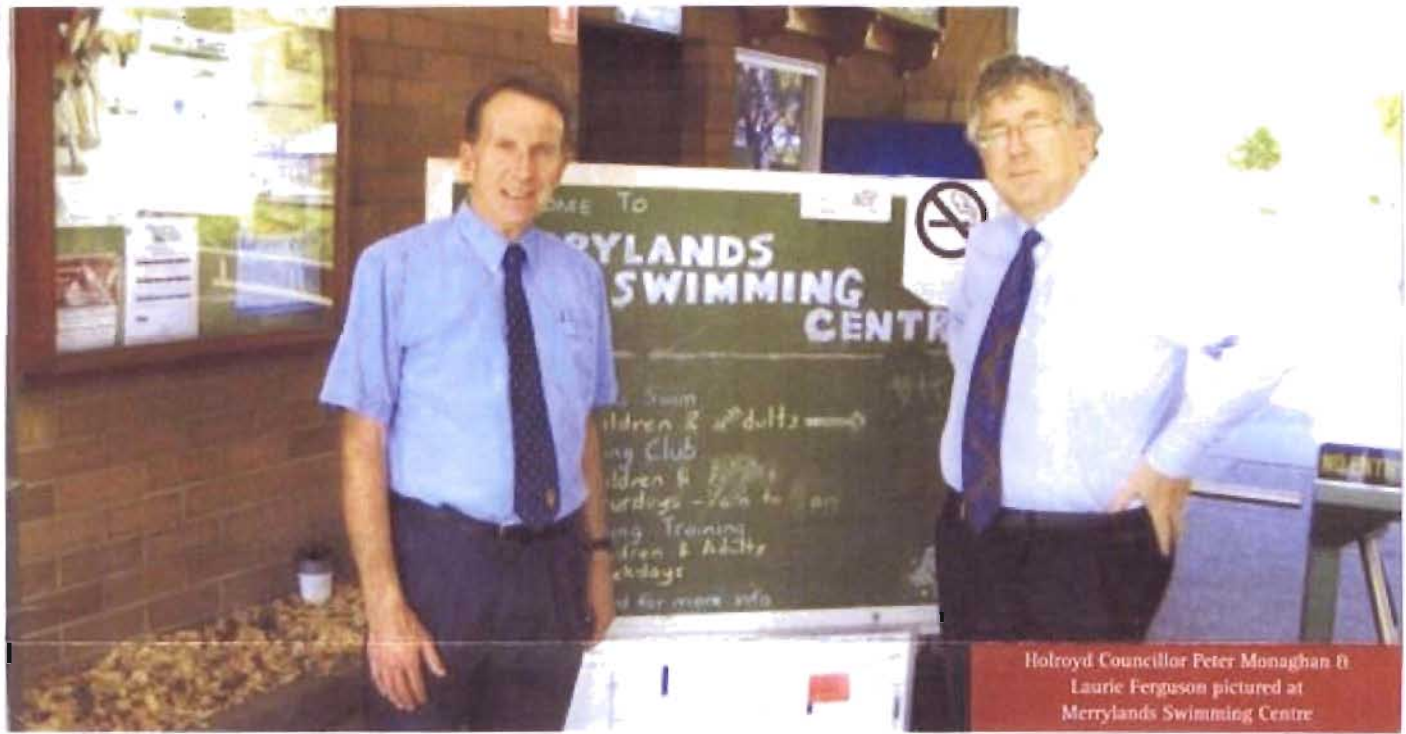
Granville Rugby Park, home of Parramatta Rugby: obviously ignored by Council in the recent round of funding

Guildford Bowling Club - Local And Generous



Willing helpers take a well-earned break from shovelling top soil

I wish to thank the Guildford Bowling Club's management for valuable support of a local project. There has been a community garden in the grounds of Granville South High School for some years. Recently beds were constructed for a group of disabled gardeners under the inspiring leadership of John Koch. Top soil was needed. Guildford Bowling Club readily agreed to pay the bill - well done and thanks!



Holroyd Councillor Peter Monaghan & Laurie Ferguson pictured at Merrylands Swimming Centre

Holroyd Council - Federal Project Money well spent

Funding from the Community Infrastructure Program of the Rudd Labor Government will reduce the impact of the global recession and provide worthwhile local infrastructure. Holroyd Council has been allocated

\$479,000 to thirteen valuable projects dispersed through the Council area.

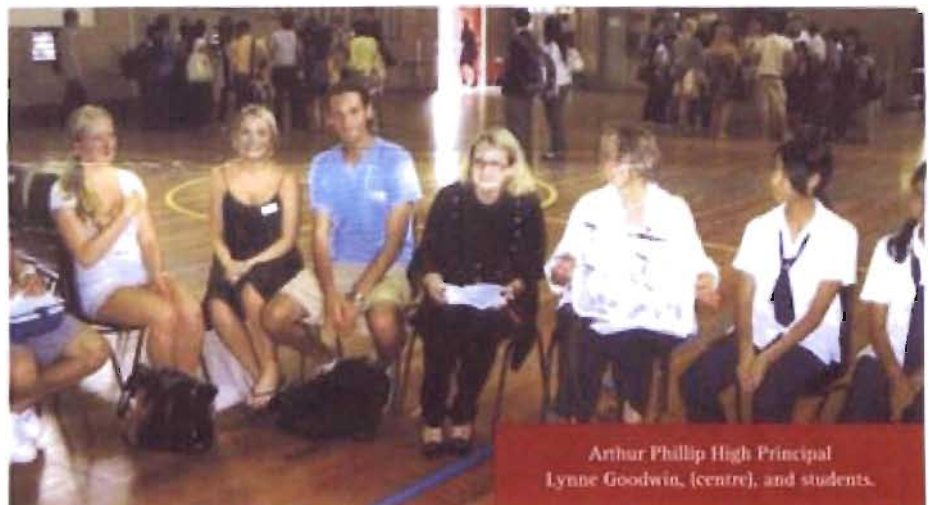
The largest allocation went to Merrylands Swimming Centre to install new security fencing, while Guildford

and Wentworthville Swim Centres have received funding for palisade fences. Another \$60,000 will go to Guildford West sportsground for soccer goal posts, re-surfacing and for work on the four tennis courts. An additional \$50,000 is allocated for playground work at Lance Crescent Park, Greystanes.

Architecture Students Redesign Parramatta School

An impressive initiative is a collaborative effort between Year 2, Sydney University students and design students at Parramatta's Arthur Phillip High School. It will involve a vision for the future of the school precinct.

One of Sydney's most cosmopolitan school populations, with over 1500 students, Arthur Phillip's realities will be a new experience for many of the University students. Parramatta Council's Heritage officers are involved, and the early March launch featured an explanation of the development rules, surrounding area and history of the site.



Arthur Phillip High Principal Lynne Goodwin, (centre), and students.

It is no accident that Barrack Lane is one school boundary, as Arthur Phillip High has variously been a barrack site and lumber yard. Enthusiastic support from Principal Lynne Goodwin and

Associate Professor Anna Rubbo should guarantee a vision that maximises open space, environment, heritage and school utility.



And Now For A Genuine Garden Contest!

Many residents have been surprised or amused at unsolicited political promotional material about their garden, Christmas lights or paved paths. I thought it worthwhile to actually have an active contest.

While not exactly possessing the skills of a Don Burke (!), I would like to announce a Spring Garden Competition to be judged in September/October. The criteria for entries is simple - candidates must live in the Reid electorate.

The contest will feature four categories and prize-money for the best in each section:

- \$300 for Overall garden
- \$200 for Fruit/Vegetable garden
- \$100 for Nature strip garden *(the grassed, Council-owned section outside your front fence)*
- \$100 for Balcony garden

World Skills Australia

Not many people have heard of the Skillaroos - young trades and skilled people who will represent Australia in the 40th WorldSkills Competition in Canada in September this year. The 29 Australian competitors are a diverse group - they feature a web designer, bricklayer, plumber, beauty therapist, landscaper, electrician - to name just a few.

The four days of competition in Calgary will involve over 900 international candidates from 50 countries competing in the pursuit of skills excellence.

Our Skillaroos are determined to not only receive the accolade, 'best in the world', but also

My introduction hints at my limited gardening experience, where I could best be described as a keen observer, rather than an active contributor. However, my mother, Mary Ferguson, is a wonderful gardener and even now, in her 80s, spends every available minute tending her precious plants. My father, the late Jack Ferguson, drew on his background in building skills and was also very involved in the design and maintenance of the garden.

A panel, far better qualified than myself, will judge the end results of your efforts at a date to be announced in my next Reid Report. Entry forms are available from my office - please call Steve, 9637 4713.

to better the current 5th place world ranking Australia holds since the 39th competition in Japan.

Australia's competitors are graduates of TAFE and industry and were chosen for their stand-out talent to represent their country.

The Skillaroos are more than hopeful of returning home triumphant at the end of September. Best wishes and good luck to Team Australia Skillaroo.

Further information about the concept can be obtained on www.worldskills.org.au or by calling 03) 9249 1000



Richard Sutton - geared up and ready to go!

On Yer Bike!

Berala resident, Richard Sutton has participated in the annual 'Gong Bike Ride for Multiple Sclerosis' for 15 years. Each year he garners support and sponsorship from family, friends and business colleagues. Overall, Richard has raised more than \$30,000 for the MS Society for the gruelling bike ride from Sydney to Wollongong.

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system. Difficult to diagnose and while there are now more highly developed treatments, there is yet no cure for the illness. Curiously, twice as many women as men are diagnosed with MS, with most sufferers aged between 20-40 years. It is not a directly inherited illness, but genetic factors may make certain individuals more susceptible to the disease.

Last year's ride to the 'Gong raised \$2.022 million. This money is directed to both research and amenities designed to alleviate a range of problems for peoples with MS.



Computer Fund Benefits Four Local School

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard, recently announced the successful schools in Round Two of the Government's National Secondary School Computer Fund.

A key component of the \$2 billion Digital Education Revolution, Round Two has focused on moving all secondary schools with Year 9-12 students, to a target computer-to-student ratio of 1:2.

Four local schools were successful in Round Two of the program: Delany College, Granville; Trinity Catholic College, Auburn; Christian Community High School, Regents Park and Al Faisal College, Auburn.

Laurie Ferguson is pictured here with Paul Fensom, Principal of Trinity Catholic College, Auburn, which received 235 computers, enabling the school to reach the target ratio.

Romanians Celebrate European Spring

Sydney's Romanian community regularly hire Guildford's Campbell Hill Park for a variety of events.

One, Martisor, is held on March 1, the Beginning of the Northern Spring. Traditionally, men buy women a gift and give them a small horseshoe brooch with a red and white ribbon.

Interestingly, in line with similar Irish beliefs, four-leaf clovers are often a design for luck. Consul-General Marius Dragolea and his wife, Cornelia, were amongst the celebrants. President of the Society, Michael Maghiaru, was also in attendance.



Marius Dragolea, Consul-General of Romania, his wife, Cornelia, Laurie Ferguson and Michael Maghiaru.



Laurie Ferguson with Scout Leader Pauline Fennell congratulates a member of the troupe

Merrylands Scouts Lead the Way

In recent decades the Scouts, like many other community organisations, have faced severe challenges. However, in the past few years membership has stabilised. Against these trends the 1st/2nd Merrylands St Anne's troupe has been a good example of how to build enthusiasm and membership.

Earlier this year I was honoured to hand over a new Australian flag to Scouts Australia, who, in turn, presented me with a Scouts badge. Parents and members put the flourishing membership down to a family atmosphere, producing a tremendous support base and a range of competent leaders. Additionally, it welcomes all cultures and all backgrounds.

The group has several levels of scouting through Joys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. Its hall is based in Windsor Street, Merrylands, and there are 120 enthusiastic members. Canoeing, abseiling and camping are central activities for older members and the group hopes to finish construction of a sailing boat in the near future.

Young people interesting in joining the movement can ring Jeanie Wood on 9636 2731.

Local Film – The Real Story



Film-maker George Basha, flanked by his father, Badoui and mother, Nadra, in their Guildford home

Many local patrons would recognise and connect with locations in the blockbuster movie, "The Combination", released last month. Filmed at Granville South High School and in Guildford, it featured quite a few familiar faces from the area. The creator, writer and lead actor is local man, George Basha. As a Lebanese Australian growing up in Guildford, film-maker George experienced the good and the not-so-good of balancing two cultures. He and his young friends struggled with negative stereotyping and expectations of young people behaving badly. George drew on his own experiences and was thus well-placed to launch the concept of the film.

One well-known face in particular, Badoui Elbacha, the real-life father of George, played an interesting and rather passive role in the film – that of the main character's deceased father whose picture on the wall was deferred to with such love and reverence. Thankfully, Badoui is very much alive and well, and with his wife, Nadra, is immensely proud of their son's achievements. Nadra's role in the film as the concerned mother was sensitively handled by Daris Younane, an accomplished actor of many years standing.

Badoui's and Nadra's own love story could well transfer to the silver screen.

Soon after marrying in Zgharta, Lebanon, as teenagers, they migrated to Australia where they had seven children – six boys and one girl. George is their first-born. Settling in Guildford in the mid 1970s, Badoui worked two jobs to keep the family afloat – first at James Hardie, and later, with Hoover, for close to 30 years. He is now a part-time retiree, driving cabs on a casual basis.

Despite having been the caught up in the huge publicity surge around the film, feted at red-carpet premieres, and wined and dined by power-brokers, the couple appears nevertheless to take it all in their stride. Life goes on in Guildford.

Of course, and it goes without saying, the centre of their universe is now their five delightful grandchildren.



Volunteer's Work for the Homeless



(l-r) Laurie Ferguson, Neville Riggs, Julie Owens MP and Minister Justine Elliott

Well-known Granville identity, Neville Riggs, was recently recognised by the Commonwealth Government in regards his voluntary work for the aged and homeless.

Neville has been a volunteer with the free meal service run by the Leigh Memorial Uniting Church, Parramatta, for nearly two decades. Over the years, he has undertaken every job in their busy Macquarie Street Mission, and is currently the storeman.

After a career in the hospitality/liquor industry, Neville moved to Granville 25 years ago. As well as his work with the meals for the disadvantaged and homeless, he is caretaker for the Buffaloes Hall in Granville. He is also actively engaged with that Lodge, and runs the weekly raffles for the Social Club at the Granville Hotel, which provides an end-of-year social for older citizens.

The Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliott, personally presented this Commonwealth Award.

Laurie Ferguson's
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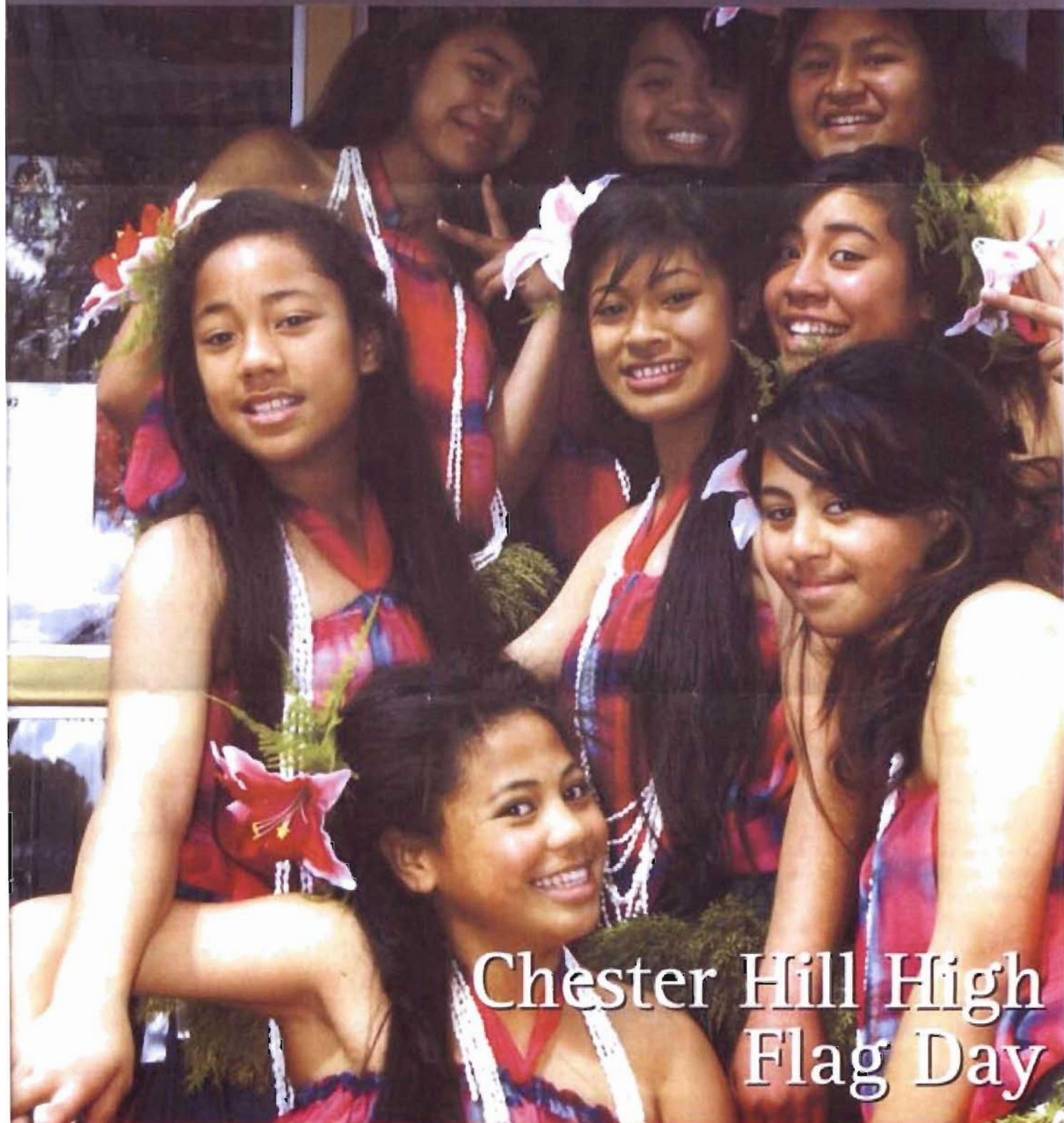


Laurie Ferguson's

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News from your Federal Member of Parliament
OCTOBER 2008



Chester Hill High Flag Day



Governor Marie Bashir And Therese Rein Are Talking About... Chester Hill High School

Some years ago former Rugby International, Nick Shehadie, husband of NSW Governor Marie Bashir, indicated that Chester Hill High was their favourite school and they loved attending its Flag Day. These certainly were timely remarks. When PM Kevin Rudd was farewelling the Pope, Her Excellency started chatting with Kevin's wife, Therese. She complained that, as she was going overseas she would miss Chester Hill's Multicultural Flag Day! This year I attended the event for the first time and can certainly see why. Principal Christine Casey can be very proud, as can the organiser of the day, Linda Field.

After the national anthem and display of Australian and Aboriginal flags, over sixty flags were paraded. These represented the presence of a student from each of those countries. The audience was then enthralled by a Happiness Program of Vietnamese dance, Hawaiian hulas, Maori haka, Indian and Cook Island dances, Arabic and Turkish folkdancing, singing, belly dancing, and even Chinese Lion dancing. All the performers and nearly all the technicians were students.

An extremely impressive and thoughtful speech was presented by Year 12 student, Grace Lwinoo. She spoke of the Karen peoples' plight in Burma, the individual suffering of another student's family, her own parents' help to Karen refugees and Australia's great acceptance of people.

Governor Marie Bashir and Nick Shehadie nailed it!



Hewitt House

Guildford's community centre conducted a late August Festival. It included exhibits of Migrant and Refugee experiences stretching back to World War II, information booths, white elephant stalls and food outlets.

Situated at 486 Guildford Road (at the intersection of Chetwynd Road) a wealth of activities are conducted there. These include the Boomers Group (women over 50 years); a supported playgroup; home maintenance classes; internet

facilities; the Granville South High School community garden; a social craft group; computer classes; yoga; a writers group, and tons more. A recent addition has been a Men's Shed and there is also another successful initiative, Over-Eaters Anonymous.

Congratulations to Janice Sharpe, Nicki Wilde, and their helpers. If you wish to be involved in any of the activities, phone Hewitt House on 9892 3462.

Cycleway Bridge Named for Local Activist

The naming of a Rydalmere bridge after the late William Ernest Brewer (1946-2004) and opening of a much awaited cycleway missing link, recognised a former Harris Park local.

Bill Brewer, a British migrant, made an enormous contribution to cycling in NSW. He was a passionate advocate for cyclists, particularly in Western Sydney, through his dedicated membership of both the Parramatta and Blacktown City Council Cycleway Committees.

Additionally, he was active in Bicycle NSW and the Western Sydney Cyclists Action Group - CAMWEST, and thus contributed to cycleway development throughout Sydney.

A strong personality and described by one admirer as an eccentric, he also assisted the Multiple Sclerosis Society, RTA Big Ride and the Cancer Council of Australia.

At the naming Councillor Maureen Walsh paid tribute to Parramatta's local Bicycle Advisory Committee and noted that an additional \$700,000 has been allocated this year for the completion of another missing link section of this cycleway, connecting Macarthur Street at Gasworks Bridge to the Charles Street ferry wharf, along the southern side of the Parramatta River foreshore.

An enthusiastic group of cyclists were at the dedication.



Laurie Ferguson is pictured against the backdrop of the Ukrainian flag.

Ukrainian Independence

I was pleased to speak to Sydney's Ukrainian diaspora at the Lidcombe Community Hall on August 24 for the 17th Anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Also in attendance was Ambassador Valentyn Adomaytis, who, as well as recounting national progress, indicated that negotiations were underway for a visit by President Viktor Yushchenko to Australia.

Ukraine is now in a wide range of international bodies ranging through the United Nations, Council of Europe, World Trade Organisation, Non Aligned Movement and the International Monetary Fund, typifying its status. With a real growth rate of 7.3% and exports of \$38.22 billion and democratic processes, it has much to admire in its new circumstances.

Our area, particularly in Lidcombe, has a residue of institutions from the strong post-World War II migration, ranging from the language school in Joseph Street, the Catholic Church, the Karpaty Credit Union, "The Free Thought" newspaper, and the Orthodox Church, Granville.



Ferguson Renews Timor Contact

Local MP, and Parliamentary Secretary, Laurie Ferguson, recently renewed contact with Timor's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao.

Laurie represented the PM, Kevin Rudd, in farewelling Prime Minister Gusmao after his official visit to Australia. He took the opportunity to show him a photograph of the day when Laurie first welcomed him to the Australian Parliament after

independence for East Timor. Laurie had been a long term campaigner against the Indonesian occupation of Timor and the policies of both the Labor and Liberal Parties.

During Mr Gusmao's trip, Timor's overtures for inclusion in the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme failed, but the country was successful in gaining increased Foreign Aid from Australia.

Federal Police Warning on 'Money Mules'

Have you ever received an online job offer where you can earn huge commissions? Or perhaps you have used online dating and are now being asked to transfer money?

While these offers might appear professional and seem plausible, you are, in fact, being recruited to launder money and become a money mule.

A money mule is someone who allows their bank account to receive stolen funds which are transferred to a designated account by using a money-remitting or wire service.

Together with the Australian Bankers' Association (ABA), the Australian Federal Police's High Tech Crime Centre and Territory Police are publicising a fact sheet to warn the public of fraudulent job offers and online dating arrangements.

Police and banks advise that if you are offered an opportunity of making easy money and the offer seems too good to be true, then it probably is!

The fact sheet advises people to be very cautious about unsolicited offers or opportunities and to never, ever give your confidential banking details to anyone. Australian banks would never ask you to email your confidential account numbers, passwords or any personal information to them.

The fact sheet is available via the website, www.bankers.asn.au or the AFP's High Tech Crime Centre website, www.ahtcc.gov.au. Or, if you don't have access to a computer, please use the freecall number, 1800 009 180 and a fact sheet will be posted to you.



Bangladesh Cricket Awards

The Bangladesh Association of NSW held its cricket awards ceremony at the Polish Club, Ashfield, in late August. In addition to a wonderful spread of Bangladeshi food there was a cultural night which included these charming children, (pictured) from the weekend Parramatta language school. They enthusiastically sang the Bangladeshi and Australian National anthems. The major regions of Bangladeshi settlement are Parramatta and Botany.

Bangladeshis are cricket fanatics and they conduct a thirteen team carnival each year in Sydney. Typically, when I asked their High Commission's Counsellor Nazrul Islam if he had played, he looked aghast at my question. Admitting that he was not a very good cricketer, he said that you would have to have been a very strange Bangladeshi indeed not to have played cricket!

Palestinian Ambassador In Guildford

The Palestinian Club, Guildford, was the venue for Sydney's main memorial service for world-renowned poet, Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008).

Visiting the electorate for the event was Palestinian Ambassador, Mr Izzat Abdulhadi. The author of 30 volumes of poetry and eight prose works, Mahmoud Darwish received a wide variety of international awards, including France's Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters, the Prince Claus Award from The Netherlands, and Lenin Peace Prize from the former Soviet Union.

Darwish was an internationalist, a severe critic of discrimination and a voice for the expelled Palestinians. In a famous quote, he stated,

"I will continue to humanise even the enemy...the first teacher who taught me Hebrew was a Jew. The first love affair in my life was with a Jewish girl. The first judge who sent me to prison was a



The late Mahmoud Darwish

Jewish woman. So from the beginning, I didn't see Jews as devils or angels but as human beings."

Darwish was also a severe critic of suicide bombers, whilst appreciating what desperation often drives some people.

Several poems are dedicated to Jewish lovers. "These poems take the side of love, not war."

Many leaders of Sydney's Palestinian community were in attendance at the event.



Valuable Asian Women Workers Group

I have been honoured to become more closely involved with the Asian Women At Work Group over recent months. They fight for the rights of women working in cleaning, clothing, restaurants, aged care and other fields identified with special exploitation.

Amongst their efforts are English classes, reaching isolated out-workers, supplying support, conducting seminars and social activities as well as referring victims to legal advice and doing casework.

Predictably due to our population patterns they have strong mutual support groups in the Auburn-Lidcombe region.

Importantly they also advocate for changes of laws to protect workers.

If you wish to contact the group their numbers are: Bankstown 9793 9708 and Cabramatta 9728 1086.



(l-r) President of the AKWA, Ms Stella Kim; Deputy Consul-General of the Republic of Korea, Mr Chi Keun Son; Laurie Ferguson MP, and Mr Keith Lee, a member of the management committee of AKWA.

Korean Group's Annual Meeting

Parramatta and Auburn are in Sydney's top ten municipalities of Korean settlement, with a total of nearly 1000 Korean-born residents between them. Koreans living in Australia increased in numbers by 35% between the 2001 and 2006 census, being especially strong in Australia's skilled migration intake. The number of Koreans living in Australia now totals 52,760.

I was thus pleased to be at the 29th AGM of the Australian-Korean Welfare Association (AKWA) at Strathfield Council. Deputy Consul-General of the Republic of Korea, Chi Keun Son, also attended. AKWA is particularly focused on aged care, involving transport, recreational and educational efforts, as well as providing meals for the elderly. Amongst Government sectors working with AKWA are Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Home & Community Care, Burwood and Strathfield Councils, and the Department of Health & Ageing.

Congratulations to President Stella Kim and her committee for their impressive efforts.

Pollies for Small Business

Laurie Ferguson has participated in this scheme, conducted by the NSW Chamber of Commerce, for some years. In 2008 it was held at Merrylands' popular Auntie Gina's Café, whose proprietor is Gina (Georgette) Ghosn.

Gina and her husband, George, also conduct a Guildford West fruit and vegetable operation. Many years ago they ran the Guildford Café, near Lazzarini's Chemist in Guildford Road.

Gina has been in the café business this time for eight years and employs about six staff. She is an environmental champion and won the *Sun Newspaper's Sustainable Business Award* this year.

If personality and thoughtfulness spell business success, Gina has it in loads.



During the day Laurie reconnected with a constant stream of Georgette's friends, plus the Zaiter, Thiha and Ghosn families, while getting a run-down on small business challenges.

Gina has been reinvigorated since the onset of the construction site nearby that has produced a stream of new customers.

Macquarie Legal Centre - New Premises



(l-r) Chair of Management Committee, Ronald Basto; Office Manager, Maria Girdler; Attorney General, the Hon Robert McClelland, and Laurie Ferguson MP.

Federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland recently opened the new premises of Macquarie Legal Centre as it celebrates its 30th year of service. The Centre provides a free legal service for disadvantaged people in Western Sydney in a wide range of areas. Amongst these is the Western Sydney Tenants Service, providing free tenancy advice to residential tenants.

WESTS Parramatta serves tenants living in the Auburn, Blacktown, Holroyd and Parramatta municipalities. They provide tenancy advice, referrals, community education, advocacy, face to face interviews by appointment, and preparation for, or representation at, the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) in some cases. WESTS Parramatta can provide free face to face or telephone interpreters via the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).

Tenancy Phone Advice

Monday 9.00am - 12.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday 9.00am - 2.00pm

Phone Advice for General Legal issues

Monday 2:00pm - 4:30pm
Thursday 2:00 - 4:30pm

Contact Details

Macquarie Legal Centre is now situated at Suite 302, Level 3, 107 Phillip St, Parramatta, near the Charles St ferry wharf.
Phone: (02) 8833 0911
Fax: (02) 8833 0900

Australian Defence Medal Recipients

Four local people recently received these awards in the presence of Major Benjamin Gill, Officer Commanding/Senior Instructor of the Combat Engineering Wing, Moorebank.



Granville resident, Paul Thistleton, recalled his 1981-1985 National Service as a gunner, having joined at the Belmore Artillery Battery. He recalls a family-like community with enthusiasm engineered by a keen commander. Well known identity, Arthur Suckling, Granville's "Quinella Man", accompanied him for the presentation.



Former local solicitor, Harley Tarrant, enjoys a high profile in NSW Rotary circles. Harley joined the Army in January, 1956, in the year's first intake. He recalls that National Service was compulsory for all healthy men in the mid 1950's when the country was coming off World War II and the Korean War. Nashos, as the enlisted were known, found the military attitude then was very serious and the training thorough. Many of the trainers were war veterans. They felt that the new recruits should be trained adequately, professionally, and hardened due to the shortfall of trained personnel who had been depleted during these conflicts.

Harley served a total of four years. After the initial 77 days basic training, he presented himself in January 1957 for a three week parade. These occurred at different intervals throughout the year to refresh the recruits' knowledge and to undertake different camp training.

He spent the majority of his army service stationed at South Head Psychology Unit. This involved interviewing and testing volunteer army servicemen.

Cecil (Bobby) Phillips doubles up as treasurer at the very successful Guildford Bowling and Recreation Club. He joined the army in 1963 aged 16 years and 9 months, when the legal age for joining was 17 years. Officials, however, turned a blind eye, considering how keen he was. Bobby was first stationed at Eastern Command Personnel Depot as a caterer.

He joined up to support his young wife, Julie, who was pregnant. He recalls that it was unfortunate that a short time later he was drafted to fight in Vietnam. Bobby completed two tours of Vietnam, first in 1966-67, when he worked with the 17th Construction Squadron, and later, 1967-68, when he joined the First Australian Reinforcement Unit.

Bobby came home in 1969. On a personal level, he said that he has no pleasant Vietnam memories, and still carries the scars till this very day, choosing to forget his time there.

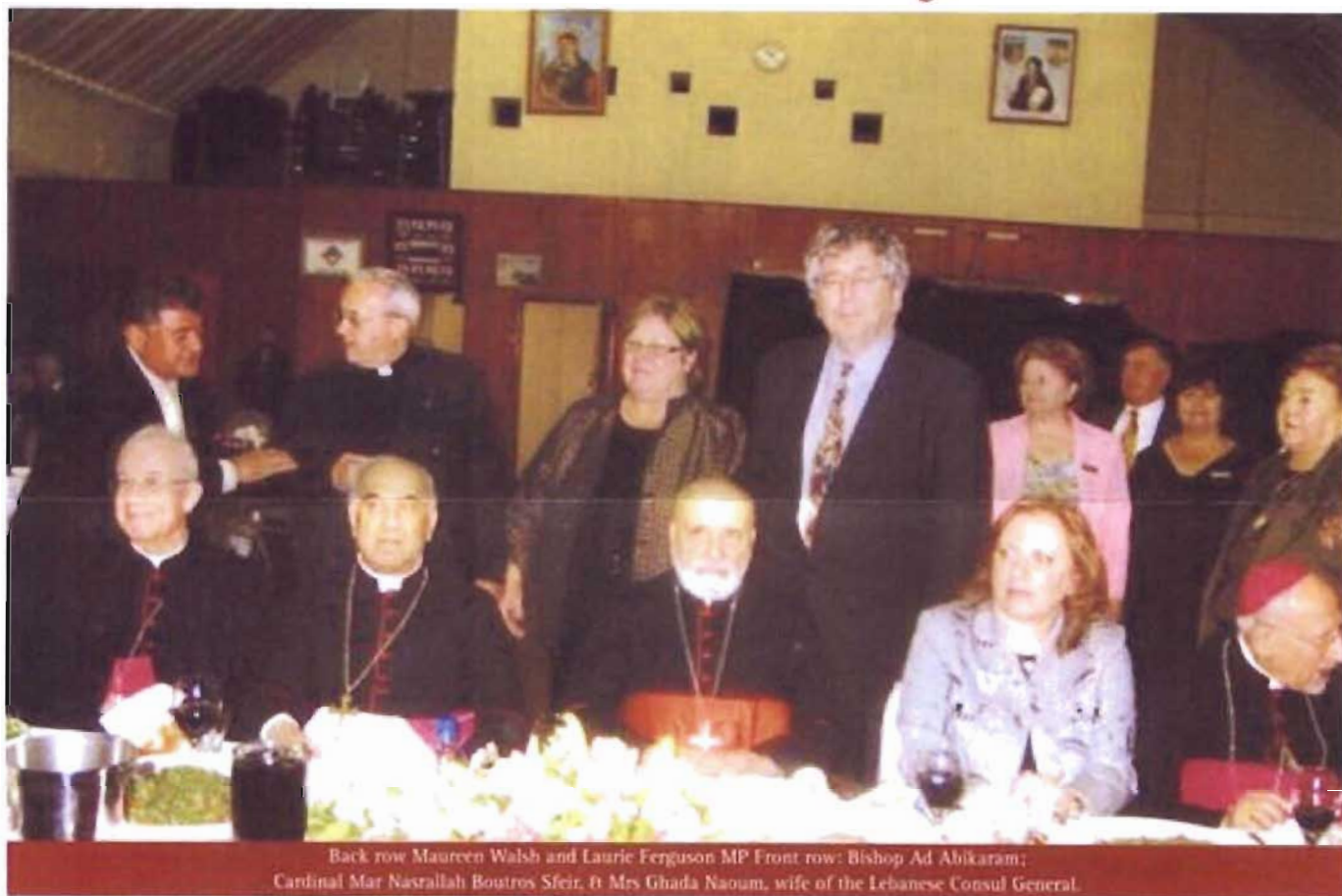


Andrea Beaty from Palermo, Homebush Bay, was a chef in the Australian Navy from 1973-1977. A highlight was arriving in Darwin after Cyclone Tracy. She fondly recalls the way Defence Personnel were welcomed everywhere by grateful residents.

Andrea, born in Adelaide, says she joined the Navy to "see the world", only to have the ambition thwarted when the Navy soon after banned women going overseas. However in later life she had many opportunities to travel. Andrea has worked for many years in the media sector.

Likes attract, and her partner, John Moverley, was in the British Navy for 20 years. He commenced as an apprentice technician before becoming a weapons equipment officer and finishing as a Lieutenant Commander. After the Medal presentation in Laurie Ferguson's electorate office, John was off to Scotland in what could be his last veterans rugby foray. John has stayed in the military sector, currently being employed by Thales at Rydalmere, a military weapons manufacturer.

Maronite Patriarch In Granville for World Youth Day



Back row Maureen Walsh and Laurie Ferguson MP Front row: Bishop Ad Abikaram; Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, & Mrs Ghada Naoum, wife of the Lebanese Consul General.

Many Catholic religious leaders visited Australia during World Youth Day festivities. Particularly pleasing to many Granville residents was the presence of the Patriarch of the Lebanese Maronites, His Eminence Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East.

On July 15, I was pleased to attend an event at the Australian Blouza Association Hall in Blaxcell Street. It should be said that the faithful restoration of this former cinema is a credit to the members of the Australian Blouza Association who have a heavy presence in Granville, Guildford and Merrylands.

The Patriarch was entertained by an impressive dance performance by students of Our Lady of Lebanon, Harris Park. The students were trained by Lebanese dancing instructor, Eman Shouman, who was in Australia for the Maronite DB Festival and World Youth Day.

Again, on a local level - well known community worker Therese Harb organised a seminar for visiting Lebanese Maronites during World Youth Day events. It was addressed by Department of Immigration officers and sought to convey the rules and processes of our system. The venue was St. Charbels Church Hall, Punchbowl.

There, amongst attendees, I met Granville residents, Elias and Jamileh Fakri, and their young children. Jamileh's involvement in WYD began through her voluntary help for visiting pilgrims. Whilst Australia has significant numbers of citizens of Lebanese extraction, the overwhelming majority come from northern villages. Thus, whilst some family support was here, those from around Junieh, on Beirut's outskirts, welcomed a friendly hand during the visit and people such as Jamilah are to be commended.

Laurie Meets Textile Clothing and Footwear Workers

A delegation of workers from this industry lead by YCF Union officials Hung Dinh Nguyen and Hanisha McNabb visited Canberra recently. They raised the point that a high percentage of this industry's workers are in the Fairfield, Parramatta, and Auburn areas.

Amongst other issues discussed were concerns about any further tariff reductions because of the unfair competition Australian workers faced from countries with low wages and poor working conditions. Additional matters brought up were the need for an Industry Innovation Council, further monies for the SAP and SID retraining schemes, Government preference for buying Australian products, and guarantees of an ethical industry by strong Government action against garage, backroom slave labour in Australia.

Auburn's Percy Goodwin Laid to Rest

A campaign for recognition of his war service by the family of Percy Roy Hugh Goodwin, who died on 16 December, 1931, culminated in a ceremony at Rookwood Cemetery on August 22. His grandson, Graeme Day, led family members to right a wrong.

Percy, who was working for an Auburn draper, rushed to enlist for World War I in the 1st Division. The family resided in Helena Street for many years. He landed at Gallipoli on the first day and was amongst the last to depart. Called "Old Dad," as he was 31 years old, he later served in the Somme. A diary has now been transcribed.



When he died, due to a doctor's wish not to further burden the family at Christmas, a post-mortem was not done. His death was put down to "chest pain". The family were refused both war benefits and a war grave. Despite the doctor later giving evidence in hearings between 1932 and 1934 that it was ischaemic heart disease, the decision was not reversed on technicalities.

Percy's wife, Florence (Gar) and her children, were forced to survive on E2 a week and had understandable frustration with this decision.

Campaigning, the family has now persuaded Veterans' Affairs to overturn the verdict. They also won a compromise that Percy's two battalions, and not just one - the 1st and 45th - could be inscribed on the war grave.

Great grandson, Brett Stafford, formerly of Merrylands, gave a moving address on ANZACs and how it was personalised in Percy's life.

Graeme Day is pictured with Laurie Ferguson, laying a wreath at the grave of his grandfather.

Local Youth Inspires



I recently attended a presentation connected with the Dare Charity established by Brett Murray. It involved predominantly Pacific Island youth from Macquarie Fields and young Arabic people from Auburn.

Financed by the Department of Immigration, the main event was a four-day camp, with involvement by NSW Police and ICRA, a local youth welfare group.

Twenty youths sought to understand cultural and national differences and to build relationships. There will be a six month follow-up of the youth excursion. Previous experience has shown a high success rate in discouraging youth from anti-social activities, increasing school completion and inspiring people to pursue careers.

I was especially impressed by Homebush Boys student and Auburn local, Radwan el-Helou. A school prefect, veteran of the Auburn Youth Advisory Committee and Model UN National Debating, he has set his sights on the \$60,000 Co-Op four year scholarship as a stepping stone for a career as a Project Manager in the building sector. The scholarship requires community activity as well as a high university entry score and Radwan has engaged in stacks of it!



Laurie Ferguson's
Reid
REPORT

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