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NEWS 43

We are angry that this monstrous unwanted shopping mall development is being thrust upon us. - Stephen Lightfoot

Caring Australians cannot stand by and allow this cruelty to continue. - Narelle Ryan

City Council replies

IN response to "Questions for Clover" (*Courier*, October 31), the City takes the safety of residents and visitors extremely seriously. That's why we are working closely with the NSW Police Force and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to make all intersections as safe as possible.

We work closely with RMS on the routes and designs of all our cycleways. RMS is responsible for setting speed limits on all NSW roads, not the City of Sydney.

NSW Police Force requested information about the specific markings on the Bourke St cycleway at the intersection with Harmer St and this has been provided.

The triangular signs on Bourke St cycleway alert cyclists of the need for caution and to slow down in that area, much the same as a give way sign. They are part of a new intersection design that was introduced in liaison with RMS.

The City works hard to educate all road-users on the need to co-exist safely through its StreetShare program, which aims to help everyone who uses our streets - whether by car, bike or foot - to have a safe and enjoyable trip.

Bike-riders need to obey the road rules like every other user. This means stopping at red lights, giving way when required, providing clear signalling, and safe lane changing.

TERRY-LEE WILLIAMS
Executive manager
City Access and Transport
City of Sydney

Facts on the centre

"NEW centre open for fun" (*Courier*, October 31) states that the "controversial" Bondi Junction childcare centre "is three storeys high after residents opposed the original four-storey design". This is inaccurate.



There's another side to this childcare centre, writes Frank Cahill.

First, the use of the site for childcare, which dates back to the mid-1980s, was never controversial, except that the site was purchased by council in the 1980s to expand Clementson Park. What was controversial was the height and bulk of the building and the failure of council to engage in early and meaningful consultation with residents most affected by the development. Council's own written policy in place at the time identified the need for proper consultation at the project formulation stage. This did not occur.

Second, notices issued by council when the DA was exhibited correctly described the development as a three-storey childcare centre plus basement. This made it a four-level structure - a large underground basement extending from Lawson St to Clementson Park and three levels above ground. There was no reduction in the number of levels as reported in the article.

This matter is now ancient history and I wish the staff and parents who will use the facility well. But as the neighbour immediately to the

south, it comes at a high cost to me through the loss of all winter sun to my north-facing rooms; substantial loss of light to those rooms because of the height and proximity of the building, stripping tens of thousands of dollars from the value of my property; higher energy costs and other unresolved issues including damage to my property from the demolition and construction works. I believe anyone in my situation would feel justifiably upset about the impact of this development for which council was both the applicant and the determining authority.

FRANK CAHILL
Bondi Junction

Mood in Bronte

I WAS disappointed with your report on Waverley Council's public consultation meeting about the future of "Bronte Village" (*Courier*, October 31). Your report gave no description of what occurred. There were, as you reported, more than 300 residents in attendance.

What you didn't report was the mood of those present and the

manner in which the meeting was conducted. Although the council was keen to discuss the whole strip at the east end of Macpherson St, the residents wanted to focus on the proposed over-development of the Bronte RSL. The mood of the vast majority was anger. We are angry that this monstrous unwanted shopping mall development is being thrust upon us with no regard to the many negative impacts it will have on our quiet, beachside suburb.

The meeting itself quickly descended into chaos, with the council unprepared for the number of concerned residents who attended and unable to answer many of the questions about the proposed RSL over-development. It was clear to anyone in attendance that the residents in Bronte do not want this current proposal for the RSL and will fight to ensure a more appropriate redevelopment takes place.

STEPHEN LIGHTFOOT
Bronte

Stop the slaughter

FOUR Corners showed horrendous footage of the slaughter of 21,000 live export sheep savagely butchered in Pakistan with many half-killed and buried alive in pits.

Australian government officials confirmed they cannot guarantee similar incidents of such brutality can be avoided in any of the live export markets.

This cruel trade must end now. Re-open the abattoirs and only export processed Australian meat. Australian animals deserve better and Australians cannot stand by and allow this cruelty to continue.

NARELLE RYAN
Woollahra

Great service report

ON immigrating to Sydney in July

we realised our South African driver licences were not acceptable and we had to first get our learner licences, which we did. Then we had to get through the driver licence tests.

We had been recommended to deal with driving instructor Mr Lynton Goldstein, who was extremely knowledgeable and a wonderful instructor.

He guided my husband before he took his test and passed. I had a few extra lessons before I took mine. He also guided my daughter-in-law before her test, which she passed.

He was helpful and kept a record of the way I drove and where I had to improve; he never minded going over and over what had to be done for me to improve.

He made me confident and thoroughly aware of the rules of the road, what to expect when driving and to always be alert.

I finally took my test and he was the one who took me to the registry and again before the test he made sure I was adequately prepared. I passed and every day since then I remind myself when I am on the road to be courteous, careful and keep a watchful eye on traffic.

Thank you Lynton, we will certainly recommend you to people who have to take a driving test.

MIKE AND CONNIE SHER
Bondi

FOR THE RECORD

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WENTWORTH COURIER, Wednesday, November 14, 2012 43