



Laurie Ferguson's Reid REPORT

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News from your Federal Member of Parliament
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009



Cambodian Buddhist Stupa Launched

There was a great sense of fulfilment for Sydney's Cambodian Buddhist community when their ornate Stupa was recently inaugurated near the Bonnyrigg temple after years of fundraising. Australia's 24,000-strong Cambodian community is heavily concentrated in the Fairfield municipality, so it is in close proximity.

The Chairman, Mr Kim Hoe Lim, impressed the audience with a total expose of every cost of the project down to how much the door cost! Many people would like business and governments to be so fully accountable for their budgets.

The Stupa follows two decades of struggle to provide a temple, function room, Library and monks' residence. Stupas are utilised to store Buddhist holy relics. Khmer culture is famed for its court dancing and the day was no exception, with performances from the very youthful Angkor Dance Group.



The late Noel Maybon is pictured here with Laurie Ferguson.

Vale Noel Maybon Of Dundas

Our community and Dundas recently lost a valued resident. Noel Maybon was a founding member and president of the Dundas Bushcare Committee Group (Vineyard Creek Reserve), and worked tirelessly to maintain and conserve the original character of the area.

Noel had a wry, humorous air, and people immediately warmed to him. He was held in great regard by his fellow members of the bushcare group. Parramatta Councillor John Chedid personally nominated Noel for a Volunteer's Certificate in recognition of his contribution to the area. I was very pleased to present this to Noel at a morning tea at Merrylands RSL in late October. He was accompanied by his wife, Enid, who has been most supportive of Noel's community involvement. Sadly, and very suddenly, Noel died the following week, typically while working in the Reserve.

In accord with Councillor John Chedid's proposal, I have joined with him in exhorting Parramatta City Council to strike a plaque in memory of Noel Maybon. Positioned within the Vineyard Creek Reserve, it would fittingly serve as a lasting dedication to this man's endeavours.

Labor Swings Balance To Workers

"The Australian", 26/11/2008

A central issue at the last election was the call for Labor to reverse the Howard Liberal Government's determined massive reduction of Australian workers' wages and conditions. Unions also campaigned to reintroduce some of their rights to fight for workers.

As the newspaper noted, Labor and Kevin Rudd have delivered. In introducing the legislation, Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard indicated that the major elements would be:

- a fair and comprehensive safety net of ten minimum employment conditions that cannot be stripped away;
- insistence upon bargaining in good faith at the enterprise level, to maximise workplace cooperation, improve economic productivity and create rising prosperity;

- protections from unfair dismissal for all employees after a stipulated probationary period.
- the right to be represented in the workplace.
- an annual minimum wages review
- special provisions to protect out-workers
- a hands on effort by Fair Work Australia to help enterprises bargaining for low paid workers in areas such as child care, cleaning, community work and security.

The Canberra Times commented, "the Bill represents a substantial step forward in restoring balance on the workplace."

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Bocce At Guildford

Bocce (pronounced bot-chee) for the Italians, or boules in France, is one of the worlds oldest games. It resembles lawn bowls, but may derive from the Pharaohs in Egypt.

Sir Francis Drake was playing in Plymouth when he refused to be interrupted for the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Today, France, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia have well over a million bocce players throughout villages and towns. Recently China has taken out the world juniors, women's and the men's competitions.

Australia was introduced to bocce in the early 1900s. However, post war migration from Europe promoted it from a backyard, social club game to a competitive sport with annual Australian championships for juniors, men and women.

Bocce is played between two players in a singles and up to four for a team. The player aims to place the ball near the jack. The opponent in turn then attempts to place his bowl nearer to the jack, which may involve displacing the opposition's bowl. The bowl may be thrown through the air from a run, or bowled along the ground.

The game starts with the teams tossing a coin and the winner bowling the jack into the five metre rectangle and then playing the first bowl. The team with a bowl closest to the jack has the advantage (holds the point) and their opponents are committed to continue bowling until they either gain the point or have used all their bowls.

Then the score is taken. The team with the bowl closest to the jack gains one point and a point each for any other bowl closer than the opponents. The game is continued alternating from end to end until one team reaches 13 points.

If playing a Singles competition both players have four bowls each. In doubles each player has three bowls each. In triples or quadretta each player has two bowls each.

Sets of boules/bocce gear are now available at Laurie Ferguson's office with a deposit of \$50 for use. Rule books are also available.

Telephone 9637 4713, 9637 4714.



Pictured l-r are Rt Reverend Peter Tasker, Bishop of Georges River Region; Laurie Ferguson; Ian Jackson, Director, Community Care Division; Peter Kell, CEO, Anglicare; Christine Ratnasingham, Manager, Migrant & Refugee Services.

Official Opening Of Anglicare Sydney's Migrant And Refugee Services Department

In late 2008, ANGLICARE Sydney's Migrant and Refugee Services Department was officially opened at Parramatta, in the Reid electorate. The celebrations were lively, with local Indigenous Elder, Uncle Greg Simms, conducting the welcome to country followed by a cultural performance from Sudanese musicians Gaklan Abdalla on vocals and Mary Mamour playing the drum and on vocals.

ANGLICARE Sydney has been involved in providing a range of services for migrants and refugees dating back over 100 years. Existing services are: ESL classes across the Sydney metropolitan and Illawarra regions, Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Services (IHSS) for rural NSW, a Small and Emerging Communities Program and the Southern Sudanese Project. All of these services have now been brought together at ANGLICARE offices to form the Migrant and Refugee Services Department.

ANGLICARE Sydney's CEO, Peter Kell, says the combined services will better assist our culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

"This is an exciting development for ANGLICARE, bringing together a diverse group of highly experienced practitioners who collectively have many years of

experience working with migrant and refugee communities, many of whom have once been migrants or refugees themselves."

Peter Kell and Laurie Ferguson, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, presented addresses during the formal part of the opening, and Bishop Peter Tasker of Georges River Region provided the Department with a dedication.

The ceremony closed with the cutting of a cake decorated with an image of the world. There were approximately 80 guests, which included representatives from Federal and State Government agencies, community agencies, volunteers and elders and members from a range of community groups from countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Guests were then invited to stay for morning tea and to try out some of the cuisine from Asia, India and Africa.

It is great that this facility is being located at an accessible site and doubly impressive that so many of Sydney's Anglican parishes are involved with voluntary English teaching. Manager Christine Ratnasingham and her team are experienced, dedicated and perceptive about the relevant issues.



Brian O'Connor accepting the Ground of the Year 06-07 Award

Auburn Cricket Club – Proud And Successful

On 1st January 1949 Auburn and Lidcombe boroughs amalgamated. There was a strong feeling that there should be a high level team in Sydney turf pitch cricket competition. Many demobbed servicemen were seeking opportunities to return to normalcy and cricket was a preferred pastime.

In 1947 the Council with the support of J.T. Lang, MP for Auburn, obtained £500 for five acres of land once, part of the council tip. This is now Mona Park. Initially the oval ran east to west and was used for soccer.

In 1949 players headed by Captain Don Perkins, a Rat of Tobruk who retained his wartime rank and Maurice 'Mo' Parry met with the NSW Cricket Association. They were advised that if Auburn had a suitable ground with a turf pitch they could have a team in the Municipal and Shire competition.

Money from the Combined Sports Committee and the Auburn-Lidcombe Municipal Council underwrote the creation of a quality cricket venue. The ground was reorientated north-south with a turf wicket.

Captain Perkins, Mo Parry and his brother George formed the Auburn Lidcombe District Cricket Club. They recruited a quality team from grade and local junior clubs. The memorial gates at the corner of Chisholm Road and Mona Street are called after Mo.

The first match was in September 1951. The highly competitive squad came third that season. The club won its initial first grade Premiership in 1953-54. Until the late sixties, the Club was one of the dominant clubs winning four more first grade Premierships, and making the semi-finals every season up until the 1966-1967 seasons.

The club's fortunes have waxed and waned over the decades. In the early nineties the club was struggling competitively and Club Secretary, Michael Wood instituted a long-range plan to make the now Auburn District Cricket Club not only highly competitive but sustainable for long term survival.

He ensured that the club represented the evolving local ethnic cultures groups especially those without a cricket culture. Today there is a United Nations feel of the club. In recent seasons the club has featured players with homelands including: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Hungary, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, India, Serbia, Syria, Thailand.

The club truly represents our diverse community. Black African players seamlessly form close team bonds with Lebanese, Thai and Indian players. The many different cultures and religious

observances are respected, making players feel comfortably 'at home' while playing cricket.

In 2007 the large oval was renamed after George Parry. He is widely regarded as the greatest all-round cricketer in the club and has been inducted into the ranks of the Legends of Shires Cricket.

The second oval honours David Tribolet who rose to the highest levels of cricket administration, including fifty years in the management of the club.

The Club Champions receive the David Tribolet Trophy which the club won last season and is keen to retain. This is one of the great prizes in Sydney Shires cricket.

The George Parry Oval won the Ground of the Year Award twice since its inception six seasons ago. The two ovals are widely regarded as amongst of the finest club cricket venues in Sydney club cricket. A large number of prestigious representative matches are hosted at the ground including the annual Emerging Blues matches; Australian Under-17 and Under-19 championships women's 1st grade Twenty-20 tournament, the NSW State Challenge Cup Match, the Combined AW Green Shield City vs. Country matches. It is also a major venue for Grand Final matches.



Youth Activism

In late 2008 I met with a delegation of school and university students from Vision Generation, World Vision Australia's youth movement. As part of the Trek Against Trafficking, and Word Vision's Don't Trade Lives campaign, the delegates had commenced a post card promotion. This was designed to sign up the Australian chocolate industry to stop sourcing materials from West Africa where 300, 000 children work sometimes under slave like conditions, accompanied by the use of hazardous pesticides and chemicals. Human trafficking generates \$7 billion a year, constituting the third largest crime after drugs and illegal arms sales.

Additionally, the delegation was also involved in a choreographed visual presentation, with music and dance, where youth, dressed as chocolate bars, drove the slaves to highlight the incidence of slavery and exploitation in the chocolate industry.

It was inspiring to see such activity.

For more information about the Don't Trade Lives campaign, visit www.donttradelives.com or contact Matthew Darvas, Trek Against Trafficking State Co-ordinator, Vision Generation NSW/ACT via email at matthew.darvas@vgen.org

Turkish Consul says...Go the Eels!



Sydney's Consul General to Turkey, Renan Sekiroglu, asked me some time ago to try to get him a Parramatta Eels tie. He had come to admire the Eels through watching television, particularly because his soccer team – Istanbul's famous Fenerbahce – wore the same blue and yellow.

At Turkey's 8th Anniversary of the Republic, I presented him with the tie.

He proudly proclaimed, "I am an Eel, I feel part of Australia!"

Parramatta would like to emulate Fenerbahse's success. Established in 1907, its ground is one of Europe's elite stadium, has an average attendance of 45,000 and has won the Turkish premiership 20 times.

Thanks to Parramatta League's president, Alan Overton, who donated the tie..

Community Heritage Grant for Australian Tennis



The Australian Tennis Museum established in 1983 is situated at the Sydney International Tennis Centre, Rod Laver Drive within the Sydney Olympic precinct. These premises were opened in 2003.

The street's name brings back visions of the golden years- Smith, Laver, Hoad, Rosewall, Goolagong, Newcombe, etc. Of local interest, Australian hero Harry Hopman was a student at Rosehill Public School. In earlier years there were tennis courts in backyards throughout our suburbs. Where an aerial view today would as often find swimming pools, then it was the clay and grass of weekend tennis.

The 2008 Community Heritage Grants involved money for 70 groups around the country. There were 265 applications and the process was overseen by the National Library. Three recipients are based in Reid – the Tennis Museum, Anglican section of the Rookwood Cemetery, and the Boys Scout Headquarters.

Amongst aspects funded in these grants are significance surveys, preservation needs assessment, conservation training workshops, digitisation and purchasing archival – quality storage materials or environmental equipment. Opening hours for the Tennis Museum are currently limited to Tuesdays during school holidays from 10.00 am to 4.00pm. However tours can be arranged. The phone number is 9024 7629. The Tennis Museum will also be opened during the NSW Medibank International Tennis Open from January 11th to January 17th, 2009. Talking of tennis don't forget the Byrnes Street Tennis Complex in South Granville. Phone 9682 1490 for bookings

Presentation To Volunteers

Merrylands RSL put on a lavish morning tea as a forerunner to a presentation of certificates to volunteers in our community. Laurie Ferguson had received numerous nominations for these valued members of our community and the organised forum was a fitting recognition of their endeavours.

Amongst the attendees were:



Laurie Ferguson with Thelma Murray

Thelma Murray, an admirable 80 year old, who is a volunteer for St Vincent de Paul, Parramatta law courts and a bingo organiser at Parramatta Town Hall;

Anton (Tony) Broschofski of Berala, has been a driver for Meals on Wheels twice a week, for a commendable ten years;

Lech and Elaine Gade of Dundas, are active in St Vincent de Paul and St Mary's Church, Rydalmere;

Kevin Horne has been president of the Jones Park Committee for 20 years, overseeing maintenance and hire of the five playing fields, three halls and croquet court. Additionally, he is a teacher at the Holroyd Seniors Computer Club, a Support Person for Juvenile in Police Custody for Merrylands Police, and a member of the Holroyd Council Community Safety Committee;

Eunice Reid of Granville, has been teaching scripture at Granville East Public School for a record 25 years;

Mei Ling and Jenny Thurlow head Neighbour Aid, a group with old-fashioned aims – helping the elderly in their own homes, people who are isolated or disabled;

The late Noel Maybon, who sadly died one week after the presentation. Mr Maybon was a member and president of the Dundas BushCare Committee and a tireless worker to maintain and conserve the original character of the Vineyard Creek Reserve;

Dundas couple, Enzo and Shauna Forlani, who are integral members of the Dundas BushCare Committee;

Another double from Dundas, **Ken and Gloria James**, share the BushCare work with their neighbours and are selfless in the personal time they devote to the project;



Laurie Ferguson with Daphne Wiles

Daphne Wiles, well-known in history circles for her unstinting dedication to the Granville Historical Society;

Ruben and Cen Amores, for their vigorous efforts in Sydney's Filipino community;

The youngest volunteer nominated was **Antonio Bifulco**, a qualified Auswim instructor. For several years Antonio has been teaching children and adults how to swim at Granville Pool throughout summer and winter.

Neighbour Aid

If Council and community are the body, Neighbour Aid is the working arms and legs, visiting and caring for the often silent residents. Volunteers probably visit someone in your street.

In the past our neighbours talked over the back fence, and through

the local grape vine, and could hear of another's need. Today's suburbs are no less caring, but times change. People live at a frantic pace. We work more, move more and often lack traditional family supports.

I decided to take action. I rang Council and founded Neighbour Aid. All it took was a simple but effective training day. Soon I was visiting a local resident, who at 90 years, managed well alone, but was stuck for just one afternoon of shopping. That was a few years ago. Now it is a delight to visit and bring a sense of meaning to my otherwise self involved life. I get as much, if not more out of Neighbour Aid, as I could ever give. There are social outings, and training days for volunteers. I even get a generous petrol allowance!

I have never been pressured to do more than I can. One hour a week or a month, it is totally up to you. They match you carefully, based on likes and skills. You may enjoy teaching someone to cook a few dishes, or help a recent immigrant with English. Perhaps you could take out a guide dog, with their owner, for a well deserved play in the park.

Prove that you do care, prove that there is hope. Now you know how much we need you, you will rush the phones with enquiries, and prove that our streets still do have a heart.

Call Neighbour Aid - Mei 98065123, Sandra 98065122 or Victoria 98065753.



Author of this article and Neighbour Aid Advocate, Jennifer Thurlow.

Ibis Population

In December the Australian Museum sought help to identify the main populations of Australian white ibises.

Needing to be near water to breed, the ibis have taken over ponds and creeks in parks and established nesting colonies in palm trees near waterways in major cities. Here they can make themselves very unpopular, messing up the waterways (grass with their faeces,) tipping over rubbish bins and cadging food from picnickers.

2002 was a critical year, being the first big colony set up in the Sydney suburb of Bankstown and causing anxiety with the local community.

By 2003, up to 1000 ibis were breeding in Bankstown, according to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. It estimated the colony was the largest outside the Macquarie Marshes, their natural breeding wetland in inland NSW.

City councils are under pressure to do something, so eradication programs have been carried out in several nesting sites. In Centennial Park, a once large population of about 1500 birds has been greatly reduced by removing nesting vegetation, mainly palms from islands in the ponds. Similarly, a colony at Cabramatta Creek in south western Sydney was significantly reduced using the egg oil technique.

The Museum says the biggest white ibis concentrations are in the nation's south-east. "They used to occur in much larger numbers in the inland wetlands of New South Wales, south-west Queensland and Victoria - what you'd classify as the Murray-Darling Basin," John Martin says. John is associated with another project to band ibis and observe their movements.

All banded ibis have been fitted with a numbered metal band on their right leg (above or below the "knee" joint.) Additionally birds are fitted with a site-specific colour band on the other joint of their right leg which allows the banding location of a bird to be quickly determined.

Lastly some have been banded with two colours on the lower left leg, for easy identification of individual birds without having to read the numbers on the band. There are eleven colours - red, orange, pink blue, pale green, yellow, dark green, white, black and purple. Please report all observation of banded white ibis to John Martin (0439 876 086, john.martin@austmus.gov.au)

"They're there in much smaller numbers now because of the lack of suitable habitat. Whereas in the city, there's essentially permanent water, abundant food and also abundant habitat," Martin said.



Five Local Students Honoured

I recently had the opportunity to award the 2007 Australian Student Prize to five local students. Four were educated at James Ruse High School and the other, Tina Hu, at Sydney Girls High.

They have undertaken a variety of studies. Three, Difei Deng, Tina Hu and Roslyn Go, are at the University of NSW, respectively, undertaking Medicine, Commerce-Law and Optometry. Meanwhile, Liya Xu, formerly of Westmead, is pursuing studies in Commerce-Law at the University of Sydney. Roslyn is a Dundas resident.

Pradyumna Herle, has received a scholarship to undertake Medicine studies at Melbourne University and hails from Westmead.

Newington and the Olympic precinct is the home of Tina Hu. Our area has lost Liya Xu, who has moved to South Hurstville.

It is inspiring to see the determination of these students and their success. Their parents have undertaken a variety of occupations, including chef, casino croupier, factory owner, university researcher, and cleaner, to assist their children, in many cases involving years of sacrifice. One is enthused that such talent and endeavour lives in our area.

The students also testify to the strength and resilience of our public education system, despite the denigration of some self-opinionated media commentators.

Campbell Hill Pioneer Reserve



This park, a jewel in the suburbs of Western Sydney, was known as Back Reserve for many years. In September, 1913, Danish couple, Joseph Back (formerly Bach) and his wife Astrid Holdorff, arrived in Sydney on the SS Marathon. They went on to have six children, 17 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and numerous great-great-grandchildren.

Around 1915 the couple settled on a poultry farm at Campbell Hill Rd, Old Guildford, and raised their family. Their property formed part of what is now known as the Campbell Hill Pioneer Reserve. Astrid died in 1943 and shortly after Joseph sold the farm to live with his eldest daughter in Carlton. He died in 1962.

Campbell Hill Pioneer Reserve is supervised by an active management

committee comprising local residents and its convenor, Laurie Ferguson.

The Park has undergone a beautification process over the years. There are two main pergolas, (picnic shelters) for hire, which have efficient barbecues, electricity and are in close proximity to one of the best child playgrounds in Sydney. Additionally, there is a string of smaller pergolas, which are not for hire, for a first-in basis. A well-stocked kiosk keeps a good supply of drinks, icecreams and confectionary on weekends. Hire of the facilities can be arranged through Laurie Ferguson's office - 9637 4713.

All money raised through the hire arrangements is ploughed back into the improvements and upgrades of the Park.

Afghan Parliamentary Delegation

Australia has a strong interest in resisting Taliban fascism in Afghanistan with 1000 troops currently there. We are also keen to widen access to education, most particularly for women and young girls. Our efforts also encompass initiatives to build Parliamentary institutions, despite obvious challenges to the development of democracy.

One effort is by our Department of Foreign Affairs' sponsorship of visitors to show them how our system works. As representative of an area with many Afghan residents, I was pleased to meet a recent delegation in Canberra. There were eight parliamentarians from both of houses of Parliament including two women. Amongst their backgrounds were a number who had led Mujahaddin militias, a school principal, businessman and a doctor.

Typifying ingenuity I had an interview with Mrs Fariba Rahimi, a local resident Afghan refugee TAFE teacher and business proprietor later that week in my office. I told her that the delegation was visiting Sydney but I didn't have their schedule. Half an hour later she rang to say she was having a meal with them in Auburn!

Have You Made a Will?

Merrylands solicitor, Shaun Mulholland, has offered his services to compose Wills for pensioners and low-income seniors and will conduct interviews at

24 Rita St, Merrylands. However, people need to provide their own transport. Alternatively, if the person requires a house-call, Mr Mulholland would request that transport be provided for him to visit them.

Wills must be signed in the presence of two people, neither of whom is married to a beneficiary. This can be arranged after the first interview.

Shaun Mulholland can be contacted on 9635 6861 and 0447 121 212.



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