

# Making Waves



April 2011

A free community newsletter for Bar Beach, Merewether, Dixon Park, and The Junction

We thank our sponsors who assist us to deliver this newsletter to you at no cost.

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INVITATION

## Seascape and Beyond

**OPENING NIGHT** FRI 8 APR 6.30 – 8.30pm

Professor Trevor Waring Chancellor of the University of Newcastle will be opening this exhibition at 7.00pm.

**All Welcome!** For more information call 0411 744 041

Proudly supporting *beyondblue: the national depression initiative*

**ART  
EXHIBITION**

Merewether Surf  
Life Saving Club  
8 – 10 April 2011



Image by Jenni

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## Smack That , Tatt That - Tatted or Tattered!



No matter where you live, no matter where you go, more and more Australians these days, particularly young males are getting “inked”. Unlike getting “smashed” or “wasted”, which have become common terms amongst the youth of today – getting “inked” has far more long lasting consequences.

At least when I get “blind” or such, I am relieved at the fact that I know the feeling of absolute pain that I am feeling the next day, is sure to only last a matter of a few hours or a day at most.

However getting “inked” as the cool kids say, not only is going to cause you severe pain throughout the inking stage, but it is also going to continually cause you considerable reconsideration as you enter later life.

After my 22 years on the planet I am yet to hear someone exclaim “why gran, that’s a fine tattoo you’ve got there!” or “geez pop, what a fine sleeve you’ve got done there – bet that would have hurt a bit!”

Yet do any of the youth of today, that continue to brand themselves with these despicable excuses of artwork ever consider the fact that in a few years time, they are actually going to regret that they chose to graffiti their skin with “artwork” from someone that learned to draw on the side of a panel van...or that a few decades after the work has been applied, that they are going to wake up one morning and look like they have fallen asleep on a wet comic!



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- # Sunday Coldies 4-7 PM
- # Supporting Merewether Surf Club
- # Members, their guests and visitors welcome
- # Family friendly environment
- # Beer on Tap



### Merewether Carlton Rugby Club in Argentina

What happens on tour stays on tour they say – except for the day the MCRC touring party recently made the delivery of boots which had been donated by the people of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley to the Buenos Aires Hogar San Pablo orphanage.

The tourists arrived at a nondescript 4 storey street fronted building and were taken to a small room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor which contained a table and some chairs, an old TV and a very old computer, several boys and their house mothers. The boys were initially hesitant to try on the boots. Socks were optional although pairs that had been donated did prove popular! As the boys relaxed a bit, the TV served as a “ghetto blaster” and 1 of the boys gave a “breakdance” demo – in his new boots!

Australian Group Travel took the boys across town to watch a 15-a-side touch rugby game between boys from a foundation for disadvantaged youth operated by recently retired Argentine fullback Nani Corleto - Botines Soliaros and MCRC. At the ground, some boys from the orphanage watched this strange game with the weird shaped ball with interest and others played soccer but for all it was a memorable day!

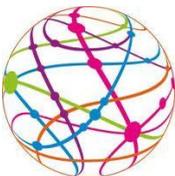


### Student Expression Section

*The team at Making Waves find it very rewarding writing the articles that come to you each month.*

*We would like to offer students attending schools in the local area the opportunity to see their writing or artwork in print.*

***Writers of all stories published receive a \$20 voucher courtesy of Marketown.***





**MONDAYS** Steak Night - \$12.90

**TUESDAYS** Pasta - \$9.90 and Pool Comp

**WEDNESDAYS** Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia

**THURSDAYS** Mexican Fiesta Fun - \$9.90 and Original Soloists

Corona Promotion - \$4.90

**SUNDAYS** 4 - 7PM UDL Promotion - \$5

**FRIDAY to SUNDAY** Newcastle's Best Live Entertainment



Well known Merewether identity Graham **Tamba** Adam has been keeping a daily record of events for over 30 years. Each month he shares a day in his life. **Friday 24 April, 1998**

My brother Craig and I were both going through a rough time and we needed a holiday so we decided to go to the Gold Coast with his daughter Nicolette.

I was looking forward to surfing my first ski waves at Greenmount and Rainbow Bay on my brand new racing ski.

We were just outside Karuah – it was a wet morning, and I still remember the song on the radio was “Year of the Cat” by Al Stewart. As we approached a slight bend on the highway, before we knew it, a car coming from the other direction was in our lane. We hit - both doing approx 100 km/hr and we were hit up the backside as well! Craig’s twin cab ute almost split in 2 and was squashed in – it was a write-off! It was a miracle that no lives were lost. I was ok, Craig had squashed ribs and minor cuts from the glass. Nicolette, asleep on the back seat had her nose busted up and cuts from the glass as well. The people in the other 2 cars behind us who were involved also luckily only suffered minor injuries.

So the trip ended there. Our holiday was spent at home but we probably had the best 2 weeks surf here at Merewether than we had had in months. Craig and I still had the time to sort out our problems. We didn’t need to go to the Gold Coast to do that after all. John Adamson (SLSC President) let me use an old club ski which I paddled on for the next 5 months because mine was wrecked in the accident. He said I should join the club because I had used their ski for so long. I fell right into his plan, joined Merewether SLSC which was probably the best thing I have ever done. When I hear that song, “Year of the Cat” though, I still cringe!



## Drew Blatchford –Australian Open Board Race Title Holder

1995 – Kurrawa – Drew had designed himself a lay down paddle board which was unusual in itself as most paddlers used the kneel up paddle style. It was a green and white board – not the infamous red rocket that he used in later events. 10 seconds into the event Drew was running dead last as he stepped into a hole and semi-fell over. The thought went through his head as he tripped “good work Drew – make it hard for yourself why don’t you!” - at that point his race plan went out the window and his new race plan became “go flat out the whole way!” Luckily for Drew, his dad Ross had trained him for the previous 15 years to be able to go flat out for a whole race in case he ever had to catch up, so the thought of doing it in this race was not a problem. By the first turning cans Drew had hit the lead by coming straight up the inside of the whole pack and he held 1<sup>st</sup> position all the way home.

Mark Raeburn , the commentator that day was still giving him no chance and predicted Drew would fade and that the kneel up boys would start coming through- but he was proved wrong that day at Kurrawa.

Drew said he had a can of VB about 30 minutes before the race, and that he did the same thing 3 years later when he came 3<sup>rd</sup>. “It seemed to relax me” he said!

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**Tues – Thurs: 5.45 PM Start**

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Clean Lines Surfboards

### Meet Peter

My family is well established in Newcastle. Dad was the Bar Beach Pharmacist for years and Mum is a talented local artist. I'm one of four sons. Mark, Andrew, Peter and Paul. I am married to Kirsten and have three kids Zoe, Max and Charli. I work as a conveyancer at Roddenby Legal in the Junction and I also run Clean Lines Surfboards.

**Favourite Beach (and why):** Bar Beach because

I grew up over the road and I have spent years of my life in the water and at the beach. Uluwatu in Bali is a special place for me as well. Even though today it is crowded I really enjoy the theatre of the day there and the wave just suits the way I surf.

**Favourite eatery (and Why):** Bali Corner in Hunter Street, Desak provides that fun Balinese atmosphere always laughing and stepping out of the kitchen for a chat. The food is fresh and authentic and you can get a cold Bintang.

**Favourite Movie:** Endless Summer 2. The fact that it's a good combination of short and long boarding. Surfing, travelling, and riding different boards are things that I like to do with my family and friends. If we're talking Hollywood, anything with Clint Eastwood, he is cool as a cucumber and delivers plenty of good one liners.

**Weekend Activity:** Hanging with the family and doing family stuff; kids sport, picnics, surfing, swimming, BBQ's etc. I like to surf, take photos, paint and design new boards. The Bar Reef Boardriders once a month is great fun especially now my son is into it.

**Sporting Team:** The Knights I love going to the games. It's the only time of the week everyone in Newcastle becomes one big family.

### Favourite Hobby:

I started Clean Lines because the cost of new surfboards was getting out of reach. I like to have a quiver of boards and I just couldn't justify taking a couple of grand out of the family budget every year.

I researched overseas production and trialled plenty of boards before settling on the manufacturer that makes my boards.



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I now design a range of boards twice a year, I import them and sell them through Surfhouse Photography in Hunter Street, at markets and off the front lawn.

**Favourite thing about your job:** The Law is quite straight forward when buying and selling a property but it's also a bit daunting if people are not familiar with it. Conveyancing focuses on the legal transfer of land between parties and for me it's great to take a lot of pressure off people when they're dealing with the biggest purchase or sale of their lives. I work with a good mate of mine Wayne Roddenby and we're always having a laugh.

**Quote** "Why not!"



Peter and Wayne – Bar Beach



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### Picture Perfect – the Inside story



The “Picture Perfect” house image on the back page of our February edition has prompted such a response from our readers . So many people have such fond memories of the house and the family who have resided

there these past 62 years. For Jo it was the chandeliers, for Al it was the original flushing toilet in the shed out the back - the 3<sup>rd</sup> such installation in Newcastle, and now the oldest still remaining. For Bruce – it was home and for Julie it was the magical quality of the 2 doors on the side verandah – and the pianola! She recalls “we would select a roll....and thump our feet up and down for hours and never once did they object to us being there or playing. It was just wonderful.”

From the moment you step onto the paved path to the front door you feel you are about to “follow the yellow brick road” to a beautiful and magical place.

Al and Betty are the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of the Gow family to live in the house which was built by his grandfather c.1880. Al proudly tells of carrying Betty over the threshold after arriving home from their honeymoon in the tram that stopped out the front of the house. Another vivid memory for them both is the train to the St Augustine’s Christmas picnic and the line of people beside the rail track waving and cheering.

Until recently they cared for the whole garden themselves, when Al handed the mowing duties over to their son Bruce due to ill health. Betty says the beauty to the garden is that it frames the house on all sides. She also emphasises the use of various textures, heights and colours to give depth.

## **MEREWETHER MECHANICAL**

### **STEPHEN ANSEN**

24 Ridge St, Merewether NSW 2291

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The house itself has undergone many changes over the years. Betty laments that she had the copper awnings over the windows removed many years ago because they caught bird droppings – she would love them back now. Al found that his fence palings and hand made letterboxes kept disappearing, so he replaced them with metal ones and that seemed to solve the problem.

The Gows have seen so many changes from the time of horse and carts to now. They recall their boys walking down to The Junction Theatre and to Wal Tracey's to ride the horses.



This beautiful house and garden have been tended so lovingly for so many years, you tend to forget it is only a few hundred yards from the beach and subject to all the harshness a

seaside environment inflicts on a garden. While the Southerly winds cause problems for a few plants, I was surprised to hear that Betty rarely uses fertiliser.

Betty says she would love a dollar for each time someone stops and tells her how much they admire her garden...but for her, a priceless comment came from a small child who said to her one day "so where do the fairies live?"



**MONDAYS @ 6.30-7.30pm**

**MEREWETHER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**\$10 PER CLASS (active members \$8.00 per class)**

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## Living next door to Alice

by David Barrow

Alice Ferguson 30/11/1910-3/6/1997 was a descendant of one of the original mining settlers – John Wilson, who arrived with his family in the Merewether District (then called Burwood) in the 1880's.

For approximately five decades, Alice dedicated all her spare time for the betterment of people of the whole of the Newcastle district. This included as well as teaching people to learn to swim, teaching the correct methods of ballroom dancing, tap dancing, playing the piano, and teaching young women and their escorts all the correct formalities for their debutante night.

In 1962, Alice was honoured with the Member of the British Empire award for her services to the community.



Images courtesy of Laurie Graham

During the latter part of her life, Alice was still conducting “learn to swim” classes for mothers and their young children in her beloved Merewether Swimming Pool.

The Merewether Baths have now given enjoyment to the general public for 75 years and during those 75 years, members of the general public have learned to swim and become conscious of water safety, for which no small amount of credit can be given to dedicated people like Alice Ferguson.

As you may be aware, there is now a Community Centre located in Caldwell Street named the Alice Ferguson Community Centre in her honour.

***Alice Ferguson touched the lives of many people from all walks of life and not just in Newcastle. With this in mind, grateful citizens seek to have the “Little Baths” at Merewether Beach renamed “The Alice Ferguson MBE Ocean Pool” with a brief resume of her public background on display.***



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**Madam Susie Sparkles**  
**April**  
**Astrology Guide**



	<b>Aries</b> March 21 to April 19 Ignoring your problems this month is only going to make you feel worse and worse. Taking a trip to an isolated location and roughing it for a while should help you put things into perspective.
	<b>Taurus</b> April 21 – May 20 Sometimes having nothing to do is worse than having too much to do. To relieve the boredom this month, busy yourself with something challenging such as volunteer work or cancer research.
	<b>Gemini</b> May 21 – June 21 Waste not want not: that's what our mothers told us and our grandmothers told us, but still we continue to throw out tons and tons of garbage and unwanted goods. You have the opportunity to do a great deal for the environment this month – so do it!
	<b>Cancer</b> June 22 – July 23 Love is on the horizon for those single Cancerians. Your past few months of drought are ending with a bang and you find yourself victim to cupid's arrow – several times.
	<b>Leo</b> July 24 – August 23 You have never really been one for conflict, but sometime in the next few weeks, a pestering colleague or friend finally gets the better of you. Don't hold back, but tell them exactly what you think of them.
	<b>Virgo</b> August 24 – September 23 The moon's shadow in your sign this month is seriously disrupting how you like to do things. Instead of rejecting this challenge, try and be a little more accepting to change and changes to your routine.
	<b>Libra</b> September 24 – October 23 A new purchase could be just what you need to inspire your creative side this month. If you continue on with this pursuit it could reap many benefits and rewards around the 15 <sup>th</sup> .
	<b>Scorpio</b> October 24 – November 22 Despite your best efforts over the last few months, you still find it exceptionally hard to save money. The key to saving money is you have to stop spending it – it's that simple.
	<b>Sagittarius</b> November 23 – December 22 Changing your personality to please others has never worked well in the past. Being true to yourself this month, especially around the 4 <sup>th</sup> or the 5 <sup>th</sup> will be a much better way to get what you want.
	<b>Capricorn</b> December 23 – January 20 After a strenuous month in March, April gives you a small chance to relax and take a well earned break. A family member who has undergone considerable change recently will also need your support.
	<b>Aquarius</b> January 21 – February 19 As we enter the 4 <sup>th</sup> month of the year, you begin to wonder just what you have been doing since Christmas. The truth is – not a lot. Easter is the perfect opportunity to make some important decisions.
	<b>Pisces</b> February 20 <sup>th</sup> – March 20 Decisions, decisions. Never has there been a time more so than now when you will need to make some drastic and important decisions about your future. – whether it is your home, love or work life, something needs to change.

**Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule****April 2011**

1 April	Friday	10.00 AM	0.4
8 April	Friday	1.00 PM	0.6
15 April	Friday	7.30 AM	0.3
21 April	Thursday	1.00 PM	0.5
28 April	Thursday	7.00 AM	0.5

***Note: Cleaning may be altered if the weather conditions are unsuitable***

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Image by Steve



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