

# Railway Parade revamped



Mayor of Burwood, John Faker (right) with general manager, Michael McMahon at the Railway Square site.

BURWOOD RESIDENTS, workers and visitors will soon have a new place to unwind and relax with construction of *Railway Square* precinct underway.

*Railway Square*, located at the site of the former Railway Parcels Office on the corner of Railway

Parade and Burwood Road, will feature a Council operated café and outdoor dining area.

The Railway Parcels Office was constructed as a post and telegraph office in 1886 by the NSW Railway Commissioners.

# Clean up keeps inner-west tidy

VOLUNTEERS around the inner-west will tackle a number of sites as part of Clean Up Australia Day.

In 2013 more than 550,300 volunteers removed an estimated 16,150 tonnes of rubbish from 7,341 sites across Australia.

"Putting yourself in the picture is as simple as registering your own local site or volunteering to help at an existing site," said Mr Kiernan AO, Chairman and founder of Clean Up Australia.

The nationwide event takes place on Sunday 2 March.

Members of Burwood Rotaract have chosen Burwood Park as their location for this year's Clean Up Australia Day.

22-year-old member, Natalie Dinale said that the group noticed there weren't a lot of teams registered in the area so the group decided to get involved.

"We thought it was the best place to clean up," she said.

"The idea came about at a meeting and we thought it would be good to get involved in - cleaning up is simple and easy."

There are numerous other events to get involved in. Strathfield residents can lend a hand from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Cooke Park, Chisholm Street, Belfield.

A free lunch will be provided for volunteers at the conclusion of the event (12pm). A free shuttle bus will leave from Strathfield Station at 9:15am to take volunteers to Cooke Park. The bus will return to Strathfield Station after the event, leaving from Cooke Park at 12:30pm.

The City of Canada Bay is organising two official clean up sites from 10 am to 2 pm at Rodd Park with Mayor, Angelo Tsirekas and Rhodes Foreshore Park with the Resource Recovery Team.

Community barbecues will be hosted from 10am-12.30pm at Rodd Park, Rodd Point and Rhodes Foreshore Park, Rhodes.

Schools also play an active part in the event. On 28 February Burwood Girls, Meriden, Chalmers Road School, Bethlehem College and Croydon Park School will clean up their surrounding areas.

Connor Grennan, Year 2 teacher at Croydon Park Public said that 400 students will clean their school.

"We do it each year because we're trying to involve students in sustainability as much as we can," he said.

"We've also just received an Eco Schools grant which we will use to put yellow bins throughout the whole school." Mr Grennan believes that it's important for children to learn the value of cleaning and caring for the environment at an early age.

"I always make the point to students that the school is their own environment and they should take ownership of it," he said.

For details of all events, visit [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)

# CCTV cut back in Burwood

RESIDENTS' safety could be put at risk after the Federal Government withdrew funding for Burwood Council's CCTV network, according to Burwood Mayor, Cr John Faker.

Last year, Burwood Council successfully applied for \$473,655 for the National Crime Prevention Fund under the previous government, to build on Council's established CCTV network and implement mobile cameras in hotspots.

Although the application was successful, no funding agreement was formalised prior to the election and the new Federal Government has stated that it will not be honouring the previous government's commitment.

"Without funding, we will be unable to expand and upgrade our CCTV network to improve

safety in the area, especially in our busier town centres," said Mayor Faker.

"I appreciate our Federal Member's support for Council's CCTV initiative, however it is disappointing that the Federal Government is unable to honour the previous government's commitment."

Working with Burwood LAC, Council has implemented numerous strategies which have led to a reduction in robbery offences by 53 per cent.

Member for Reid, Craig Laundry MP put the blame onto the Labor government.

"Unfortunately, the former Government chose to enter into a funding agreement with Burwood Council when it knew it had no way of honouring its promises if it failed to win election," he said.

"Put simply, Burwood Council is a victim of Labor's cynical attempts to win political favour days out from the last election."

In reply to this comment, Cr Faker said: "My interests are not the politics but those of my residents to ensure our area remains a safe place to live and enjoy."

"I call on the Federal Member to continue to help me lobby on behalf of our community."

Mr Laundry asserted that safety would remain a priority for him.

"I will be working very hard with all the councils in Reid to ensure that a range of public safety measures are introduced to make our streets safer for the community," he added.

# No place like the home you own

by Mitchell Jordan

FED-UP RENTERS looking to make the leap and buy their first house can get professional advice at a series of information nights in Burwood.

Otto Dargan, managing director of Home Loan Experts will be presenting essential tips, including how banks credit score, the different types of home loans and grants available, and the 10 biggest mistakes first home buyers commonly make.

Mr Dargan said that buying a home is one of the biggest financial decisions that most people will make.

"It's incredible how people go and buy a home with no idea what they are doing," he said.

"Right now, some units in Burwood have the same rent payments as mortgage payments, so there are a lot of people looking to buy."

The biggest mistake most home buyers make is not working out how to value a property.

"First home-buyers tend to compare the property they like to other ones on the market. What they should do instead is look at the recent comparable sales. Remember that the price that a property is listed for is usually 5 per cent to 8 per cent higher than the final sale price," Mr Dargan explained.

"Secondly most first home-buyers think that if they have a clear credit history, a good job and a deposit then they will have no trouble getting a loan. Unfortunately that isn't always the case."

He also warned against trying to time when the market will be good or bad.

"Instead people should focus on their personal situation and when they believe buying a home is right for them. How



Otto Dargan brings help for home buyers to Burwood.

secure is their job? Do they want to travel overseas? Do they have a wedding to pay for? When are they having children? These all matter much more than the market itself," Mr Dargan added.

The First Home Buyer Information Nights will be held Club Burwood RSL on Thursday, 20 February, Thursday, 6 March and Thursday, 13 March.

To register, visit: [www.homeloanexperts.com.au/fhbregistration/](http://www.homeloanexperts.com.au/fhbregistration/)

# Shift and share business ideas

INCOMING Governor-General, General Peter Cosgrove, is one of 16 speakers set to share their insights with Australian business owners and community leaders at Shift2014, a one-day forum held in Sydney on 1 March at Olympic Park.

Other key speakers include: Bernie Brookes, CEO of Myer; Christine Holgate, CEO of

Blackmores; Ross Greenwood, 2GB and the Today Show and TV host, Melissa Doyle.

"The speakers for Shift2014 have been carefully selected for their proven ability to understand tomorrow's customer needs and behaviours and use this to look at business differently," said host of the event, Garry Browne, an

Australian CEO representing community service organisation Rotary.

The inspiration for Shift2014 came about because Rotary recognised that business and community organisations have been crying out for an opportunity to affordably access these kinds of talks.

See [www.SHIFT2014.com.au](http://www.SHIFT2014.com.au)

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