

Dateline

ARTHRITIS SEMINAR

APR 02 ARTHRITIS NSW will host a semi-nar titled "Take the first step" from 6-8pm at the Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt St, City, as part of Arthritis Week 2009. Speakers include specialists in rheumatology, podiatry and physiotherapy, who will give firsthand accounts and practical tips on living with arthritis. Cost: \$5, including light refreshments. Inquiries: 9683 1622.

LINDSAY OPEN DAY

APR 04 NATIONAL Trust property "Lindsay" is celebrating its 175th birthday, from 10am-4pm with a Scottish theme. Dancing at noon and 2pm; a pipper and Woollahra Mayor Andrew Petrie cut the birthday cake at 2.30pm. Tours of the house on the hour. 1 Carthona Ave, Darling Point. Cost: \$6 for Trust members. Inquiries: 9363 2401.

CONGREGATIONS UNITE

APR 05 St Michael's Anglican Church, Surry Hills, will formally celebrate a partnership with Christian Missions International, a congregation with a strong Asian influence, pastored by Paul and Pauline Oh. The celebration will take place at 5pm, in the presence of the Bishop of South Sydney, Robert Forsyth.

LIVING WITH MEMORY LOSS

APR 06 A SUPPORT and information group for people with a recent diagnosis of dementia and their family carers will be held in Randwick, starting in April. The program, run by Alzheimer's Australia, consists of seven two-hour sessions, with an information session on April 6. Contact Amanda Allen on 8875 4611 for information and bookings.

HELP FOR BUSINESSES

APR 07 SYDNEY Council presents a seminar on cashflow management, led by prominent business commentator Robert Gerrish, part of the council's Let's Talk Business program. Centre, Kings Cross. To RSVP and for information log on to www.letsstalkbusiness.nsw.gov.au.

Youth service chopped

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Mr King said the cuts would mean 827 young people seeking help will be turned away, 25 full-time and nine casual staff would lose their jobs - at a cost of \$91,000 in redundancies - and two organisation sites in Maroubra and Redfern will be closed.

He said the impact of the cuts would be devastating across all areas and that programs reducing harm associated with binge drinking, drugs, sex and antisocial behaviour would also be terminated or significantly reduced.

"We're really angry, particularly because we've tried to get help from [MP for Kingsford Smith] Peter Garrett and [MP for Sydney] Tanya Plibersek, because we have centres

in their electorates, and we've heard nothing from either of them," Mr King said. "I'm just shocked at those two - they're just not interested."

Spokespersons for Mr Garrett, Ms Plibersek and the Minister for Employment Participation, Brendan O'Connor, have all said they could not comment on the funding cuts directly because the tender process for the delivery of youth services in the area was not yet complete.

But Mr King said the decision had been made weeks ago.

"Preferred providers were to be notified by Tuesday, March 17, we weren't notified, so we sent a letter and email to the minister and he's never replied. We've been defunded," Mr King said. "The not-for-

possible work," Ms Plibersek said. Waverley Mayor Sally Betts used Saturday's National Youth Week event at Bondi beach, Bondi Blitz to voice her opposition to the decision, and to call on the NSW Minister for Youth and Juvenile Justice, Graham West, who also attended the event, to help lobby the Federal Government.

Woollahra Mayor Andrew Petrie said the cuts would be detrimental to the whole community and that he had written to Mr Garrett and Ms Plibersek asking for an explanation.

What do you think of the funding cuts? Tell us online at www.wentworthcourier.com.au

Saving lives, saving trees - in Speedos

A group of Taramama lifesavers and members of the Wilderness Society were left out in the cold at Parliament House last week as the Premier, Nathan Rees, refused to collect their petition calling for urgent protection of the Murray River red gum forests in south-west NSW. Wilderness Society campaigner Peter Cooper said his organisation had delivered more than 10,000 messages from the community to the Premier's department but were yet to hear anything back. It's utterly ludicrous that this one ecosystem is divided by the Murray River and on one bank they've been given the protection they deserve and on the other they're still being cut down for very low-value products, Mr Cooper said.

Photo: ALAN PLACE



See a full gallery of photos of the Taramama lifesavers' protest online at www.wentworthcourier.com.au