



News & Notes



Vol 27 Special Edition UNAA(NSW) Inaugural Lifework Awards 2015

United Nations Association of Australia NSW Inc.

Patron: His Excellency the Governor of NSW

The Inaugural UNAA Lifework Awards 2015

are proudly presented to

Community award category: **South Cares and the Sydney 'Rabbitohs'**

Individual award category : **Mr Roger Metry of Roger Shoe Repairs**

You are cordially invited to the Gala Dinner and Awards Presentation in the presence of His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales accompanied by Mrs Linda Hurley.

7:00 pm Saturday 21 March 2015
Union University and Schools Club: 25 Bent St Sydney 2000

Cost: \$180 per person: Bookings essential: TRYBOOKING: <http://www.trybooking.com/119892>

RSVP: 17 March please Contact: unaapeace@gmail.com

Kindly refer to pages 2 to 4 for background information on the awardees.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Concert at the Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Philharmonia Choirs is presenting concerts on the theme of Peace with the involvement of the UNAA(NSW). The concerts will be held at the Sydney Opera House on

Saturday 16 May - 2.00 pm
Sunday 17 May - 7.30 pm

The principal work will be *The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins one of the most performed works by a living composer in the world today. This will be sung by the Festival Chorus and will be complemented by other works evoking peace presented by the young adult choir VOX and special contributors.

For further details, please contact Paul Malliate at paul.malliate@gmail.com or peruse the website www.sydneyphilharmonia.com.au

Climate Summit

Arrangements for the UNAA(NSW) Climate Summit to be held on World Environment Day are progressing. Expert speakers from Australia and overseas have been invited and we are seeking the participation of two people of instant global recognition who have a deep commitment to the environment. We hope to provide details shortly.

The theme of World Environment Day 2015 is "One World, One Environment". Our Summit will focus on issues relevant to the forthcoming discussions on the forthcoming Climate Change Conference in Paris in which nations will be expected to announce their commitments to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

You are cordially invited to participate:

TIME: Friday 5th June 2015

PLACE: The Mint, Macquarie St, Sydney

Amber Ferguson, Climate Summit Coordinator
unaanswenvironment@gmail.com

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Inaugural UNAA Lifework Community Award 2015



SOUTH CARES AND THE SYDNEY RABBITHOHS

SOUTH SYDNEY AND THE RABBITHOHS

South Sydney District Rugby League Football Club (the 'Rabbitohs') is culturally significant at both State and National level due to the high esteem by which it is regarded by Rugby League supporters throughout New South Wales, Australia and New Zealand. It is one of the founding members and the most successful club in the history of Rugby League in Australia, winning the first premiership game in 1908, and subsequently, winning a total of 20 first-grade premierships - more than any other club has ever won to date.

The value of the Rabbitohs to the community and their important contribution to the spirit of sport was clearly demonstrated on 12 November 2000, when an estimated 80,000 people marched from Redfern to Sydney Town Hall to protest against their expulsion from the National Rugby League. This rally, ensuing public campaigns and the massive groundswell of support from club supporters and the general public, are unprecedented in Australian sporting history.

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have a long standing relationship with the indigenous community, with strong links to their heartland at Redfern. The Rabbitohs' emblem and the red and green colours on the club's jersey are symbolic to the indigenous community and widely recognised throughout Australia.

The year 2008 is the Centenary of not only the game of Rugby League, but also of the South Sydney Rabbitohs. Celebrating their 100th birthday on 17 January 2008, the Rabbitohs serve as a fitting foundation National Trust Community Icon for their historical, sporting, social and cultural significance.

In April 2012 the South Sydney Rabbitohs became the second club to record 1000 wins in First Grade.^[38] That same year the Rabbitohs finished third at the end of the regular season, qualifying for the finals for the first time since 2007 and just the second time since 1989.^[39]

The South Sydney Rabbitohs finished third at the end of the regular season in 2014. They went on to win the Grand Final against the Canterbury Bulldogs 30-6 to claim their first premiership in 43 years, with Sam Burgess claiming the Clive Churchill Medal, South Sydney's first Clive Churchill Medallist in 43 years (taking into account the retrospective Clive Churchill medal awarded to Ron Coote in 1971).



Souths Captain Greg Inglis with participants in the 'South Cares' programs.

SOUTHS CARES

Established in 2006, Souths Cares is an independent not-for-profit, public benevolent institution, established to support the local community and address social need across the South Sydney region.

More recently Souths Cares has extended their services to the New England, South Coast, Queanbeyan and North Western regions of New South Wales and abroad to Auckland, New Zealand. Souths Cares are currently planning to extend their services to encompass the Mid North Coast, North Coast and Far West regions of the New South Wales and have recently committed to a number of requests from Indigenous communities in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Fiji.

This growth is indicative of the level of support that Souths Cares enjoys from its local communities and those found in rural and remote areas around Australia. This support has ensured a steady growth in demand of

their services and thus, their long-term viability.

SOUTHS CARES PROGRAMS

Souths Cares four strategic program pillars are education, training, employment and health. To this end they are committed to delivering programs that encourage and support education, training, employment and healthy lifestyle outcomes for young people, with an emphasis on Indigenous students.

Souths Cares' five key community programs are:

- "Nanga Mai Marri" (Dream Big), Indigenous Leadership Program - School to Work Transition Program;
- Teachers' Aide program;
- Indigenous Oral Health Program;
- "Ngalya Banga" (Working Together) – Indigenous Employment Program; and
- Healthy and Active Lifestyle program.

Nanga Mai Marri

Since its inception the *Souths Cares Learn-Earn-Legend Employment Mentor Program* has successfully proven it is an agent of sustainable change within our community.

The Program's:

- 2014 cohort achieved a HSC completion rate of 100%; and
- 84% of the Indigenous students who have graduated from this Program are now employed fulltime or in tertiary education.

Teachers' Aide Program

The Teachers' Aide Program is in its seventh year of working with local schools to assist them in engaging children in their education.

Five local primary schools access the Program and it is delivered by the entire Rabbitohs NRL Squad every week of the school year.

During 2014, the Rabbitohs NRL Squad provided 110 individual hours of support to our teachers.

Indigenous Oral Health Program

Since its commencement in August 2013, The Indigenous Oral Health Program has been delivered to 4,964 students:

- 1,234 students within the South Sydney region; and
- 3,730 students from regional NSW.

Healthy and Active Lifestyle Program

It has been four years since Souths Cares first delivered the very popular Healthy and Active

Lifestyle Program to all schools in their local area.

In partnership with Life Education, the holistic program for Years 5 and 6 students combines the NRL initiative, 'Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well' with a range of Life Education Australia programs.

Using comprehensive resources and adapting them to meet the educational needs of our target students, the Program utilises a combination of games, hands on activities, group work and role-play, where students are taken through developmentally appropriate lessons.

Breakfast Programs

In addition to delivering messages on positive, healthy lifestyle choices, Souths Cares have been actively involved in ensuring that students in their local community have access to a healthy breakfast each day.

Souths Cares in partnership with William Buck is pleased to be assisting Green Square School with their Breakfast and Lunch Programs designed to encourage healthy eating. Green Square School is for students experiencing challenges with their behaviour, have entered into an arrangement with Souths Cares which will see the majority of their students enjoy a healthy breakfast and lunch daily. The program is being extended to other local schools.

Souths Cares recently joined forces with Marrickville Council's Community Inclusion Unit to form a partnership in delivering its breakfast program ensuring younger students in that community have access to a healthy breakfast each morning.

History of involvement with the Indigenous community

Souths Cares understands its community and its people.

The South Sydney Club has a strong relationship with our community for more than 100 years and this community involvement was been recognised by the National Trust of Australia naming the Club a community icon in 2008.

We are the only sporting group in Australia to be afforded this status which strongly demonstrates our relevance to the local community.

On 25 October 2013, Souths Cares were recognised by the NSW Parliament and received a formal commendation for its services to the Indigenous community.

Inaugural UNAA Lifework Individual Award 2015

MR ROGER METRY OF 'ROGER SHOE REPAIRS', REDFERN



Roger Metry at his Redfern shop: Photo
Steven Siewert

The Individual Award to Mr Roger Metry was determined after consultation with the *Sydney Morning Herald's* journalist Stephanie Wood, who did a wonderful series on 'Old Shops of Sydney'. There was no hesitation to recommend Mr Metry and the consensus of the Redfern community was also unanimous in endorsing Mr Metry as a 'community icon' of Redfern. He will not live anywhere else: "Redfern is a great place. There is honesty here. And respect."

Below is the extract from Ms Wood's article published in the SMH's 'The old shops of Sydney': <http://www.smh.com.au/interactive/2014/OldShops/roger-shoe-repairs.html>

For half a century, seven days a week, Roger Metry has let himself into his Redfern shoe repair shop at 6am. He turns the lights out and locks up to go home about 9pm. He's never taken a holiday. Not once has he returned to the village of Kousba near Tripoli in Lebanon where he was born in 1944.

"Young generation now, they go to disco. Our disco was in the shop — do this and do that," says Metry, 70, who took over from his father in 1964. "I'm a working person; I've got to work all the time. I love to meet people, I love to talk to people and I like to be occupied."

Hundreds of pairs of shoes are jumbled on shelves in the back workroom of Metry's Redfern Street shop. There's a print of the Last Supper on one wall and an aphorism in Arabic script on another. The machinery on his workbench has decades of built-up grime.

Through the 1990s, Metry prayed for survival. "I've seen hell in this shop. For about 20 years I could not make a living; we were starving because the industry was gone. My wife looked at me one day and said, 'what are we going to do?'. I said, 'Uncle will look after us'." Metry doesn't go to church but "the man upstairs", God, "Uncle", is "in my heart, mate".

His uncle sent Tap Dogs creator Dein Perry to Redfern Street. "He walked up to me and he said, 'Roger, we want you to do the contract for the Olympic Games — 800 pairs of boots'. Got me out of trouble. Haven't looked back."

Metry's fabled generosity can't have helped his business success. Ten dollars to fix a pair of broken stilettos, nothing if he can see someone's down on their luck, and what's a shoelace between friends.

Redfern, thinks Metry, is like a little country town in the middle of the city. "I know every Tom, Dick and Harry. People say, 'hello Roger, how are you, how's work, how's the family?' People talk to you."

He remembers it when a tram ran down Redfern Street and the factory workers streamed into the area to work at Toohey's, at BMC (the British Motor Corporation), which produced Morris Minors and Oxfords in Zetland, at the mail exchange and at the police academy in Baptist Street. In the '60s, the Metry family had four shoe repair shops: in Redfern, Coogee, Belfield and Fairfield. "Coming to Australia, a new country, you had to make a future. So far, so good."

For now Metry is staying put. His son, Nathan, is training with him, and his wife is content. "She's happy; she doesn't see me." Maybe, he says, he'll stop work when he's 92. "If you've got pride, and honour, respect, you don't depend on the government; you're supposed to contribute to the government to keep the country going."

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