

Japan witness questions whale cull

Andrew Darby

Japan's own expert witness in the whaling case at the International Court of Justice has cast doubt on the number of whales it kills in its Antarctic program.

The expert, Norwegian Lars Walloe, also told the court that he did not like the inclusion of fin and humpback whales in the whaling program.

And he confirmed that a founding father of the global whaling treaty believed that if any whales were to be killed for scientific purposes, the number should be fewer than 10.

Australia is asking the court to halt the Japanese program, known as JARPA II, which has a self-awarded quota of up to 935 minke whales, 50 fin whales, and 50 humpbacks.

Japanese whalers have taken more than 10,000 whales under the treaty's scientific permit clause, including 18 fin whales, but are yet to kill any humpbacks.

Professor Walloe, Norway's foremost scientific expert on whaling, was called before the court in The Hague by Japan to defend the program, which he said was "definitely" scientific research. Australia has argued that the program is commercial whaling cloaked in the lab coat of science.

Under cross examination by Australia's Solicitor-General, Justin Gleeson, SC, Professor Walloe conceded that he had difficulties with the quotas chosen in JARPA II.

"That is one of the ... weaknesses of the JARPA II documents, that I do not really know how they have calculated the sample sizes," Professor Walloe said.

He agreed with Mr Gleeson that he had tried to understand the numbers that he found difficulties with, but they were not in his report to the court.

"I think they are in my desk back in Norway," he said.

"I do not have them in my mind here now."

Professor Walloe said he had never liked the inclusion of fin whales, and there were difficulties with humpback whales being included in a program that was meant to examine competi-

A car-free yellow brick road? We're not on George St any more

Andrew Taylor

A meandering "yellow brick road" along George Street, wild meadows and a glass pyramid outside Town Hall are proposed for Sydney under a multimillion-dollar public art plan for the central business district.

The City of Sydney will spend more than \$9 million over the next decade on public artworks to decorate the city centre, with a focus on George Street.

"The transformation of George Street into a light rail and pedestrian boulevard gives us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape the heart of our city and introduce important new public artworks," Lord Mayor Clover Moore said.

The draft public art plan identifies a number of areas where art could be placed along a pedestrianised stretch of George Street, including at main intersections with Park, Hunter and Bridge streets, in city laneways and public squares at Central, Town Hall and Circular Quay.

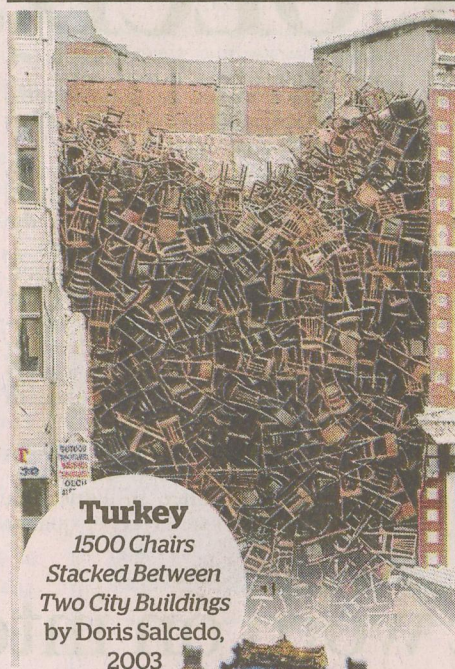
It also gives detailed recommendations of the type of public art that could be placed at each site, and points to successful art installations in other cities such as Anish Kapoor's large *Cloud Gate* sculpture in Chicago.

The NSW government has committed to spend \$1.6 billion constructing a light rail line from Circular Quay to Randwick and Kingsford, and removing traffic from a one-kilometre section of George Street.

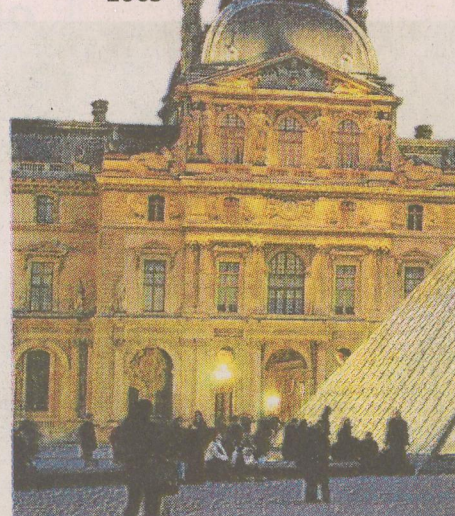
For George Street, the plan suggests sculptures on the roofs of buildings, billboards of historical images, musicians' rehearsal rooms and artists' studios, play equipment and the "repetition of eccentric pavilion elements".

It also suggests a lit path along the busy thoroughfare: "The path would be organic and meandering in feel: the opposite of a conventional, straight-lined approach to the street - more like a 'yellow brick road' - that can be expected to be of great appeal to children and people of all age groups." At main inter-

The global inspiration for Sydney's new art plan



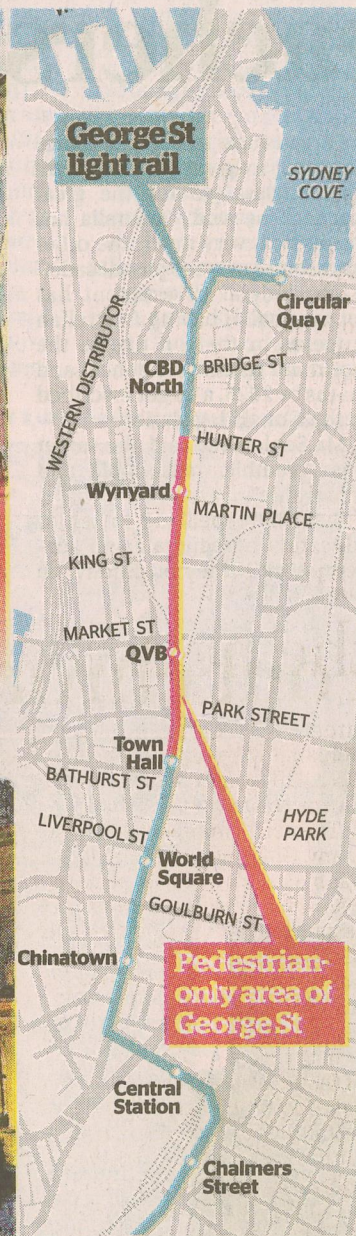
Turkey
1500 Chairs
Stacked Between
Two City Buildings
by Doris Salcedo,
2003



France
I.M. Pei's
Pyramide du
Louvre at the
Louvre Museum,
1989



Switzerland
City Open-Air
Living Room by
Pipilotti Rist and
Carlos Martinez,
2005



sections, the plans suggests building towers and art gateways that serve as markers and assist with navigation.

It also suggests "a sympathetic, grand-scale glass box" similar to I.M. Pei's *Pyramide du Louvre* at Paris' Louvre Museum be built to beautify an unsightly entrance to Town Hall station.

Smaller squares at Barrack Street and Regimental Square would be turned into meadows

planted with native flora and sculpture gardens.

Ms Moore said public art was an important part of creating a thriving city centre and public spaces that welcome people.

"We do want unconventional work that sparks people's interest, but we also need to create spaces that can be used and enjoyed by a wide range of people," she said.

The City of Sydney's curatorial

adviser, Barbara Flynn, said the plan built on previous public art initiatives such as Michael Thomas Hill's *Forgotten songs* in Angel Place and the Sydney Sculpture Walk.

"All the ideas we are proposing are ones that are achievable," Ms Flynn said. "There is a great realism to the plan."

While the plan looks to other cities for inspiration, Ms Flynn said Sydney would not be copy-

ing public art installed elsewhere.

She said artworks will have to be "knowledgeable" about Sydney's history and geography. Art will be chosen by the council's design unit and Ms Flynn, and will then be reviewed by the city's Public Art Advisory Panel.

City of Sydney's design director Bridget Smyth said the light rail development was the catalyst for

bringing forward the council's plan to remove traffic from the city centre. The plan says the audience for public art in the city is broad, adding that children are the most important.

"I often think children are a good litmus test of how kind a place is," Ms Smyth said.

"If it's good for kids, it will be good to older people, it will be easier to get around and enjoy sitting outside."

Killer's sister faces charges of wounding boyfriend

Megan Levy

The sister of the man who murdered the former Wollongong lord mayor Frank Arkell has been charged with stabbing her boyfriend in Sydney's south.

Belinda Van Krevel's boyfriend was treated at St George Hospital last week for multiple stab wounds to his body and a swollen right eye.

The 32-year-old was charged on Thursday night with wounding a person with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, after police allegedly found a large amount of blood at the home the couple shared in Rockdale.

Ms Van Krevel is the sister of Mark Valera, who was convicted of murdering Mr Arkell and a shopkeeper, David O'Hearn, in 1998.

Valera used an ashtray and a lamp base to bash Mr Arkell 40 times on the head before stran-



Charged: Belinda Van Krevel, pictured in 2000.

gling him with a cord and sticking tie pins in his face and eyes.

Mr O'Hearn was bashed 10 times on the head with a decanter before his body was decapitated, mutilated and dismembered.

At the time, 21-year-old Valera became the youngest person in NSW legal history to be sentenced to life imprisonment for murder.

Police allege that on Wednesday last week, a 40-year-old man went to hospital suffering from multiple stab wounds to his

Dramatic drop in Kings Cross violence

EXCLUSIVE
Sean Nicholls

The incident sparked calls for the government to crack down

Tomorrow in The Sun-Herald

Move to cut booze violence

those already in place in Newcastle, more innocent lives

Kelly's death, the NSW government has given us Band-Aid