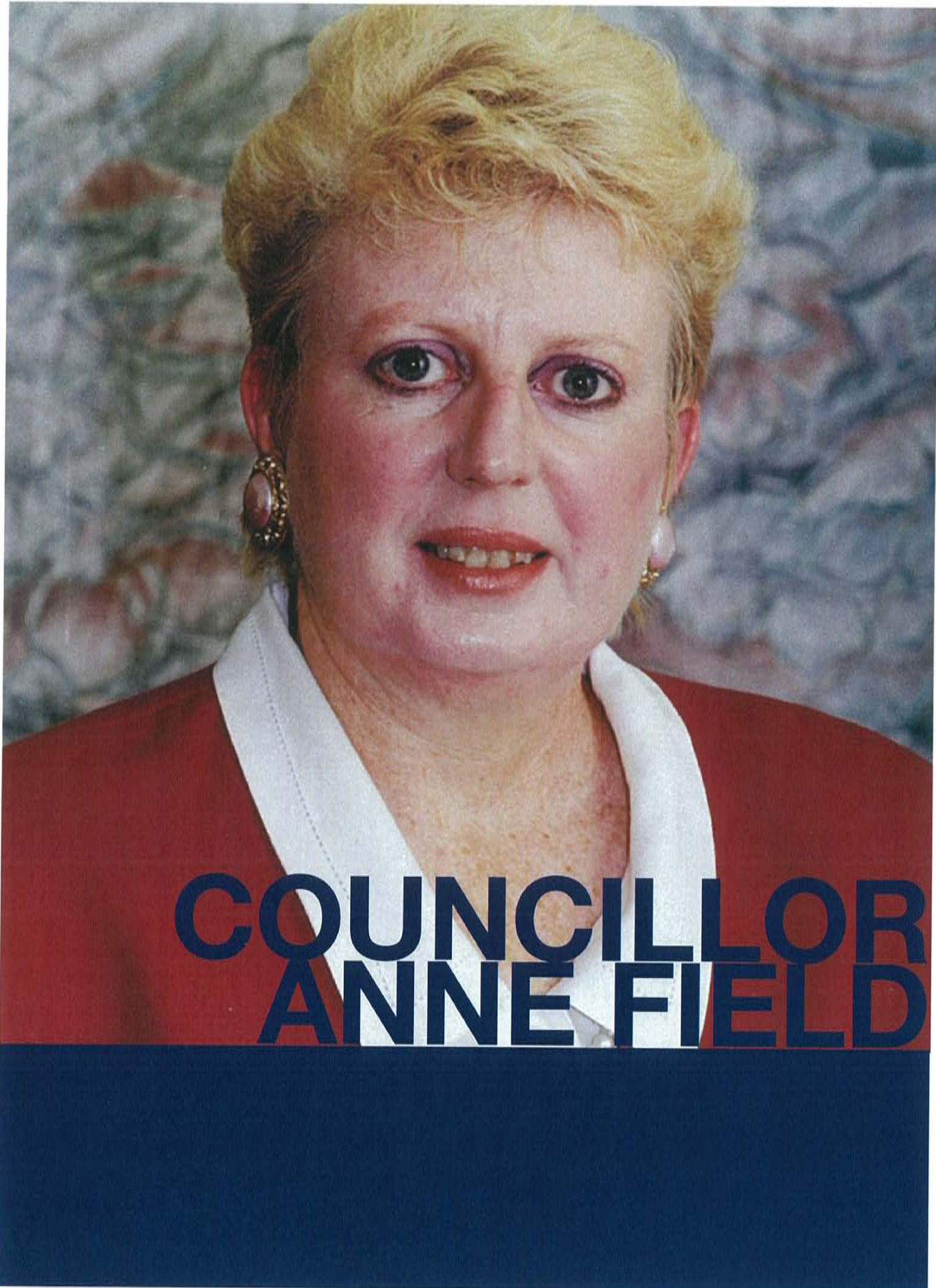


*A History of the
Political Career of the
Former Councillor
Anne Field*

By Nicole Ng and Scarlet Ng



**COUNCILLOR
ANNE FIELD**

Cover Photo: Official Rockdale Council Photo (1991)

Summary

After conducting an interview with former Councillor Ann Field, I have come to realise the immense and diverse nature of her involvement in the local community. She first served as a Councillor at Rockdale City Council (1991-1999) and subsequently moved to Kogarah Council (1999-2008). Her positions as an Alderman and later as a Councillor on the Rockdale City Council, exemplify her extensive commitments in the community. She continues this involvement today through clubs including the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) – Sydney Club and the service organisation, Rotary International.

In 2000, her enormous contributions to her local area were recognised and she was presented with the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Council (SSROC) Award for her work in the heritage field. She was also awarded the Endna Ryan Award 2006, Government category (which recognises feminist activity in the government sphere).

I have enclosed a collection of newspaper articles from a variety of sources, which reflects Councillor Field's interests in areas such as child care, urban design, history & heritage, and access among other things. The timeline of Councillor Field's Council career has been included to highlight her extensive and diversified political involvement.

Included also are a number of Letters to the Editor written by Councillor Field and copies of her Local Government election brochures from 1991 and 1995, which complete the archival records of Councillor Field's terms on Council.

Councillor Field was very dedicated and committed, devoting much of her time on Council to address the concerns and feedback of residents. She was acknowledged by residents as being fair and always willing to support and assist those around her.

I have enclosed part of a thank-you note from a resident to the former Councillor Field.

“Anne, without you being there to help me, I don't know if I'd have gone this far. Your constant support and understanding, it was something that kept me going. I will never be able to find enough words to thank you. Too many doors kept shutting in front of me, your door was always open, and you always listened when I needed to talk to you. No matter how tired you were – you were always there.”

(Third Ward resident)

When and why did you first run for Council?



1991 Council election brochure photo

Well, I ran for Rockdale City Council in September 1991.

I have long had an interest in politics and had been involved in community Committees for quite a while. In 1985, I joined Kogarah Council's International Youth Year Committee (by invitation) and then the Bicentennial Committee at Kogarah Council. By late 1985, I was appointed to the Board of St George Hospital and I later chaired a number of Committees.

In 1978, I joined the Australian Federation Business and Professional Women, of which I am still a member over 30 years later and, in 1988, I joined the Rockdale Community Mobile Nursing Service Board. I had developed the skills as well as the good community links and these allowed me to consider myself a suitable candidate.

In 1990, I addressed the Rotary Club of Rockdale and in late 1990, I joined the Rotary Club of Rockdale, nominated by John Robinson, who was a local car dealer. In mid-1991, I became the President of the Rotary Club of Rockdale, which made me the first female President of a Rotary Club in Sydney. So, it was a natural step to jump from all these community Committees to run for Council. And that opportunity came in September 1991.

Did you have any family history in politics?

Yes, in fact I did. My father's mother's father was a Councillor... well, they were called Aldermen in those days. He was on the Malmsbury Council in Victoria near Castlemaine and was an Alderman in the late 1880's. I guess my great grandfather, William Field, who is written up in the History of Maryborough in Victoria, was seen as being an outspoken man with a good sense of purpose- some of the numerous skills which I hope to have demonstrated throughout my political career.

More recently, I had a relative who sat, during the 1950's to 1970's, in the Victorian Legislative Assembly in an administrative capacity. He actually advised Victorian Premiers over a period of twenty years or so.

As a young child, I was always brought up to discuss world events and local events. So, I was always very aware of what was going on around me. These were really important skills to have inherited.

What did you hope to achieve in Council?

When I was first elected, it was a whole new learning game; it was a very quick learning curve and I had probably sat back for 3 months or so before I decided to make my first address in Council. This gave me the opportunity to work out my areas of interest and decide where I wanted to contribute. I have always had a love of local history and heritage, so I wanted to contribute in this field. I was able to do this through the Heritage Advisory Committee later on, initiating the School Kit for infant, primary and secondary school students in the Municipality.

There was a great shortage of child care and, in late 1992, a local resident, Vivi Catalano, approached me and said, "Why don't we discuss all the issues related to childcare?" So, we prepared a Report which we presented to Council in October 1993.

I guess that period (the mid-1990s) heralded the opening of more child care centres in the Municipality. Also, on the note of Access... Having elderly parents, I realised the difficulties associated with this area and I



Anne Field and Glenn Penklis – candidates for Third Ward, 1995

served on Council's Access Committee and also on the SSROC Access. These areas: heritage & local history, childcare and access – are the three that stand out in my mind as achievements.

What Committees did you serve on?

I served on a diversity of Committees and chaired quite a number of those Committees. I also represented Council on SSROC, the Georges River Combined Councils Committee and, in 1997, I initiated the inaugural Heritage Forum for SSROC, which started at Rockdale Council. I also served on Sydney Coastal Councils, which comprised of all Sydney Coastal Councils that had a coast. Not only did I serve

on internal Council committees but also, I was a delegate to external Council committees... so, it was an extensive workload.

Who were your mentors?

There weren't many women involved politics in my time. I was only the fourth woman to have been elected to Rockdale Council; it was a male-dominated environment. Of course there have been more women since. Being in Rotary was a good experience and having served with very few other women on a hospital board was an additional experience for working in a male-dominated environment.

I guess my mentors were reliable community members – [for example] a lady, who was actually an Alderman on another Council. I am actually still in touch with her today.

People of that ilk, of that sort of standing, I conferred with as my mentors because they'd been there; they had been in a male-dominated environment and they understood. In terms of community members, well perhaps I was able to pick their brains for ideas, suggestions and advice – consultative advice.

What was it like being a female in Council?

Very difficult. It wasn't an easy experience but, as I said, I had very good training serving in male-dominated areas. One of my male colleagues, who wanted to annoy me, would turn the microphone on deliberately and rustle paper so I that could not be heard. He sometimes made sexist remarks during Council debate, but then again, with my sarcastic wit, I was able to counter some of those comments.

So, in other words, I learnt to build up my own defence mechanisms and developed a very thick skin to survive in the male-dominated environment. Yes, I did survive and although it was a challenge at times, it was a huge learning experience.

Were there any contentious issues during your time on Council?

Yes, we had quite a number of contentious Building Applications (which are now, of course, called Development Applications). There were issues to do with Arncliffe Park, Moate Avenue car park development in Brighton-Le-Sands, the Brighton LEP, and redevelopment of the car park site in Rockdale- the Council car park site. There was also the Bardwell Park Golf Course and issues dealing with the rezoning of Bexley Primary School. The Coptic Church ultimately developed a church and redeveloped a school on this site. Another issue that comes to mind was the

proposed development of a ski jump in West Botany Street, Rockdale. These were some of the contentious issues over my 8 years serving on Rockdale Council.

What did you enjoy most and least?

I enjoyed the ability to meet many people, to mix widely across the community and to be able to attend the many activities that the Council organised – dinners, openings, street meetings... The Council always had a number of functions, and at the end of the year there was a Council Christmas party and Mayoral Ball. They were all very pleasant functions to attend.



125th Anniversary of Rockdale Council as a Municipality 1996. From left to right: Dawn Clark (Manager of Corporate Services), Councillor Liz Barlow; Councillor Anne Field; Dianne Cuthbert (Director of Planning), Councillor Yvonne Bellamy and John Logue (Director of Corporate

Also, in my timeline you will see that I visited a number of overseas Councils. I visited Councils in the United States and the United Kingdom and those links were set up through the General Manager at Rockdale. So, that was a very worthy plus and enabled me to gain excellent international experience.

A negative, I guess, would have been the long working hours. The meetings were very long and sometimes I would be driving home at one o'clock in the morning. There was quite a lot of paperwork that needed to be read, and I certainly made sure that I read all my paperwork. There were phone calls from the residents; I was always reasonably prompt and I always returned phone calls.

There were probably a few other issues, when some people didn't like some of the decisions that you'd made. Maybe there were a few objectionable phone calls, and this was a negative.

But I'd like to think that the positives outweighed the negatives and I think the residents at the end of the day would always say that I stood up to represent them with a great deal of fairness and integrity.

What did you do after you left the Rockdale City Council?

After I left Rockdale, I moved to Kogarah Council and I was elected to Kogarah Council, representing North Ward. I represented the Kogarah Bay Progress Association from 1999-2008. I retired from Council in September 2008. So I crossed the Princes Highway, so to speak, to move to another Council.

Would you encourage other females to enter politics?



Election photo 1995

Yes, I think it's very important that we have female representatives. At the moment we have a female Prime Minister, a female Governor General, a female Premier, and I think it's very, very important as women represent half the population.

I believe that women on Council do things completely differently to the male Councillors. Women have a much more consultative approach, they're much better at talking to people and trying to resolve things by mediation, whereas the men do things differently. And of course, if there are more men, they tend to 'gang up', so to speak. I know that in some Councils, women have had a particularly hard time.

When I first joined Council, I joined the Australian Local Government Women's Association, New South Wales Division, so that I could attend the Local Government Women's Conference. I didn't attend every year, but it was a mechanism through which women could give support to each other for their role in Council. I became friends with women on other Councils, so we assisted each other and my support base widened.

*In hindsight, would you change anything that you did?
If so, why?*

No, I don't believe so. I know that when I was first elected, my late father (Mr. Ron Field) said to me: "Always remember to treat the residents in the manner that you'd like to be treated" and I always kept that in the back of my mind. I always treated the residents with courtesy and due respect.

To this day, when I'm out shopping, I still see some of them and we stop and have a chat. I've become friends with some of them and I think that that probably speaks for their perceptions of how I undertook my role on Council – I did it to represent them; I wasn't there to represent any interest group, I was there to represent the community. So, in hindsight no, but again the political arena is completely different today. It's a completely different ball game, and there are many different issues that confront Councils today than in my time. There is a greater need for accountability and transparency... But no, I don't think I'd change anything.

Significant events that occurred during your time on Council.

Well, I guess some significant events related to Rockdale becoming a City in 1995 and there were links with other cities overseas (we had Sister City relationships). Towards the end of my time at Rockdale there was a proposal for what later became the Cook's Cove Development. This has not gone ahead. The development of a Coles supermarket on the Moate Avenue car park site brought benefits to the residents of Brighton-Le-Sands.

In the future do you think you will return to a life of politics? Why or why not?

Well, perhaps if I was younger, I might continue. However, I think that New South Wales politics at the moment is in a very difficult state.

So I think that in New South Wales and Federal politics as well as Local Government, there needs to be a great deal of concern addressed to candidates – the quality of candidates, how candidates are chosen, and the abilities of candidates.

I'm sometimes quite disappointed in what I currently hear and read about in the local newspaper. Time does not permit me to want to return, as my next career is in writing - I want to finish my Moorefield Racecourse history, publish it and then I want to go on and write other things. So, I remain an interested observer from the sidelines of contemporary politics.

Community Profile

ANNE FIELD

BA, Dip Ed, Dip Urban Studies, JP



- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1985 | Member of International Youth Year Committee, Kogarah Council. |
| 1985-1986 | Member of Kogarah Council Bicentennial Committee. |
| December 1985 | Appointed to the Board of St George Hospital, Kogarah. |
| December 1986 | Appointed Treasurer of St George Area Health Service. Left the Area Health Service Board in mid 1988. |
| October 1988 | Joined the Rockdale Community Mobile Nurse Service Board. |
| November 1989 | Joined the Rotary Club of Rockdale as their first female member. |
| 1991-1995 | Councillor at Rockdale Council
First Council Term
Member of the following Committees or a Council delegate to the Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Environment Committee (Chairperson – 1992-1993)• Heritage Advisory Committee member since 1992 (Chairperson – 1995)• Access Committee (Chairperson – 1994-1995)• Rockdale Community Mobile Nursing Service (1991-1995)• Board Member of the Business Enterprise Centre, St George and Sutherland Shire Ltd (1992-1995)• Regional Library Steering Committee (1993-1995)• Sydney Coastal Councils (1991-1995)• Member of Kyeemagh Infants School Council (1993-1995) |
| 25 June 1991 | Inducted as President of Rotary Club of Rockdale; the first female to be President of a Rotary Club in Sydney. |
| 14 September 1991 | Candidate for Third Ward, Rockdale Council – 11 candidates. |
| November 1992 | A semi-finalist in the Local Government Section of Avon Inaugural “Spirit of Achievement Awards”, an Australia-wide competition. |

1992-1993	Chairperson of Community and Environment Committee, Rockdale Council.
1993-1995	Worked on a Rockdale Council initiative – a link between Council and local schools on a History/Environment/Local Government Kit. Launched in Local Government Week, 20 June 1995. A first for a Council in NSW to have published a School Kit. The Kit was the product of a Committee of the Public Relations Officer, local teachers and Council staff.
1993 to date	Elected Chairperson of Ethnic Forum, at its first meeting in June 1993.
July 1993 to date	Started research on History of Moorefield Racecourse, Kogarah, 1881-1951 circa. A draft is being written for publication.
27 October 1993	Co-authored a report with a Kogarah resident, Ms Vivi Catalano, on Child Care in the Rockdale Municipality. This Report was tabled to Council on 27 October 1993.
9 November 1994 to date	Elected Chairperson of Access Committee.
May 1995 to date	Elected Chairperson of Heritage Advisory Committee.
9 September 1995	Local Government Elections – 12 candidates. Re-elected to represent Third Ward at Rockdale Council.
1995-1999	Councillor at Rockdale Council representing Third Ward Second Council Term

Member of the following Committees or a Council delegate to the Committees:

- Community and Environment Committee (Chairperson – 1995-1996)
- Heritage Advisory Committee (Chairperson – 1995-1999)
- Access Committee (Chairperson – 1994-1999)
- SSROC Access Committee (Chairperson 1996-1999)
- Ethnic Community Advisory Committee (Chairperson 1993-1998) Member to 1999
- Regional Library Steering Committee (1995-1996)
- Sydney Coastal Councils (1995-1999)
- Lydham Hall Local Committee (Secretary – 1995-1997)
- Lydham Hall Management Committee Chair (1997-1999)
- Rockdale Community Mobile Nursing Service (1995-1996)
- Kyeemagh Infants School Council (1995-1999)

- Georges River Catchment Management Committee (until mid 1997)
- 125th Anniversary Committee (Chairperson – 1996)
- Library Sub-Committee (Chairperson – 1996-1997). Member until 1999
- SSROC Heritage Forum (Chairperson – 1997-1998). Member until 1999
- Red Cross Committee (Chairperson – 1997-1999)
- Tourism Committee Chair (1998) Member until 1999

2 January 1996	Visited Lord Mayor of the City of Portsmouth (United Kingdom) and Councillor Sid Rapson of Australia Portsmouth Society in Portsmouth. This was to begin discussions in relation to a school link between a Portsmouth school and one in the City of Rockdale. Finalised in September 1997.
5 January 1996	Visited City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (United Kingdom) for 1 day Study Tour.
10 January 1996	Visited Lord Provost of Glasgow City (United Kingdom) Councillor Tom Dingell in Glasgow Scotland. (Continue to correspond).
22 January 1996	Visited town of Tiburon, San Francisco, California (USA) for 1 day Study Tour. Met with the General Manager, Mayor and two Councillors.
18 September 1996	Elected Deputy Mayor of Rockdale Council for a one year term.
19 September 1996	Elected Chairperson of SSROC Access Committee. (SSROC has twelve member Councils across Southern Sydney). Chairperson until 25 May 1999.
1 December 1996	Entertained, with the Mayor of Rockdale, Councillor Peter Bryant, Councillor Norman Hazell from Wakefield Metropolitan District Council who was visiting the City of Rockdale. (Had previously visited Wakefield District Council in early January 1996 for a Study Tour).
20 January 1997	Visited Mayor Councillor George Gair of North Shore City, Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand.
18 February 1997	Entertained, with the Mayor of Rockdale, Councillor Peter Bryant, Councillor Tom Dingwell of Glasgow City Council, who was visiting the City of Rockdale. (Had previously met with Councillor Dingwell in Glasgow, Scotland in mid-January 1996).

- 25 February 1997** Attended a dinner with Jenny Andriadis, Council Officer, in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. This was to collect from the Prime Minister, John Howard, a Certificate of high Commendations and a trophy for the Prime Minister's Award for Policy Formulation and Advice. (Chaired the Access Task Force and worked closely with Jenny Andriadis on this project. Jenny Andriadis left Rockdale City Council on 3 April 1998).
- NOTE:** Rockdale City Council was the only Council among the 5 national winners and one of the three local government winners – Rockdale City Council (Access), Brisbane City Council (Enterprise Bargaining) and Hobart City Council (Customer Service) – among the 175 finalists from across Australia.
- 14 July 1997** Elected Chairperson of SSROC Heritage Forum. (The Forum moved onto Sutherland Shire Council mid 1998, and Councillor Emerson of Sutherland Shire Council became the new Chairperson).
- 30 September 1997** Met at Brighton-Le-Sands, Sydney with Mr and MRS Brian Hall. Mr Hall is involved with the Association of Britain Australia Society (Portsmouth Branch) and Portsmouth, Sydney, Sister City Link. We met to consider a school link between St Mary's Star of the Sea, Hurstville, Sydney and St Luke's School, Hyde Park Road, Cosham, Portsmouth. (Continue to correspond).
- 4 December 1997 to September 1999** Chairperson/Minute Taker, Lydham Hall Management Committee.
- 23 February 1997** Elected Chairperson, Tourism Committee (until September 1998).
- 1 May 1998** Appeared for Council at Land and Environment Court before Justice Marla Pearlman, Kanak V Rockdale City Council.
- 16 & 17 May 1998** Guest of Wellington Tourism Committee NSW. Presented an After Dinner Speech on "Heritage in Rockdale" on Saturday, 16 May 1998.
- 2 July 1998** Aboriginal Heritage Study established (Chair of this Committee). Draft Report completed on 22 April 1999, but not tabled to Council by the end of Council term, 11 September 1999.
- 2 July 1998 to February 2000** Chairperson of Southern Sydney Branch of the National Trust.
- 23 August 1998** Local Government Week Sub-Committee of Heritage Advisory Committee worked on a Rockdale Heritage

Drive Brochure during 1998. It was launched at Lydham Hall by the Mayor, Councillor Brian Simpson.

- 19 September 1998** Began work on compiling the inventory at Lydham Hall, Bexley.
- 21 November 1998** Awarded a Certificate of Commendation and Bronze Medallion by National Trust of Australia (NSW Division). Presented by Mr Barry O'Keefe AC QC President of National Trust (NSW Division) and Ms Elsa Atkin, Executive Director of National Trust (NSW Division) at the Annual General Meeting.
- 13 May 1999** Attended the Mayor's Urban Design Breakfast at Stadium Australia to represent the Mayor of Rockdale – Organised by Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney.
- 11 September 1999** Candidate in the Local Government Elections for North Ward – representing Kogarah North Ward Progress Association.

*Former Councillor Anne Field is one of the most
compassionate and amazing women that I have come to
know. Her involvement in the community has shaped much
of the history and environment of the local area. And so, it
is with great pleasure that I write of her enormous
contributions and devotion to our Rockdale Community.*

Thanks must go to

Councillor Anne Field for her time and the provision of photographs
and other archival materials.

The St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, Sydney Morning Herald and Historical Society
articles have been acknowledged by source and date.

Newspaper articles

As taken from the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, the Sydney Morning Herald and Historical Society

3/9/91



ANGELA Penklis (left) Anne Field.

The leader.

Ladies plan to manage it right

THE money managers — that's the campaign cry of the all-women ticket contesting Rockdale Council's Third Ward.

Anne Field and Angela Penklis want to ensure the council's finances are managed effectively.

If elected they plan to push for financial accountability and the introduction of "more appropriate" planning instruments to cover coastal areas, including Botany Bay.

Miss Field — who lives in the same Kogarah street as her running mate — said she would use her experience as a geography, economics, commerce and legal awareness teacher at St George Girls' High School to provide better planning input policies for the council.

Miss Penklis — an environmental lawyer of Greek descent — has lived in Third Ward all her life.

A former student of St George Girls' High, Miss Penklis graduated from the University of Technology as a Bachelor of Law in 1989.

"Both Angela and I have knowledge and understanding in planning and building," Miss Field said.

"Both as a geographer and economist, and as someone who appreciates history, I am aware of all aspects of our environment."

"Angela briefs barristers who represent councils in the Land and Environment Court and also has expertise in this area."

Issues they would push if elected would include:

- Better traffic management in local streets.
- The continuation and expansion of the council's recycling policy.
- Kyeemagh Infants School to remain open.
- Continued operation of Rockdale Community Mobile Nursing Service.

Miss Field has served on the St George Hospital Board.

THE TEAM WHICH UNDERSTANDS THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Anne and Angela will be committed to Third Ward residents and agree:

- to be accessible to residents by interviews and newsletters
- to support the financial accountability of all Council operations
- to support suitable developments in land-use zones in the ward
- to work towards improved traffic management in the ward
- to improve the profile of the Council in dealing with Botany Bay and the Airport with Federal and State Government Authorities
- to work towards the expansion of child care facilities
- to support the Rockdale Community Mobile Nursing Service
- to allow residents to have the option of 120 or 240 litre garbage bins
- to improve facilities for the elderly in the community
- to support Council's policy on recycling
- to fight for the greater awareness of homes of historical importance.



THIRD WARD — ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOW TO VOTE FOR THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY MINDED TEAM ON SEPTEMBER 14th 1991

GROUP A

G. Hedge

3

B. Saravinovski

L. Wilson

GROUP B

4

G. Fraser

GROUP C

T. Marturano

GROUP D

1

A. FIELD

GROUP E

M. Martin

C. Bellchambers

2


A. PENKLIS

B. Gemmell

PLEASE NUMBER SQUARES 1 TO 4 AS SHOWN

DO NOT USE TICKS OR CROSSES

Authorised by G. Penklis, 11 Oakdale Avenue Kogarah NSW 2217
Printed by Snap Printing, 440 West Botany Street, Rockdale NSW 2217

PRINTED ON 100% 

VOTE FOR THE INDEPENDENT WHO CARES ABOUT THE COMMUNITY



ANNE FIELD

ELECT A
THIRD WARD RESIDENT
ON POLLING DAY

VOTING IS COMPULSORY ON
SEPTEMBER 14, 1991



Anne Field BA Dip Ed Dip Urban Studies JP

- Social Science Teacher, St. George Girls High School Since 1977
- Deputy Principal Saturday School of Community Languages, St. George Centre since 1986
- Lived in Third Ward since 1984
- Former Member of St. George Hospital Board
- Member Rockdale Community Mobile Nursing service
- Member of the Management Committee Neighbourhood Watch L12/10
- Member of the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc.
- President, Rotary Club of Rockdale 1991-1992
- Member of the Australian Society of Genealogists
- Member of the Art Gallery Society of NSW
- Member of the Australian Jockey Club and Sydney Turf Club
- Member of St. George Leagues Club
- Subscriber to the Australian Ballet.



Angela Penklis BA LLB

- Environmental Lawyer
- Attended St. George Girls High School, 1975-1980
- Lived in Third Ward all her life
- Member of the State Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Policy Committee
- Member Young Lawyers — Environmental Law Division
- Taught Health and Building Surveyors Course at TAFE
- Membership of the Royal Australian Historical Society
- Member of the Greek Orthodox Church, Kogarah.



Angela and Anne photographed in Rockdale Park, Rockdale.

3/3/92

Rockdale Council bid to preserve heritage

ROCKDALE Council will establish a special committee to determine which heritage buildings and landmarks will fall under its Local Environment Plan.

The Heritage Advisory Committee, set up at the council's February 26 meeting, will devise guidelines for people who want to alter or add to heritage buildings.

Rockdale Mayor Alderman Peter Bryant said the aim of the committee was to preserve heritage buildings in a way that was fair to the owners of the building and the community at large.

The committee is the brainchild of Alderman Ron Rathbone who said the familiar problem of the people tearing out timber-framed windows in a 90-year-old

house and replacing them with modern aluminium would be addressed.

"What the committee will do is draw up guidelines which will allow the people who live in the homes to make alterations which would maintain the character of the building but meet the needs of the owners," Ald Rathbone said.

The council agreed to invite representatives from the Rockdale and District Heritage Association, the Rockdale and District Landscape Heritage Committee, and St George Historical Society.

A local architect, Arthur Ellis, will join Ald Rathbone and Aldermen Anne Field and Steve Holroyd on the committee.

Ald Rathbone said the committee would advise the council on properties and landmarks which should fall under the LEP.

The leader

Saved from the sin bin by eagle-eyed women

In the second article of the How Green Is Your Council series, SALLY TAYLOR peers at Rockdale Council through the green filter on her microscope. Last week she focused on Hurstville Council

ROCKDALE Council's 15 aldermen and seven senior officers swung widely on the pendulum in their responses to *The Leader's* 10-question survey on waste minimisation and recycling.

While they inched ahead of Hurstville Council in that all respondents separated PET plastic, glass, aluminium cans and paper, more lost points for tossing putrescent waste such as food scraps and garden clippings in rubbish bins.

Underlying most responses was a heavy reliance on women to save them toppling in the sin bin.

The mayor, Alderman Peter Bryant's bin is free of the four common recyclables, but it has food scraps and garden clippings because the Bryants have no compost facilities.

He sorts paper beyond just newspaper and council papers, to correspondence, toothpaste and cereal boxes and other clean waste paper.

No respondent claimed to be plastic bag free and only two said they sometimes refused them, while corporate services director Alan Young's three children wrap their lunches in paper bags.

Plastic bags

"You can't get away from plastic bags," Alderman George Moore said.

"I don't refuse them because that's making a mountain out of a molehill."

Two-litre plastic milk containers also end up in the Moore bin because, he says, it is too far to take them to the Lucas Heights recycling centre.

"And I wouldn't store them because we'd get rats. Nothing's clear is it?" he said.

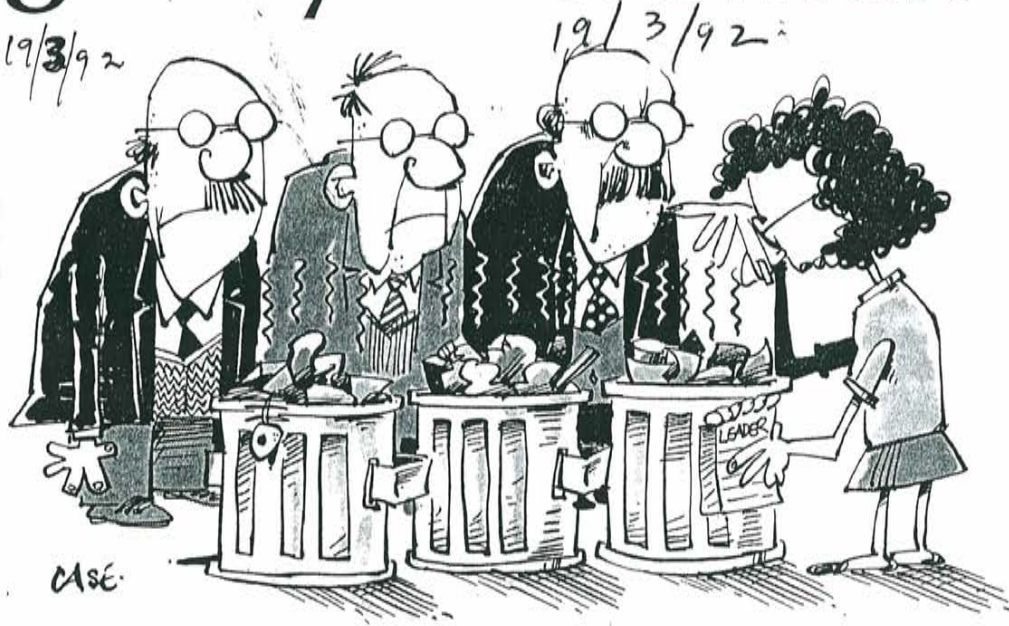
Alderman Ron Rathbone, 60, who has served for 33 years, is unconcerned about tossing out toothpaste boxes, because he has few of them.

"I don't have many teeth," he said.

"And living in a home unit, waste is a problem, so I automatically look for things that don't generate waste because I don't want to be running up and down the stairs."

Southern Sydney's only husband and wife team, aldermen Charles and Elizabeth Daly, both in their 80s, were also the only respondents to pack purchases in personal shopping trolleys.

They were alone in using Colgate Palmolive dishwashing detergent because it now comes in recyclable PET



CASE

MARKS out of 10: 0.05



PETER Bryant



ELIZABETH Daly

plastic, and they crush laundry detergent boxes for kerbside collection.

Their score increased to a high seven when Ald Elizabeth Daly revealed her husband sorted through the kitchen tidy to check for more recyclable materials, including food scraps destined for composting.

Aluminium cans

"I don't think we could do much more without putting ourselves in the bin," she said.

Council's only other female alderman, teacher Anne Field, can be spotted alongside her bin reading an Australian Conservation Foundation bulletin from cover to cover, while in-

side the bin are food scraps, garden waste, empty hair spray cans, and cardboard food packaging.

"I really haven't had the time to cultivate environmental habits," she said.

From the sale of aluminium cans, community and environment committee chairman Alderman Denis Callaghan donates about \$250 annually to a Jesuit mission in India.

He failed to score on questions about detergents, including their phosphorous content and packaging disposal.

"I've got a terrific system. I drop my clothes in a hole and the next thing I find them all ironed and folded in

drawers. I don't understand it but it's a damned good system," Ald Callaghan said.

Daphne Callaghan also does the shopping while her husband waits outside to carry groceries to the car.

"I must tell my buyer not to get packaged stuff. I'll refuse to carry things if they're in plastic. She'll have to carry them herself," he said.

Fellow committee member Alderman Steve Holroyd's 240-litre bin for four people contains plastic and polystyrene packaging and other general household items.

Ald Holroyd opposes the Lucas Heights tip expansion and says the Waste Recycling and Processing Centre — formerly part of the now defunct Waste Management Authority — should shift emphasis from kerbside collections.

"They are relying on each person to separate waste. There's only so much interest in recycling. People have other things on their minds and they put things in the bin and that's it. Some people will never sort through their own garbage," he said.

"Ultimately in years to come, we'll have to take rubbish and liquid waste right out west over the Great Dividing Range."

Alderman Brian Peacock gives old newspapers to a local veterinarian to line animal cages, and flattens and ties cardboard and other paper in leftover curtain salvages for recycling.

● Continued next page

the opinion page

Reduce waste with a holistic approach

SUTHERLAND Shire can be Sydney's No. 1 council for reducing waste and recycling if it is serious about taking a "holistic approach" to the problem (*Leader*, March 17).

That means getting the priorities right and being prepared to reduce waste before it is created - not just recycling it afterwards.

The first step in minimising waste means avoiding it wherever possible by selecting no-waste alternatives when shopping. Where this is not possible or is impractical, purchases should be of a material that is com-

pletely recyclable into the same product.

Anything less will create waste which will inevitably end up at the tip.

Consider the following examples of living simply, without waste:

Drinks - water, straight from the tap; freshly squeezed juice from fruit with compostable skins; milk purchased in returnable/refillable glass bottles from the milko; soft drinks purchased in returnable/refillable glass bottles such as those

sold in the Shire by Berts and Crystal.

Food - fresh fruit, with compostable skins; bulk foods purchased in your own reusable bags and containers; homemade food such as muesli, bread, cakes, biscuits made from bulk purchased ingredients.

Our council can do a lot to reduce waste at the source if it is prepared to promote and encourage waste-free alternatives to overpackaged products.

PETER HOPPER,
Loftus.

Ald's attitude to recycling a shock

JOURNALIST Sally Taylor's microscopic look at the habits and attitudes of our local politicians and senior council staff in respect of the new three R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - has been very enlightening.

I was particularly disturbed by the comments made by Rockdale's Australian Conservation Federation Bulletin reader, Anne Field.

As both an alderman and teacher, Ms Field's

statement: 'I really haven't had the time to cultivate environmental habits' is indeed alarming.

All school teachers are now required to implement the department's environmental curriculum. This is mandatory

As an ACF bulletin reader, Ms Field has obviously read a lot of information on environmental issues and the consequences that our

children will face if we fail to act in an environmentally responsible way.

If someone with this knowledge can't be bothered making an effort, what hope is there for the general community. Maybe Ms Field would find some value in time management training to get her environmental routines started.

An enlightened Victorian council in its recent

environmental strategy document states: "It is up to all of us to decide whether we are simply going to make statements about concern for the environment or whether we actually get out and do something about it - unless the community as a whole gets involved and active, the prospects are grim."

Is there really any other choice?

G. RUSSELL, Oatley.

Are tradesmen too **A grateful mum** Time for an arts

YOUR SAY

Meals need compassion

I AM sure Mrs Skeggs spoke in unthinking haste when she made her sweeping statement about the parents of children on the Riverwood breakfast program (*Leader*, March 31).

I hope no feelings were hurt, no confidences violated.

All my sympathies are with the 60 or 70 children forced by circumstances to get their breakfast at the school.

It seems that Mrs Skeggs shows a lack of sympathy and understanding for these children and a contempt for their parents which I'm sure has caused much embarrassment to those children.

There are a number of people including parents, who have major problems, but I think it unwise to presume that these parents are negligent or alcoholic.

I also feel that Mrs Skeggs has now made targets of these children for ridicule and abuse by their classmates.

I think that a principal of a disadvantaged school should show more compassion towards her pupils and their families and not give a worthwhile community project such a stigma.

For the record, I am a single parent pensioner living in the Department of Housing area.

I have four children, some with learning difficulties and I'm paying for four private tutor sessions each week.

I'm fortunate to be getting maintenance from my ex-husband, who is lucky to be employed, otherwise my children, too, might be forced by circumstance to receive a free breakfast.

9/8/9 ✓ J.M. PLATT, Riverwood.

Leader Letters

●WRITE to Your Say, Post Office Box 210, Hurstville 2220. Letters should be concise and signed, with address and phone number supplied (for checking, not for publication).

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Students in environment plan are in capable hands

MR Russell is indeed correct when he said (*Leader*, March 26) that I have read widely on the environment, including the legal, economic and geographic aspects.

What Mr Russell does not realise is that my time management program is excellent.

Clearly Mr Russell is not aware that not only am I a teacher, alderman of Rockdale Council, but I am the president of Rockdale Rotary Club, deputy principal of the Saturday School of Community Languages, St George centre, and serve on many other committees.

At my school, each classroom has a recycling bag into which paper is placed.

The environment is covered in each of my subject areas.

Recently Year 9 commerce completed a study of our local area, looking in particular at the recycling program of a local council.

Year 8 geography is currently studying the rain forest and has used the Amazon Basin as a case study.

Year 10 geography has just completed a study of human intervention in the water cycle with particular reference to Botany.

Be disturbed no longer, Mr Russell, my students are in capable hands. They know I "make the effort".

ALDERMAN ANNE FIELD,
Rockdale Council.

The Leader

2/6/92

Stars happy to cook for good cause

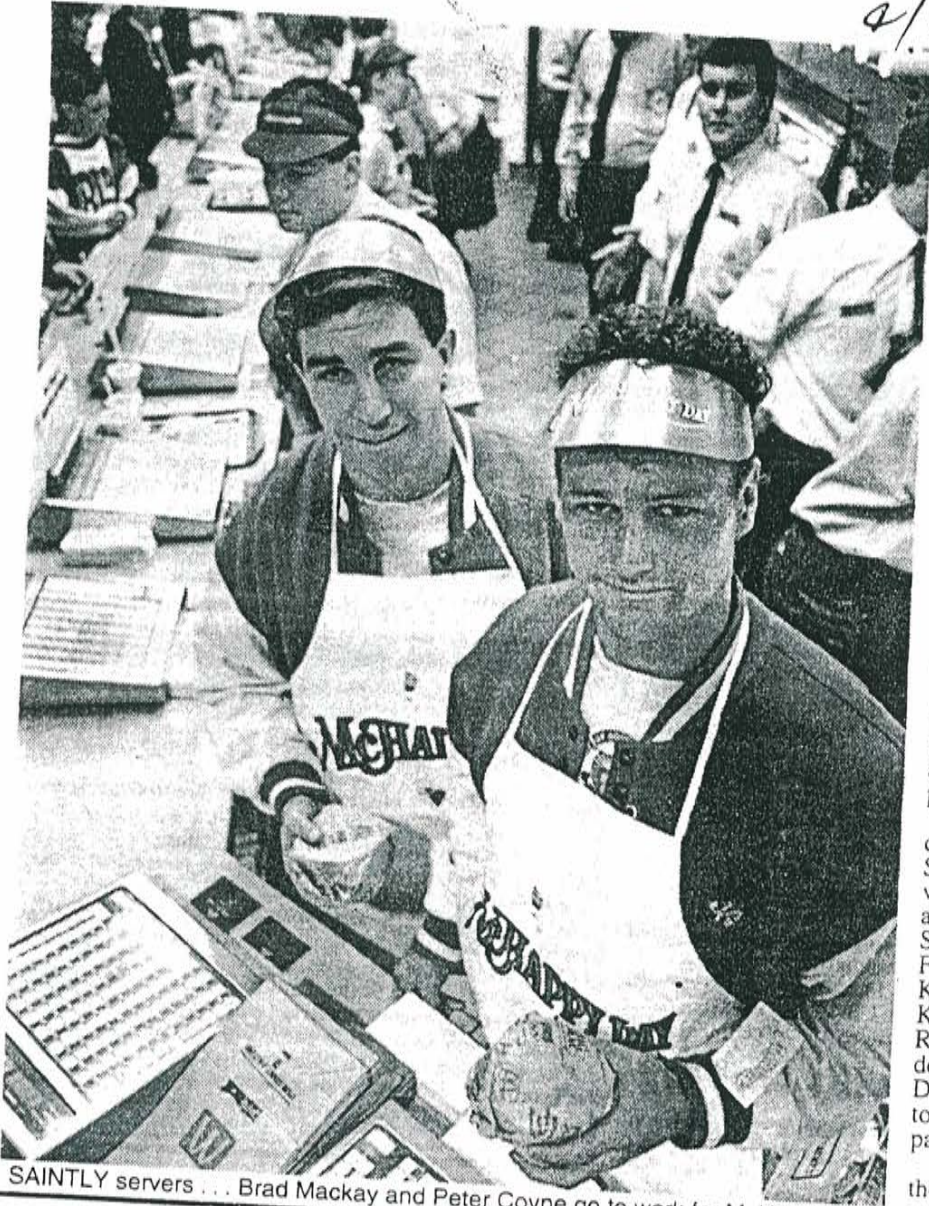
TOP football skills, including passing and positional play helped St George players Brad Mackay and Peter Coyne handle the hungry hordes at McDonald's "McHappy Day" on Saturday.

The sportsmen joined a star-studded lineup behind the serving counter at McDonald's Hurstville as they helped the hamburger restaurant raise funds for the Variety Club.

More than \$492,000 was raised across Australia to help the disabled, sick and underprivileged children.

Other local celebs included members of the State Emergency Service; Rockdale Council aldermen Anne Field and Steve Holroyd; 2DAY FM identity Mark Kounas; State MP for Kogarah Brian Langton; Rockdale ambulance deputy superintendent Denis Rogan, and Carlton Public School principal John Warren.

Every Big Mac sold on the day raised \$1 for the cause.



SAINTLY servers . . . Brad Mackay and Peter Coyne go to work for McHappy Day

Access team paves the way

10/9/92

A DIRECTORY of Rockdale municipality parks and reserves which provide easy access for people with disabilities is one of two access issues being considered by Rockdale Council.

Rockdale Council's newly-formed access committee has recommended to council that the parks and reserves directory and the possibility of introducing a universal key system for public toilets for the disabled be investigated.

Access committee member Alderman Anne Field said the committee was formed to advise council about physical access problems in Rockdale, to preview development and building applications and advise on access provisions.

Ald Field said committee members had nominated areas of interest such as the frail aged and developmentally disabled, hearing impaired people, and general access issues.

"I am particularly interested in issues of access because I have a frail aged mother and a friend with multiple sclerosis who is in a wheelchair," she said.

She said the committee had already had some involvement in council's redevelopment plans for Brighton-le-Sands and would take a keen interest in the actual development application.

"The committee met with an officer from council's town planning department and discussed the desirability of using non-slip tiles rather than cobblestones in any buildings, the provision of toilets for the disabled and easy access to the beach," Ald Field said.

Residents with concerns about access for people with disabilities, could contact either committee chairman, Ald Steve Holroyd or Ald Field.

15/9/92

Focus on executive shadows

ROCKDALE Council Alderman Anne Field addressed a September 3 conference at Penshurst Girls' High School on executive shadowing.

Ald Field, a school teacher, was joined on the rostrum by the deputy director-general of the Schools Education Resources Department, Jan McClelland.

Program co-ordinator Patrick Medway said all high schools in the metropolitan east region were invited to send a representative to the conference, which is designed to support the girls' education strategy.

Mr Medway said the conference began with an overview of the history and expectations of executive shadowing programs, then four successful case studies of high school executive shadowing programs were presented.

A special video, Working It Out, was also screened to stimulate discussion.

"Delegates participated in practical workshop sessions to learn the skills and procedures necessary to establish successful executive shadowing in their own schools," Mr Medway said.

"Executive shadowing originated in the UK and was piloted in NSW at St Marys High in 1987."

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19/11/92

Marking women's exploits

ROCKDALE Council Alderman Anne Field is a semi-finalist in the local government section of Avon's inaugural Spirit of Achievements Awards.

The awards recognise the achievements of Australian women in the areas of business, science, the arts, sport and government.

The overall winner, Dr Suzanne Cory, a genetic scientist from Victoria, was presented with her award by Federal Environment Minister Ros Kelly.

The winner of the government section was Race Discrimination Commissioner Irene Moss. Other winners were Helen

O'Grady, director of Perth's Children Drama Academy (business); opera singer Gillian Sullivan (arts); and Shelley Taylor-Smith, world marathon swimming champion (sports).

Ald Field, a geography/economics teacher at St George Girls High School, was elected to Rockdale Council in 1991 and aims to become its first woman mayor.

"I see my local involvement as vital for the young women I teach, as it shows them the options available and provides a role model," Ald Field said.

Please, we need a home

The leader

LETTERS

26/3/93

Design and aesthetics not highly valued

SIR: Yet another holier than thou letter from N. Gruzman (Letters, March 17):

If a lot of architects design the sort of buildings that N. Gruzman describes, it is because they share their clients' individualistic, devil-take-the-hind-most, anti-community values, values that are more common than not in our society.

The really important basic parameters that affect the design of buildings, such as the permitted height, site coverage and gross floor space, are fixed not by architects but by local government planners and are driven by real estate and financial considerations.

Does anyone really believe that letting local councils set aesthetic standards will make any difference? Councils already have the powers to reject buildings on the grounds of design and rarely exercise them, either because it is politically too hard, or they do not mind what is being proposed. In any case, any new regulations will be

like the tax laws, there to be got around by the unscrupulous, and simply end up mirroring the lowest common denominator of the community's values. Certainly not those of some philosopher king like N. Gruzman who knows best!

N. Gruzman appears to see himself as the conscience of the architectural profession and regularly castigates architects as though they are solely responsible for the state of our cities. Although one obviously cannot disagree with a number of his motherhood strictures, they simply don't serve to foster an intelligent debate on what are really serious problems.

There are architects genuinely trying to resolve the legitimate needs of their clients, along with the multifarious requirements of planners, building regulations and the building budget they have been given, and still produce sympathetic and caring buildings ...

Architects are being forced to oper-

ate in a very competitive professional environment where, on the whole, the lowest tender for fees is accepted, regardless of the consequences. The unbridled competition of the economic rationalists may improve productivity and efficiency, and it certainly lowers fees, but it does not normally improve quality. We unfortunately live in an age that places a low value on design and aesthetics and this is reflected in the low incomes of most architects.

N. Gruzman is living in another world. The letter from Paul Stevenson in the same issue is much more to the point.

**Don Gazzard,
Paddington.**

March 19

I, like Mr N. Gruzman (Letters, March 17), have met many variations in design in the past 18 months as an alderman on Rockdale Council.

Many of the designs which attempt to squeeze the building onto small sites end

up pleasing no-one. The aesthetics of the design are lost and the applicant and the objector end up enemies. The impact on the street's character is marked.

What our architects do forget is that what they design for their clients impact on everyone else in the environment. The built environment is the end result of everyone's actions. One must admit that in many areas of Sydney there is a need for improvement.

Architects alone cannot be blamed for the mess. Councils must take their fair share of the blame as well.

Some of my colleagues, who believe that if it fits the Code all is well, have blinkers on. What about the other considerations such as privacy, overshadowing, bulk and character, just to name a few.

How many urban disasters do we need before the blinkers are removed?

**(Alderman) Anne Field,
Rockdale Council,
Rockdale.**

March 23

Sydney Morning Herald

Wheelies face impossible tasks



ROCKDALE Council officers and staff, including the mayor, Alderman Ron Ratherbone (third from left) find out about life in a wheelchair

25.3.93

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Few of the participants in an experiment at Rockdale Council realised how tough it was to post a letter or buy a beer at the pub when you are confined to a wheelchair.

On Tuesday, six able-bodied people, including the Mayor, Alderman Ron Rathbone, and Alderman Anne Field, had to carry out a series of "missions" in Rockdale, while either in wheelchairs or pushing a pram.

None of the participants in wheelchairs completed all their set tasks, as they came up against steps, gutters and other obstacles.

Buying meat, going to the bank, making a telephone call or getting into public toilets were far from straight forward tasks.

After the 45-minute experiment was over, Ald Rathbone said it had been an eye-opener.

Of his set tasks, he said: "It was not difficult. It was impossible."

Kevin Byrne, who is genuinely confined to a wheelchair and who sits on council's Access Committee, said many people in wheelchairs had to do their banking on the street because they could not get up stairs and ramps designed by able-bodied architects.

In such cases, the bank manager had to come out onto the footpath for people in wheelchairs to carry out their transactions, Mr Byrne said.

Mr Byrne said he would like to see architects and urban planners spend a compulsory week in a wheelchair as part of their training, so that they would be aware of many of the everyday obstacles.

ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY - JUNE 1993

MOOREFIELD RACECOURSE -

ANY INFORMATION PLEASE?

Alderman Anne Field, has submitted the following article for publication in the hope that it may generate interest in the history of the Moorefield Racecourse. Ald. Field is writing a book on the subject and is keen to hear from anyone who can recall or has information about the old racecourse. She can be contacted on 5886553 or you can write to:-

Ald. A. Field
P.O. Box 391
KOGARAH NSW 2217

e

HORSE RACING - AN OVERVIEW

(part of an address by Ald. Anne Field to the Rotary Club of Rockdale)

You either love or hate the races. On the racecourse you expect to see people betting, shouting, eating, drinking, counting their money or bemoaning their losses. People come from every walk of life. In the Members' Stand you may rub shoulders with Kerry Packer, Lionel Bowen ex-politician or Peter Foley (a well-known Rotarian) or Mrs Jones.

Over the past century or so, Australia has made great progress in the world of horse racing. The status of the industry is high and it continues to attract investment in the thoroughbred horse. A visit to the Arrowfield Stud in the Hunter Valley, which I made in 1990, confirmed this fact and the high levels of technology evident in today's industry. Our trainers travel overseas to sales, likewise overseas buyers attend our yearling sales.

In 1799 the first English thoroughbred stallion, Rockingham, arrived in Australia - a cargo of well-bred mares had landed in Sydney from the Cape of Good Hope four years earlier. After 1820, the majority of imported horses were from England.

Boost for child carers

CHRONIC shortages in child-care services have prompted Rockdale Council Alderman Anne Field to push for improvements.

She has formed an alliance with an early childhood teacher, Vin Catalano, to research the problems in detail and develop an independent action plan.

Mrs Catalano and Ald Field are inviting families to contact them as they are preparing an independent report on the issue, to be tabled at a public forum before a Rockdale Council meeting in September.

Ald Field, a teacher, said she had become "greatly concerned" by the ever-increasing difficulties being encountered by families unable to have child-care services in the Rockdale municipality.

Ald Field can be contacted at PO Box 391, Kogarah 2217, or ring 588 6553.

RIGHT: Rockdale Alderman Anne Field at Bicentennial Park with Sinclair Prowse, and three happily climbing sisters, from left, Frances, Vanessa and Ashley Munoz



15/7/93

Bayside News

Dozers combat beach erosion



each, Monterey

n sink is an-up ifies eases

n according to the board.
d Mr Farrell said pollu-
n tion was caused by in-
r dustrial waste getting
into stormwater drains
and run off from back

downstream.
"A lot of rubbish is
also dumped directly
from bridges by people
with no thought.
"You name it we've
found it in the river."
The next voluntary
clean-up will be carried
out between Illawarra
Rd Bridge at Under-
cliffe and Cooks River
Bridge at Tempe.
It will get under way
from 9am on Saturday

SAND-DUNE stabilisation work has begun at Lady Robinson's Beach as part of a plan to combat erosion along the Botany Bay foreshore.

The Department of Conservation and Land Mangement (CALM) began bulldozing to relocate and shape the sand dunes at Kyeemagh on July 5.

Following this, coastal plants, protective fences and beach access ways will be put in place.

Councillor Anne Field said Rockdale Council was given a grant of \$25,000 by the Public Works Department and council contributed \$25,000 out of 1993 estimates to undertake dune stabilisation at four locations along Lady Robinson's Beach.

Stabilisation work is proceeding:

1. Adjacent to Kyeemagh carpark.
2. North of carpark opposite Banks Street.
3. Opposite carpark between Banks Street and Solander Street.
4. Opposite Burlington Street.

Cr Field said Rockdale Council had had control and management of a stretch of the shoreline of Botany Bay for the past 25 years but had not had control of the developments undertaken by Federal and State Governments.

"It is these activities which have resulted in significant damage and erosion to foreshore land," she said.

She said dredging, extensions to the airport in 1965, the third runway and the construction of the Port Botany facility had caused changes in wave patterns which have led to the erosion.

"Botany Bay has the potential to develop as a major tourist area, therefore it is imperative our serious problem of erosion be addressed as part of a new coastal management policy," Cr Field said.

CALM has nominated 13 locations along the foreshore between Kyeemagh



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22/7/93

The Leader

Girls' school site once thundered

History project will when Moorefield was



ALDERMAN Field and students survey the area which once was a racetrack

By SUE CONVEY

ASK Moorefield Girls High students when the last race was held at their school and they would probably tell you about last year's athletics carnival.

Ask Arncliffe resident Bill McCurley, however, and he would insist it was 40 years since a winner passed the post at Moorefield.

The long-time local remembers well the days when the high school site was the local arena for one of the nation's most colourful pastimes: horse racing.

"It was like a gala day, a holiday, when the races were on at Moorefield," said Mr McCurley.

"It should never have gone."

Keeping Moorefield's

to the sound of galloping hooves

chronicle glory days mecca for racegoers

illustrious history alive recently became the pet project of Rockdale alderman and avid race-goer Anne Field.

The St George Girls High teacher launched a search for people such as Mr McCurley with recollections of the track to help her chronicle Moorefield's former splendour.

"It's important for people in this district to know about its past," said Ald Field.

"There really isn't much information available, so it's only from talking to people who remember the track that we're able to put information together."

The historical project unfolded by accident when Ald Field responded to a Rockdale resident's plea for pavement repairs.

"We got talking about racing and this gentleman said he had worked

on the Moorefield course for four years," she said.

"He insisted that the history of the track not be lost, so I promised him I'd put a history together."

Carved from the original Moore family estate in Kogarah Heights, Moorefield racecourse opened in October 1888. It was bounded by President Avenue, Princes Highway, Marshall Street and O'Connell Street.

Placid waters

An inspired writer at the time said "the view from the grandstand embraces a magnificent stretch of well timbered undulating country, while the placid waters of Botany Bay and the hills in the vicinity of La Perouse are the most striking features of the south-east outlook".

A nine-hole golf course in the

centre of the track gave punters a novel and entertaining sideline.

Mr McCurley, a former trainer, recalled local opposition to the closure and sale of the course in 1951.

"There was a very hostile public reaction when the track closed," he said.

Ald Field said any snippets of information she gathered, including anecdotes from the track's heyday, would soon be included in a book by local historian Doctor Joan Hatton.

"The book will be available for residents to buy, and school students can use it as a resource for local history," she said.

Ald Field said she was interested in hearing from anyone who worked at or regularly ventured to Moorefield racecourse.

Call 588 6553 or write to PO Box 391, Kogarah.

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1993

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MEETINGS

- SEPT. 9 Thursday, 7.45 p.m. - Monthly meeting, Kogarah Civic Centre
Guest speaker - Ald. R. Rathbone on local history.
- " 28 Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. - Management Committee meeting, Carss Ctge.
- OCT. 14 Thursday, 7.45 p.m. - Monthly meeting, Kogarah Civic Centre
Guest speaker - Ald. A. Field on History of Moorefield Race-course.
- " 26 Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. - Management Committee meeting, Carss Ctge.

SUPPER ROSTER - Volunteers please advise G. Johns

OLD KOGARAH POST OFFICE - The signs are promising! The Department of Community Services has at last been showing interest in the restoration of this fine old building. Recent inspections have been followed by visible evidence of external activity. Kogarah residents keep your fingers crossed!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Newsletter is printed by Kogarah Municipal Council, Civic Centre, Belgrave Street, Kogarah - Postal Address: Locked Bag 8, Post Office, Kogarah, NSW, 2217

Report into Rockdale area childcare released

ROCKDALE Councillor Anne Field and St George childcare co-ordinator Vivi Catalano have released a comprehensive report on the provision of childcare in the Rockdale municipality.

Compiled over a 12 month period, the voluntary report identifies areas of concern regarding childcare needs without a survey.

"A survey was not completed due to limited time and resources," Cr Field said.

"The review of child care was held by us, so it may be a community matter given a high priority when it is tabled finally at Rockdale Council."

Cr Field, a local high school teacher, said she has an interest in the development and welfare of the children she taught and those who were entering the education process for the first time.

Vivi Catalano provided the catalyst for the report last year when she wrote a disturbing letter to Cr

Field, her local third ward councillor.

"I wanted to see Rockdale Council take a more active role in the provision of child care in its municipality," she said.

"There is a need."

The two met a week later as a result of the letter and the voluntary project was born.

A multi-lingual questionnaire was prepared and distributed throughout the municipality to gather the necessary information from concerned local parents.

Mrs Catalano has worked extensively in children's services.

She became aware of a chronic shortage of childcare facilities in the St George region when she was employed as a Contact Children's switch board operator.

After completing her diploma in early childhood education, at Macquarie University, she was appointed childcare director at AMEP, Rockdale.

"She is co-ordinating

the Sups program in St George," Cr Field said.

The report covers benefits, needs and special demands for child care in the municipality and, in particular, highlights the lack of day care services and its implications.

In 1970, 10 per cent of women with children under the age of five were working, the report showed.

"Now 45 per cent are working," Cr Field said.

"Accordingly the number of child care centres has grown.

"In NSW there were 32 long day care centres in NSW in 1977.

"By 1988 there were 350."

The report has recommended that children, 0-3 years, in the municipality receive the council's highest priority.

Call Cr Field 588 6553 to obtain a copy of the report or to request more information.

—REAGAN MURPHY

For Community Classified Advertising phone 796 9111

2/4/93

Show tolerance to cyclists

AS A parent and a cyclist, I am concerned about the growing lack of tolerance in the community toward those whose chosen mode of transport is the bicycle.

Because of the ever-increasing volume of traffic on our roads, cyclists often have no choice, but to seek refuge and continue their journey on the footpath.

Those who don't, run a very high risk of injury or death from a collision with a motor vehicle.

The statistics of these events seem to be ignored when a death results from the collision of a pedestrian and a cyclist.

Certainly there appears to be a

minority of cyclists who are negligent, but this pales into insignificance when compared with the attitude displayed by some motorists and pedestrians towards cyclists.

Councils around the world are continually waving the green banner about reducing the amount of traffic, introducing speed humps and chicanes, but in effect creating at best diversion or at worst, hazards and obstacles for thrill seekers.

Instead of encouraging cyclists to come out of the closet, they post up signs reading "no bicycles/skate boards/roller skates" etc.

It is unfortunate that they could not follow Canberra's lead by allow-

ing and encouraging the use of footpaths by cyclists and skaters.

This example is living proof that pedestrians and others can safely cohabit the same carriageways.

Let's face it, if more cyclists took to the streets, not only would we be reducing the amount of pollutants in our atmosphere, but also we would be a much fitter and healthier nation.

So let's not start "cyclist bashing" because of an isolated and very regrettable incident. Let us instead educate our public in mutual respect.

MIKE STANTON,
Beverly Hills.

1/3/94

Anecdotes needed on Moorefield Racecourse

SINCE *The Leader* published an article last year on my research into the history of Moorefield Racecourse, many wonderful people have phoned to tell me their anecdotes.

The Australian Army located a map for me which showed its use of the course during World War II.

In addition, I located some golfers who played

on the old course and who kindly drew me a plan.

Photographs have been taken of the panorama of the racecourse area from St George Hospital, Marshall Street, the swamp and the 7th furlong shute, the old Packers stables in Burlington Street, the old stables in French Lane and Green Lane and the railway siding at Kogarah station.

The story of Moorefield

is such a wonderful story and it deserves to be told.

There's the Moore family and their role in the course, the wonderful jockeys, trainers and their horses which were part of the scene, as well as those other people who worked on the course and played an important part in our local history.

The sale of the course by the Sydney Turf Club was not without controversy.

I would like to hear from any readers with knowledge of, or photos of the old Kogarah railway siding (now Anglis Meats) where horses were unloaded and walked to Moorefield racecourse.

They can call me on 588 6553 or fax 588 2667.

CR ANNE FIELD,
Kogarah.

Language difficulties need action

I WOULD like to thank Dr Susan Moore for her keen observations on the whole word approach to teaching reading (*Leader*, February 17).

I have two children, aged 12 and 16, and both have difficulty in English.

The sad part is that it doesn't stop there.

Difficulty in English also flows through to other subjects, such as science, history, geography, etc because they cannot understand what they are reading.

My wife has spent countless hours teaching our children the basics of English, something the teachers should be doing.

More time needs to be spent on phonics.

Dr Moore, you have my support.

GEOFF PACE,
Hurstville.

Seeking the youthful past

I HAD a yearning recently to return to Rockdale after leaving the region in 1929. I am now 77.

Our family lived in Hayburn Avenue at No. 2. I attended Kogarah and Hurstville schools. I remember well the steam trams running from Kogarah to Sans Souci.

I was disappointed to find our family home and a few more landmarks had gone to make way for flats.

I notice that Listor Manor, a beautiful home, is still standing. In my day it was occupied by the Cairncross Family.

Through *The Leader* I would like to know if any of that family are still living locally and also a lad my age by the name of Arthur Ross.

DON FENTON,
18 First Avenue,
Toukley, NSW 2263.

● *THE Leader* welcomes letters from its readers. Writers must give their full name and address, and a day telephone number for verification. Letters should be to the point, and signed. *The Leader* reserves the right to publish, and to edit letters for legal reasons and the constraints of space. Write to: Your Say, PO Box 210, Hurstville NSW 2220.

DANKSTO

The Leader

Time to ^{3/5/96} maintain heritage

TO HAVE a heritage listing on a property is not to have it devalued.

Check the windows of estate agents and observe both the description and selling price of these properties. One would expect value to be enhanced rather than devalued.

It does not mean that you cannot alter the property. Quite the opposite.

There are strict controls already imposed by council on what you can do with your property.

I would not like to think that anyone could build "any type of house" next to a heritage property. One of Rockdale Council's objectives is to improve the streetscape and maintain the character of the municipality.

For too long we've had a tear 'em down attitude. As we approach the 21st century, it is time to recognise the diversity and value of our heritage and to maintain it.

Rockdale Council is exercising foresight in this draft heritage local environment plan.

CR ANNE FIELD,
Rockdale Council.

The Leader

Hydro ^{9/6/94} pool is needed

A HYDROTHERAPY pool is urgently needed in the St George area. The delay in building one is inexcusable.

During my term as a board member of St George Hospital, I recall that a local service organisation donated a substantial sum for this particular project.

More recently, Rockdale Council has indicated its support, with a promise of a donation of \$100,000.

Hydrotherapy has many benefits including relief from arthritic joint pain, improvement in mobility, gradual increase in muscle strength, relief from chronic back pain and reduction in muscular aches and pains.

(Cr) ANNE FIELD,
Rockdale Council.

Hydrotherapy pool

I AM glad Councillor Anne Field has again pointed out the urgent need for a hydrotherapy pool in St George.

It is impossible to understand why the perfectly good hydrotherapy pool at Western Suburbs Hospital was closed.

The pool was used by more than 500 people per week and its closure is having a very adverse effect on its former users.

16.6.94

WILLIAM BOSTOCK,
OATLEY.

Council to ^{The leader} get new

16/2/95

By NADJA FILIPI

HEALTH and age is taking its toll of Rockdale Council – a third of its councillors retire at the council elections on September 9.

The council which, traditionally, only sees three new faces every four years, is likely to see six new faces after the election.

Health is the major concern for first ward Independent councillors Charles and Elisabeth Daly, who have been on council 15 and 12 years respectively.

Cr Elisabeth Daly said they were feeling fit at this stage, but four years was a long time so they would probably decide to retire to save council the expense of a by-election.

Arncliffe Progress Association has also been searching for a new candidate after Councillor Denis Callaghan, 75, decided 12 years representing second ward was long enough.

Labor councillor Phil



BILL Morrison



ELISABETH Daly



DENIS Callaghan

Lang, who plans to stay, said the Labor party had endorsed three new candidates to contest the election.

"In the end, we will have a much younger team with more formal education and professional qualifications," Cr Lang said.

Although it was too early to confirm all the members of the new team, an Arncliffe solicitor in his 30s was expected to replace Councillor

Bill Morrison, AO, who has served four years.

A Bexley administrator (who wanted to remain anonymous for the moment, as did other interested parties) in his mid-50s will run in top spot on the first ward ticket, pushing Councillor George Pinniger into second place where he is unlikely to be re-elected.

A chemical engineer is ready to step in if Councillor Noel Seiffert, who has been on council 18 years, decides to resign.

A Brighton man in his late 20s is tipped to run second to Bill Saravinovski in third ward, challenging Independent councillors Anne Field and Geoff Hedge, who plan to stay.

Cr Lang confirmed there would be no women running in the top spot for Labor in any ward.

"It was something we had put a lot of thought into, but we simply have not had many female long-term members involved in the hard slog," he said.

Labor councillor Steve Holroyd will remain top spot in fourth ward and Independent councillors Mayor Peter Bryant, Brian Peacock, Ron Rathbone and George Moore also plan to run for re-election at this stage.

Cr Bryant, who has been on council for 27

years, said council usually only saw three changes after an election.

"It is difficult to say what effect the changes will have on council until we know exactly who the candidates are and what they stand for," he said.

"It is important to get candidates who can represent the community, but still operate within the economic practicalities of running a council."

“ In the end, we will have a much younger team with more formal education and professional qualifications. ”

Retiring Cr Morrison said the change would be a boost for the Rockdale area.

"People who have been on council a long time tend to feel obliged to defend past decisions instead of looking at each problem with a fresh, frank perspective," he said.

"The opportunity is there for new people to get involved."

The Leader

in touch

29. 6 -95

Schools get council kits

ROCKDALE Council launched its innovative school resource kit last week in a bid to help make the teaching of local government easier.

The kit is a first for local government and it provides vital information about the history of the Rockdale area and its environment.

Rockdale MP George Thompson launched the kit as part of Local Government Week.

It is the result of two years' work by council members and staff who also spoke to local teachers and education consultants for the 170-page kit.

Rockdale Mayor Peter Bryant said the kit would be distributed free to all local primary and high schools.

It has three sections: local history, local government and the local environment.

The wealth of information covering all three subject areas will answer many of the questions raised by teachers as they prepare their notes.

The kit also contains class activities and research tasks as well as a history walk through the Arncliffe area and notes for an excursion to the beach.

The kit has been produced in loose-leaf form so additions can be made easily.

in touch



Rockdale takes first steps into tourism's big league

The leader

17/8/95

TOURISM could generate at least 15 per cent of all new Australian jobs over the next decade.

That was the expressed belief of the NSW Minister for Tourism, Brian Langton.

Launching the new Rockdale Community Consultative Committee on Tourism this week, Mr Langton said NSW figures showed an estimated 300,000 people visited the city in 1993 and 1994.

He said this had injected \$67 million into the local economy.

"Every time we attract 18 extra overseas tourists a new job is created," Mr Langton said.

The new committee is made up of Rockdale mayor, Councillor Peter Bryant, Crs Anne Field and Geoff Hedge and nine community members representing residents, the ethnic community, chambers of commerce, accommodation providers, restaurateurs and environmental and heritage groups.

Cr Bryant said the committee's role

was to maximise the city's tourism potential without disregarding the views of the community.

The committee will also review a Draft Tourism Plan prepared by the council last year.

Recommendations put forward in the plan include provision of low cost accommodation, development of a marina and equestrian trail, establishment of a maritime museum, themed cultural events and rehabilitation of the wetlands corridor.

Cr Bryant said by working together, the committee could implement the tourism plan to carry Rockdale well into the next century.

"Now that Rockdale has been granted city status, we are in a position to reach into areas not previously considered part of the domain of local government," Cr Bryant said.

"Forward planning is the very essence of our future and the very key to successful community development."

KOGARAH MP and the Minister for Tourism Brian Langton makes a point while the Mayor of Rockdale Peter Bryant listens intently at the launch of the tourism plan.

... morning up. Photographer JOHN VEASE snapped the early morning surfers wading into the curls at Cronulla at 6.30, on Sunday. They found the conditions warmer in the water than out.

Brighton crime concern

By KATRINA ADAMSKI

A TASK force of local councillors, business owners and police will target crime in Brighton-le-Sands.

A petition being circulated in Brighton shops has collected about 1000 signatures from residents and shopkeepers concerned about the lack of beat police in the area.

The petition, written by Rockdale Councillor Anne Field, said each week there were reports of shop owners and residents being robbed while carrying money to or from a bank, bag snatching and petty theft.

Brighton Chamber of Commerce president Steve Cass, however, described the petition as a "scare tactic" - although he agreed there was a problem with minor offences.

"It is not dangerous to walk down the street but we do want more regular visits from police," he said.

Kogarah patrol commander Superintendent Neil Gould said he was concerned about the community's perception of crime in Brighton and would allocate more police to the area.

He said there had been a rash of bag snatching recently but police were also

making arrests.

"We will continue to examine the figures in Brighton and ensure the police presence in the area is proportionate to the crime," Superintendent Gould said.

"There is reported crime in the area and we will address it."

Cr Field said she was approached nearly two months ago by residents concerned about the increasing crime in Brighton.

Mr Cass said people were terrified because of the claims that crime was thriving in the area.

He admitted, however, that in the past

two months he knew of a Brighton bank being held up and reports of bag snatching and money being stolen.

"It is very disturbing because it is scaring shoppers away and investors are thinking twice about moving into the area - we have to get the confidence back," Mr Cass said.

"I believe we should make a submission to the Government to improve policing in the area and restore Rockdale as a full-time police station."

The petition will be presented to Rockdale Council and Rockdale MP George Thompson at the end of July.

11/7/95

Fixed of Printing Windows ???

The Leader

THE TEAM WHO UNDERSTAND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Anne and Glenn are committed to Third Ward Residents and agree:

- to be accessible to residents by interviews and a Ward Newsletter
- in our capacity as Economists, to support the financial accountability of all Council operations
- to continue to support compatible development in the Ward, and to recognise the value of the streetscape to our Built Environment
- to continue to push for more Child Care facilities
- to improve facilities for the elderly in the local community
- to better traffic management in local streets
- to improve community and sporting facilities for young people
- to promote Tourism and Economic Development in order to create local jobs
- to work towards a greater awareness of the natural environment in the City of Rockdale



THIRD WARD - ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL HOW TO VOTE FOR THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY MINDED TEAM ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1995



CANDIDATES

GROUP A

- MARSHALL, Bay
 COPPLEMAN, Philipp

GROUP B

- SARAVINOSKI, Bill
 COMINOS, John

GROUP C

- FIELD, Anne
 PENKLIS, Glenn

GROUP D

- HEDGE, Geoff
 BRENNAN, Janelle

GROUP E

- KALOUDIS, Phillip
 COLLAROS, Sharon

- BELLCHAMBERS, Charf
 KARACHLIS, Nick

PLEASE NUMBER SQUARES 1 - 4 AS SHOWN

DO NOT USE TICKS OR CROSSES

Authorised by Anne Field, 37 Oakdale Avenue Kogarah NSW 2217
Printed by Snap Printing, 440 West Botany Street, Rockdale NSW 2217

VOTE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TEAM WHO CARE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY



ANNE FIELD AND GLENN PENKLIS

ELECT THIRD WARD RESIDENTS ON
9 SEPTEMBER 1995

Voting is compulsory on
9 September 1995
Remember to number the squares
as shown on our How to Vote Card

ANNE FIELD

BA, Dip Ed, Dip Urban Studies

- a Geography, Economics, Commerce and Legal Studies teacher at a local high school
- Deputy Principal of Saturday School of Community Languages St. George Centre since 1986
- Lived on the Moorefield Estate Kogarah since 1984
- An extensive involvement in many community organisations which include Rotary, National Trust, Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc, Kogarah Historical Society and the Rockdale District Heritage Association
- Elected to represent Ward 3 in 1991, Anne has served on my Council Committees and other Committees to which Council sends a delegate

Council Committees:

- Community and Environment Committee
- Tourism Committee
- Currently Chairperson of -
Heritage Advisory Committee
- Ethnic Forum
- Access Committee

Council's delegate to:

- Rockdale Community Mobile Nursing Service
- Business Enterprise Centre St. George and Sutherland Shire Ltd
- Regional Library Committee
- Sydney Coastal Councils
- A Community Representative on Kyeemagh Infant's School Council
- Co-producer of the School Kit - Environment, Local History and Local Government of Rockdale City Council

Ran a campaign recently for "Police on the Beat in Brighton Le Sands"

Writing the History of Moorefield Racecourse for publication in 1996

ANNE FIELD IS STANDING ON HER RECORD OF THE PAST 4 YEARS

GLENN PENKLIS

Bachelor of Business, Master of Commerce

- Currently an Urban Policy Economist, previously an Accountant
- Attended local schools
- Lived in Third Ward all his life
- Played soccer with Kogarah Waratahs
- Member of Greek Australian Professional Association
- Glenn and his family maintain strong links to the Greek Orthodox Church in Kogarah



ANNE AND GLENN AT WORK IN THE THIRD WARD

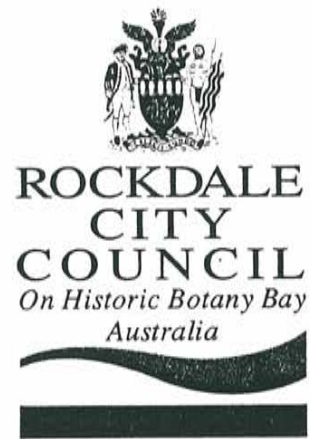


From the Office of Mayor Peter A Bryant

11 September 1995

Our Ref: A13/0008

Councillor A E Field
37 Oakdale Avenue
KOGARAH NSW 2217



Dear Councillor Field

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your re-election to Rockdale City Council and thus begins a minimum four year term which I believe that you will continue to find personally fulfilling.

Rockdale City Council has been very different from neighbouring Councils in that both sides, the political Councillors and the Independents, have limited their "fights" to the four yearly Council election and, in between, have worked as a true "team" judging all issues on their merits rather than on political lines. Indeed, I usually describe the situation by saying that I am great mates with my opponents for 47 months out of 48 months, the one month being the month preceding the election.

I do hope that we can continue this harmony as the benefactor is the ratepayer and resident.

With our City Status we have a great future ahead of us, a future in which you will play a major part. I am very proud of what we have jointly achieved. Handled correctly, the future can provide employment opportunities and prosperity for our residents, combined with sensitivity to our environment. I urge you to embrace this vision for the future of Rockdale with your own ideas and enthusiasm.

I look forward to again working with you in the new Council.

Sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Mayor Peter A Bryant
Rockdale City Council

Mayoral Chambers, 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, Australia
PO Box 396, Sans Souci 2219, Australia
Telephone: 61-2-562 1666, 61-2 583 1967
(Facsimile: 61-2 583 1952)

12/9/95

news

ALP wins control of Rockdale City

THE ALP was a clear winner in Rockdale City and will control the council for the first time in many years.

There is an ALP councillor in each of Rockdale's five wards and seven out of the 15 are new to the council.

ALP councillor of 18 years, Phil Lang, was yesterday confident of becoming the new mayor.

"I think it is about time we had a change. It has been a very staid old council for a long time," Cr Lang said.

"The problem with the old council was that they were talking about letting developers run riot and that is not on."

Cr Peter Bryant will remain as mayor in a caretaker role until the mayoral election on September 18.

Cr Bryant said he was disappointed but not bitter that Rockdale had ceased to be controlled by Independents.

After a hotly contested and close

battle, the First Ward has three new faces - John Theodoridis (Ind), Brian Simpson (ALP) and Yvonne Bellamy (Ind).

In the Second Ward, Cr Lang was re-elected, together with newcomers, Independents Ray Oxford and Shaouett Moselmane.

Councillors Bill Saravinovski (ALP), Anne Field (Ind) and Geoff Hedge (Lib) were re-elected in the Third Ward.

Cr Steve Holroyd (ALP) and Cr Ron Rathbone (Ind) were re-elected in Fourth Ward, along with newcomer Liz Barlow (Ind), who fought a close battle with Independent Joan Byrne.

Fifth Ward returned Rockdale City Ratepayers and Residents Association representatives Peter Bryant and Brian Peacock and elected newcomer Kent Johns (ALP).

The leader

The leader

in touch

2/5/96



Keen to stay in touch

YOU can take the man out of Marshall Street, but you can't take Marshall Street out of the man.

Former Kogarah resident Bill Harris left Marshall Street for the US as a young man in 1937.

Now 77 and living in Delaware, he was keen to make contact with some of his old friends.

Mr Harris now writes to Rockdale Councillor Anne Field, Arthur Henderson, of Monterey; Joah Dickson, of Kogarah; Margaret Oliver, of Kogarah; Catherine Hope, of Monterey; Peg Killiby, of Dolls Point; Betty Hardwick, of Peakhurst, and Russell Town, of Woolooware.

Cr Field, pictured (front right) with a group of present and former Marshall Street, Kogarah, residents, visited Mr Harris recently, addressing the American Association of Retired Persons and classes at Long Neck Elementary School about life in Australia.

Grandstand starts major racial row

By CHRISTINE RYAN

A PLAN to revamp a grandstand has sparked a racial row marking the changing face of Rockdale City.

More than 70 residents and members of the Arncliffe Aurora Youth Soccer Club crammed into Rockdale Council chambers last Wednesday to see if the council would approve a plan to upgrade the grandstand and facilities at Arncliffe Park.

After a long, heated debate, councillors voted 8-7 to spend no more than \$150,000 refurbishing amenities in the grandstand, removing the seats, bricking up a void and building a kiosk.

The council would also incorporate the new design into its amended management plan and place it back on public exhibition, the motion said.

However Councillors Peter Bryant, Liz Barlowe and Anne Field later lodged a rescission motion which will be debated on July 24.

During the meeting the gallery applauded, cheered or jeered, as arguments for and against were presented.

An unsigned pamphlet distributed before the meeting fired up the debate with its claims the

revamped grandstand and a "social room" would be primarily for the use of the soccer club.

"Arncliffe Park is for all residents, not just one sporting group or any particular ethnic group or groups," the pamphlet said.

Residents opposed to the proposal claimed the plan would exacerbate a "hoodlum" problem and cited heritage concerns.

Those supporting the plans said it would provided vital sporting facilities for youth and preserve a valuable council asset.

Speaking at the meeting's public forum, Howard Packer said the main problem with the development was the location and the way decisions had been made.

He asked why Arncliffe Park was chosen and why its stakeholders had not been informed.

"Arncliffe Park is a very special place in the area," Mr Packer said.

"It is one of the few passive recreation facilities in Ward Two."

Adnan Mourad tabled a petition with about 1000 signatures supporting the upgrade of the grandstand.

"We are proud of Arncliffe Park and the (war) memorial," Mr Mourad said.

"We (Aurora Soccer Club) do

not require sole use of the grandstand or kiosk. We never have and we never would promote Arncliffe Park as a sole use for Aurora or any one group."

Councillor Shaoquett Moselmane described the pamphlet as "gutless and full of misinformation".

Cr Ray Oxford said the pamphlet was "spot on" and accused Cr Moselmane, who is Lebanese, of "leaning towards people of his own background".

The Mayor of Rockdale, Councillor Bill Saravinovski, asked Cr Oxford to withdraw the comment or leave the chamber.

Cr Oxford withdrew his remarks and later apologised to Cr Moselmane.

Cr Lang said the issue had stirred up dishonesty and "ethnic bashing" but Cr Saravinovski cautioned all councillors not to raise racial issues during the debate.

Cr Moselmane later said residents were welcome to telephone him on 556 2420 and discuss their concerns.

He said the telephone number printed on the pamphlet was incorrect.

16/7/98

27-2-97

Council wins top award

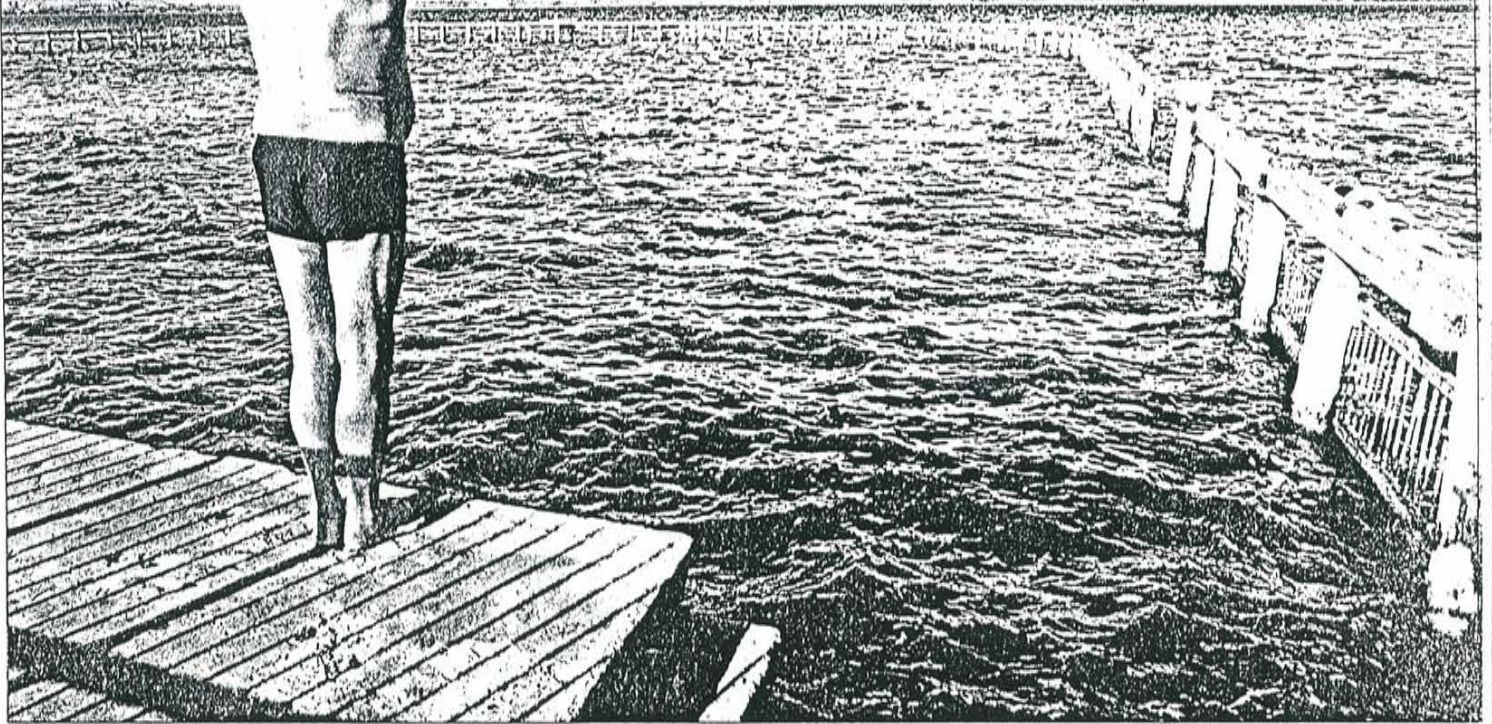
ROCKDALE Council has won a category of the 1997 Prime Minister's Awards for Innovation in the Public Sector.

Rockdale Council was awarded for Policy Formulation and Advice, which was one of six categories in the Prime Minister's Awards, on Tuesday night, February 25.

The council's winning entry, the Community Inclusion Project, identified discriminatory practices and ensured that all people, including those with disabilities and their carers, had equal access to the council's facilities, services and opportunities.

Rockdale Council conducted the Community Inclusion Project in response to the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination

The Sydney Morning Herald.



Refurbishment turned down . . . local swimmer Dominic Musich prepares for a plunge in Ramsgate Baths.

4/4/97 Photograph by ROBERT PEAK, L

Council takes the plunge to demolish heritage-listed pool

By GERALDINE O'BRIEN
Heritage Writer

Just weeks after the NSW National Trust classified 70 of Sydney's ocean and harbour pools, Rockdale Council has voted to demolish one of the oldest of them.

Ramsgate Baths are the last of the timber pools in the Botany Bay/Georges River area and were originally built in the early years of the century.

In 1973 they were enlarged, using much of the original piles.

Ms Kathy Erdelyi, secretary of the trust's southern Sydney branch, said yesterday that despite a report to the council recommending that a heritage consultant be employed to advise on the refurbishment of the baths, the council had voted eight-to-five for their demolition.

The baths had been closed for some time because of deterioration, but it would have been possible to follow "standard procedure" and scrape the piles back and mesh the pool with stainless steel wire and nylon, as suggested in a report to



John Holt, former pool user and three-time World Ironman champion.

Club and to swimmers such as the 1936 Australian champion, Garth Cooper, the 1943-53 Australian and world champion Gary Chapman and to John Holt, who was the World Ironman champion in 1971, 1974 and 1977.

Ms Elsa Atkin, the executive director of the National Trust, said the trust was "horrified" by the council's disregard of the pool's heritage significance.

Councillor Anne Field, Rockdale's Deputy Mayor and chairwoman of the council's heritage advisory committee, said the five councillors who were opposed to demolition felt "utterly frustrated" by the attitude of the majority.

"It is especially odd to make such a decision just weeks after the trust classified other pools and just weeks before Heritage Week," she said.

"But it has become clear to me ever since I've been on council that Rockdale doesn't have a positive attitude to its heritage or social history."

the council. The baths, which were classified by the National Trust in 1994, were once the home of the Ramsgate Amateur Swimming

11/21/97

To the scrap heap: council heritage list

By TANYA STAS

ROCKDALE Council has voted to scrap its controversial heritage list and start over from scratch.

This is providing that the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Craig Knowles, agrees.

Councillors voted not to proceed with the heritage list, known as Local Environment Plan Number 103, because the number of listed properties — more than 700 — made it unworkable.

Instead, the council wants to start a new heritage plan in stages as a matter of urgency.

The plan could start with about 30 pre-1900 properties of great heritage significance.

Other stages of the list could include the post-1900 periods.

These would also include properties where the owners had already indicated a desire for their properties to be listed.

The council would like the heritage consultant to conduct an internal examination of properties being considered for the top 30 list.

Rockdale Council has also called for a report on an education campaign to tell resi-

■ ROCKDALE councillors admit they have made a mess of the whole heritage listing process and vow to start again if the minister will let them.

dents about the advantages and disadvantages of heritage listings after councillors expressed their concerns about misinformation in the community.

Cr Ron Rathbone said the council had made a "mess of this whole approach to heritage... in stark contrast to most other councils" on the issue.

"Rockdale, over a period of four years, has not tried to educate the people of our area," he said.

"It hasn't done it with its own councillors."

Cr Rathbone said much could be gained if the council and councillors went out and spoke to residents and gave them the truth about heritage.

Cr Shaoquett Moselmane said he wanted the Local Environment Plan (LEP) deferred for two months and that the listing "basically condemned the residents".

Cr Anne Field said the council should not delay in making a decision on the issue.

"We don't want to make ourselves even more a laughing stock in Sydney's heritage circles than we already are," she said.

Cr Bryant said the whole issue had been badly handled from the start.

There were too many properties on the list to handle rationally and there was "great value in starting again," he said.

"People who own these properties have had a sword over their heads for the past four years," Cr Bryant said.

"If we were to discard that LEP and start the whole process over again, we could then look at certain properties a group at a time along the lines of Cr Rathbone's suggestions."

Cr Geoff Hedge then moved that the council not proceed with the LEP.

Cr Liz Barlow said this could only prolong the process because the minister could again reject it.

The Leader 8/7/97

Upside, too, in owning heritage properties

WHILE there are downsides to owning a heritage listed property, there are also incentives.

Helen Polydorou, chairperson of the southern Sydney branch of the National Trust of Australia, said both State and Federal Governments offered grants and land tax reductions while some local councils offered a range of discounts, assistance and advice.

Some local councils offered rate relief, free processing of development and building applications, reduced parking requirements and development standards, discounted services and items, financial assistance and free heritage advice.

As well as maintaining the character of the street, Ms Polydorou said heritage-listed properties helped maintain high property values.

Ms Polydorou agreed there were some disadvantages to owning heritage-listed properties.

"You have to do your alterations and additions carefully within guidelines," she said.

"There is more council red tape if the owner wants to do something."

Rockdale Council offers a number of incentives for owners of heritage-listed properties.

The council's heritage architect can provide free advice, while, in certain circumstances, the council will waive fees for carparking, open space, drainage and community facilities. Development Application fees could also be waived.

Heritage homeowners can apply for a local area grant of up to \$1,000 to carry out work which would help conserve the building.

Rockdale Council can only dispense a total of \$10,000 in local area grants each year, but a council officer said the council had not yet exceeded that budget.

The council may also consider a range of uses for a heritage property which might otherwise not be allowed by the zoning.

If the home owner planned to extend the heritage structure, the council would exclude the floor space item from the floor space ratio.

Rockdale Council's manager of urban planning

■ OWNING a heritage property is not all gloom and doom. There are incentives, says a National Trust spokeswoman.

services, Alex Sarno, said heritage-listed properties in poor condition could be demolished with permission of the council and the Heritage Council.

Extensions could also be made, with council approval, as long as the character of the house was not compromised.

Mr Sarno said the council did not require the property owners to carry out anything more than normal maintenance.

"There may be additional costs in carrying out the work in a sympathetic manner. However, this can also add to the value of the property," he said.

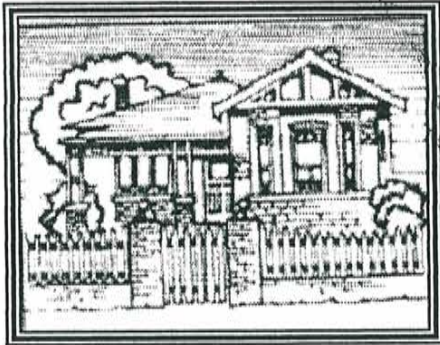
Owners of heritage-listed properties were not required to restore them.

Under the council's heritage guidelines, the heritage item can be painted the colour of the owner's choice and building maintenance and interior changes can be carried out without council approval.

As well, rooms in a roof, basement or first floor addition could be acceptable and car parking structures could be built.

Mr Sarno said there was no evidence to suggest that heritage listing affected property values.

Rockdale District Heritage Association Inc.



Circa 1987

NEWSLETTER

August, 1997 Volume 6. No.2

P.O. Box 64, Arncliffe 2205.
e-Mail Address. freedman @ ozemail.com.au

Heritage Forum

A first for Rockdale

On Monday 14th July, 1997 Rockdale City Council hosted the first Heritage Forum for Southern Sydney, this inaugural meeting brought together all the councils in the southern Sydney region, as well as representatives from The NSW Governments Heritage Branch, The National Trust and local heritage groups.

The Mayor Peter Bryant obviously excited at the prospect of opening the forum, welcomed all those present and quickly passed the meeting over to the Deputy Mayor Anne Field. Cr Field did a terrific job of running the forum, she also welcomed all those present and gave a brief history on how the idea for the forum came from Rockdale Councils Heritage Advisory Committee and that the idea was to get all the local councils together to work out a number of strategies so that all the councils were working towards a common goal in regards heritage in the Southern Sydney Region. As Cr Field most aptly put it 'why try and re-invent the wheel'

Mr Murray Brown from the NSW Governments Heritage Branch spoke about what they were doing and put on a very professional display using a computer and a projector and showed all those present a preview of their new Web Site which will be launched in August this year to coincide with Education Week.

The address for all those members with access to

the Internet is;

www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

this is certainly worth a look when it starts up, the demo look very easy to use and you can search using a number of titles including local government areas which will be a big help when you are doing your research.

It would be nice to see the SANS Directory also placed on computer as this would help a lot of people who are researching the history of their own house, as sitting there looking at micro fish slides is a very time consuming task

Rockdale City Councils Heritage Advisor Garry Stanley gave a presentation unfortunately the projector he was to use would not work and he battled on without it. He gave a brief outline of what he was doing in our fair city and expressed his concern at the lack of planning controls to help stop the rot.

Cr Field then went to discuss the aims of the forums and their objectives, those present are happy to meet three times a year and every year another council will host the forums. One thing that will be very interesting is that at the next forum all those councils present will be required to supply a report on what strategies they presently have in place regards heritage conservation as well as a wish list of what they would like to see in regards to heritage conservation. This will let all those taking part in the forum what is happening in the other areas, and hopefully from this they can set topics for discussions or workshops that will lead to a common approach towards heritage conservation in the Southern Sydney Region.

Covering. Arncliffe, Banksia, Bexley, Carlton, Brighton Le Sands, Sans Souci, Ramsgate, Rockdale, Dolls Point, Sandringham, Monterey, Bardwell Park, Turrella, Parts of Kingsgrove & Kogarah.

The Leader

14/10/97

Indoor ski centre proposal rejected

POLAR Technologies' bid to build an indoor ski centre on the site of the Elizabethan Women's Bowling Club was quashed at last Wednesday's meeting of Rockdale Council's finance and general committee.

Using delegated authority, the council refused the application for a ski centre with ski and toboggan runs, a swimming pool, gym, restaurant and child-minding room.

The bulk, scale, shape, size and adverse impact on the amenity of the neighbourhood were cited as reasons for refusal.

Councillors Anne Field and Cr Bill Saravinovski expressed the same sentiments - great idea, wrong place.

"While I acknowledge the benefits that such a proposal may bring in terms of jobs and recreational facilities, the costs outweighed the benefits," Cr Field said.

"It clearly is a case of the right development in the wrong location."

She said the development should be refused because of bulk, scale and amenity.

Cr Saravinovski said he was concerned about the impact of the proposed development's entry and exits on the already congested West Botany Street, the operating hours and the effect of the six-storey-high development on the values of adjoining residential properties.

"We have to show a commitment to our residents and oppose this development," he said.

"I have no problems with the concept, but the proposal is in the wrong location."

Speaking for the residents, Graham Watson urged councillors not to be misled by Polar Technologies' social and economic study which, he said, did not consider the views of objectors.

Trevor Davis from Polar Technologies stressed the benefits the recreation centre would bring to Rockdale.

Friends across the seas

ROCKDALE Council has made another international link.

This time it is a schools link between two classes of St Mary's Star of the Sea, Bexley and a school in Portsmouth, England.

It is also a historical link, as Portsmouth was where the First Fleet departed for Botany Bay.

The new link came only a week after Rockdale Council signed a sister city agreement with Tanggu district of Tianjin City, China.

16.10.97



ROCKDALE councillor Anne Field with Brian and Moreen Hall of the Britain-Australian Society and Frances Carbone of St Mary's Star of the Sea School.

The Leader.

26/5/95

Boycott delays amenities debate

By ANDREW GARDINER

THE long-running row over proposed amenities at Arncliffe Park reached a new low last week when Liberal and independent councillors boycotted a Rockdale Council extraordinary meeting.

Their not appearing meant the meeting could not proceed because the minimum number of councillors for a meeting was not present.

The Liberals and independents boycotted the meeting because they were concerned a vote on additional canteen facilities for Arncliffe Park – the issue over which the extraordinary meeting was called – would not go their way.

Councillors who did not attend the meeting included independents Yvonne Bellamy, Anne Field, Brian Peacock, Liz Barlow, Ron Rathbone, Peter Bryant and

Liberal Geoff Hedge. The Liberals and independents who opposed the canteen were one short of a majority because of Cr Ray Oxford's leave of absence, leaving the likely numbers tied at 7-all with a casting vote to come from Mayor Brian Simpson (ALP).

Cr Kent Johns (ALP), who co-sponsored the canteen motion, described the boycott as petty and accused the absentees of ignoring their council responsibilities.

"It doesn't say much about their commitment to duty, does it! They [the Liberals and independents] could have rescinded any vote they weren't happy with at the next [monthly council] meeting, so the whole thing doesn't make sense."

Cr Bellamy said she was concerned an unfair precedent could be set because other

sporting clubs in Rockdale were raising funds to build their own facilities, while the council was considering building a kiosk for Arncliffe Park which only had a couple of users.

"We have got an issue there that has been ongoing at Arncliffe Park and we have got a councillor away," she said. "That councillor will be back."

Cr Bryant refused to comment.

Last week's boycott was the latest instalment in a long-running saga over facilities at Arncliffe Park.

It came a week after the council's May 13 decision to accept a tender of \$172,300 from Seven Ways Constructions to build the proposed amenities building, after the previous tender was unable to complete the work because of serious illness.

27/3/99

High-rise opponents protest at the Quay

BY CHRISTINE RYAN

ST GEORGE and Sutherland Shire residents added their voices to a Sydney-wide protest against "ad hoc" higher density rezoning and overdevelopment at a rally last Sunday at Circular Quay.

The rally was organised by the newly formed community group, Save Our Sydney Suburbs, and drew participants from all over Sydney including residents from Hurstville, Kogarah, Rockdale and Sutherland Shire.

A leaflet advertising the rally urged residents to say "no" to increased traffic, loss of privacy, increased urban violence, degraded environment and diminished lifestyle due to overdevelopment.

Rockdale councillor Anne Field spoke briefly at the meeting about how the State Govern-

ment's policy of urban consolidation had failed. Cr Field said "never had the urban environment been in such urgent need of vigorous debate" and this was reflected in the "arrogant pursuit" of high-rise developments in areas such as Rockdale, Hurstville and Kogarah.

"Residents are tired of traffic problems associated with higher densities," Cr Field said.

"They have not invested huge sums of money on their homes, their assets, to suffer a loss of value and the subsequent loss of amenity to their residential areas.

"They simply do not want to move, driven out by the developer who is ever greedy for profits."

Oyster Bay resident and member of community group Shire Watch Gordon Hocking, said the representatives at the rally far outweighed the number of people

gathered there. He said there was "tremendous interest" in issues such as ecologically sustainable development and many residents felt they had not been consulted.

"People are no longer prepared to have the decision-making process taken away from them," Mr Hocking said.

"Decisions are being made that affect them directly and they want total participation and involvement in that decision-making process."

Speakers at the rally called on the State Government to repeal planning laws encouraging urban consolidation and said local infrastructure could not support increased housing.

The rally called for a Sydney-wide study on environment heritage, infrastructure, traffic and transport issues before further development was approved.

The leader

30-399

A history lesson to be remembered

STUDENTS from Arncliffe Infants School experienced a dose of history served up with good, old-fashioned hospitality when they visited historic Lydham Hall at Rockdale last week.

The children even dressed the part, with boys donning long pants and caps and girls in long dresses, hats and hair ribbons, for the excursion called *Everyday Life in a Wealthy Home of the 19th Century*.

The event was a trial run of a new program for infants and primary school children organised by the Lydham Hall management committee.

The public has long been able to tour the house, which was built in the 1860s and features a treasure trove of antique

furniture and crockery. But the children's visit was designed to give them a "hands on" understanding of what life was like in that era.

They were asked to remove their shoes at the back door, as usually only smooth soled, clean footwear was worn in a 19th century home.

They also filled out worksheets comparing the older furnishings in a room, such as the bathroom, with the same room in their own homes.

Anne Field, a Rockdale Councillor, who is also head of the Lydham Hall management committee said the committee wanted the children to have an exciting day and experience something different.



■ NANCY Hejazi and Fatima Karnib (front) and Year 2 students from Arncliffe Infants enjoy a day at Lydham Hall. Photo: KYLIE DAWSON

The leader.

29/8/99

The Leader.



■ ROCKDALE Councillor Anne Field and Jack Munday examine the new Lydham Hall brochure.

Champion of history

Munday at launch

HE was a champion of Sydney's heritage wars in the 1960s and '70s so it was only fitting that former trade union leader, Jack Munday, should launch the new book and brochure on historic Lydham Hall, Rockdale.

Mr Munday, now chairman of the Historic Houses Trust, was behind the world famous green bans which saved The Rocks in Sydney, and parts of Woolloomooloo, Glebe and Centennial Park from demolition.

The event at Lydham Hall was on a much smaller scale but almost as important to the members of the Lydham Hall Management Committee and community who gathered for the launch during NSW Heritage Week.

The projects represent years of work by the committee and volunteers who have worked to make Lydham Hall more accessible to the public since Rockdale Council purchased the property in 1970.

The book will not be available until later in the year but the brochure sets out the history of the house and its inhabitants.

Visitors were also taken on historic walks around Arncliffe and Rockdale and previewed the

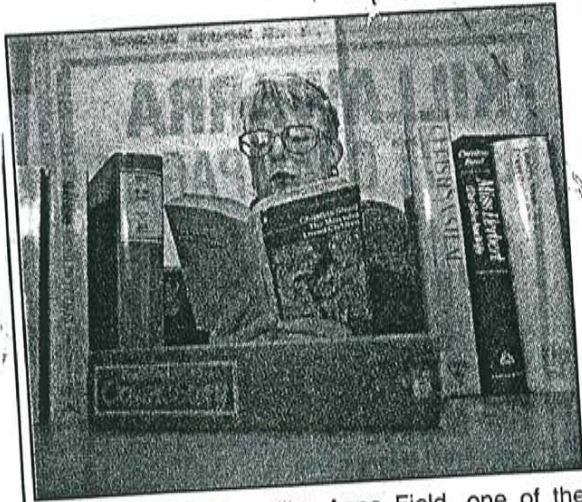
inaugural exhibition of 40 unusual items from Lydham Hall such as a 100-year-old Lily Tiffany Lamp and a mahogany half tester bed.

Lydham Hall, built around 1860, is one of the few buildings remaining from the time when Rockdale was a sparsely populated rural area.

The land on which it stands was originally part of 1200 acres granted to James Chandler in 1822 and named Bexley after his birthplace in England.

In 1859 wealthy butcher, Joseph Davis, bought 67 acres there and commissioned Swedish stone mason, Sven Bengtson, to construct a house with sweeping views of Botany Bay.

15/7/99



■ ROCKDALE Councillor Anne Field, one of the organisers of Christina Stead Day.

Special event honours author

FORMER St George Girls High School student and famous author Christina Stead will be remembered at a special day in her honour on Sunday.

Christina Stead Day is being held at Lydham Hall, Bexley, and guests include Ms Stead's 98-year-old school friend May Grieve and her relatives Elizabeth Stead, who is the president of the NSW Writers Guild, and David Meale, who is travelling from Melbourne.

The celebrations will begin at 12pm with a video about Christina Stead followed by presentations by May Grieve and Stead family relatives.

A reading of Mrs Stead's works will be followed by the screening of another video from 2-3pm.

Her novels include *The Man Who Loved Children*, *Seven Poor Men of Sydney*, *For Love Alone*, *I'm Dying Laughing*, *House of All Nations* and *Great Stories of the South Sea Islands*.

She was awarded the inaugural Patrick White Award in 1968, the NSW Premier's Award in 1982 and was made an Honorary Member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

She died at the age of 80, on March 30, 1983, while living with her brother Gilbert at Hurstville.

Anyone interested in attending the day can phone 9588 6553. Entry costs \$4 for adults, \$2 concession and \$1.50 children.

The leader.



Former Councillor Anne Field, 2010