

If cultural heart beats faster it'll catch my city



The oversized milk crate is one of three artworks commissioned by the City of Sydney

JEFF KENNETT



I READ that the City of Sydney this week announced the successful artists and their subsequent artworks that will be commissioned as part of a \$9 million public art project. Congratulations to the city for running such a competition, and committing such a significant amount of money to the project.

To me art is about attracting different views and opinions. The greater the debate, the greater the success of the process and the installations selected.

The debate over the three works selected has already started and will no doubt continue to rage and be reignited when they are installed.

People will always argue over any money spent on the arts, and insist it would have been better spent on education, health or some other service that already receives billions of dollars in annual recurrent expenditure.

But I have always argued that you cannot have a cosmopolitan city without it having a strong cultural heart.

That heart includes all forms of art, music, dance, theatre, architecture, sculpture and, importantly, colleges and places of learning.

I also include some of our sportsmen and women as artists. At the peak of their powers their delivery is graceful, artistic.

For instance, Sydney's new Lance Franklin, when at full speed, effortlessly bends over, scoops up the ball, continues at full pace pursued by opponents who he leaves in his wake as he charges towards the goal. And then from the boundary line, 50m from goal, launches the ball into the air, drawing from left to right, the crowd in suspense, and then after what seems minutes, the ball finds its goal.

That is art. Back to the three works

selected for Sydney. I love the *Cloud Arch*. It is different, it will be seen for miles and from the thousands of windows that surround it. Children will run within its form and thousands of potential artists will touch it and be photographed with it.

The oversized milk crate. So obvious when you think about it. So much part of our past lives.

Again an installation for comment, as a destination to visit, for children to enjoy, to play in and around and to touch.

Sixty bronze birds? I would have thought Sydney had enough birds in its CBD, but at least these 60 birds will not be dropping good luck charms on a bustling community below of mere mortals. Or will they?

I read with interest as *The Australian's* national art critic Christopher Allen expressed his view against the concept of the competition and the installations chosen. He is entitled to his view, but in my opinion he could not be more wrong. This is an exciting moment for the city, and it needs all the excitement it can get to challenge Melbourne as Australia's cultural city.

In Victoria we invested heavily and widely in major events, both cultural and sporting. We invested heavily in public art, perhaps the best known by Sydneysiders are the Cheese Sticks that act as the door to Melbourne, through which all visitors pass when arriving in the state by air.

Brightly coloured, impossible to miss, the entrance has many names, some irreverent. The art installations continue as visitors mount the Bolte Bridge and pass through a futuristic tunnel.

Art — how I love it in all its forms.

And Sydney desperately trying to catch up. Sydney will be a better place for these three installations, and if they can encourage just one citizen to pursue an artistic career the sculptures will have done their job.

Stay well Sydney, catch us if you can.

THE MEXICAN FROM THE SOUTH

Jeff Kennett was premier of Victoria from 1992 to 1999.

CSG leaks 'equal to that of cows'

GRAHAM LLOYD
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

LEAKING methane from coal-seam gas wells was not as high as feared, with each well emitting about the same as four cows, a CSIRO study has found.

A review of 43 CSG well sites in Queensland and NSW undertaken for the federal environment department found leaking from the Australian industry was much lower than in the US.

All of the methane leaks were from equipment and none due to the release of gas from outside of

the well casing. The worst leaks were from well sites that were under pressure after being put out of production.

The report found emission rates from production sites ranged from zero to a maximum of about 44g a minute.

Overall, the median methane emission rate from all sources for the wells examined was about 0.6g a minute while the mean emission rate was about 32g a minute, or about seven cubic metres a day.

"This compares to a mean production rate of the 43 wells of 29,600 cubic metres a day and represents about 0.02 per cent of

total production," the CSIRO report said. Given the relatively small number of wells tested, the CSIRO report recommended more testing as well as an assessment of other potential emission points in the gas production chain.

The CSIRO research was released as the federal government's mandatory renewable energy target review considers a radical plan that could dramatically boost the role of gas in cutting the nation's carbon emissions from electricity generation.

In a submission to the MRET review, the Australian Energy Market Commission has suggested a new scheme based on energy

intensity. This would allow efficient gas and other low emissions generators to issue renewable energy certificates and compete with wind and solar to meet the nation's renewable energy target.

AEMC makes and amends the rules for the National Electricity Market and elements of the gas markets. It is an independent body that provides advice to the Council of Australian Governments' Energy Council.

A review panel headed by businessman Dick Warburton is expected to hand down its review of the RET this month.

As well as concerns about

underground water contamination the carbon footprint of gas production due to fugitive methane emissions has been a key environmental question.

Fugitive emissions from unconventional gas production have been a major concern for environmental groups because methane is a much more potent and longer lasting greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

A paper published in the *American Proceedings of Science* last month found electricity generated using coal-seam gas or shale gas produced less than half the carbon dioxide emissions of electricity from burning coal.

But lead author Gavin Heath, from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, said more work was needed to better understand the impact of fugitive emissions.

Results of the CSIRO study were welcomed by the Australian gas industry lobby group, APPEA.

It said the mean rate of fugitive emissions was the same as four cows. But anti-coal seam gas group Lock the Gate said the results of the CSIRO research were preliminary. "The results show that 40 of the 43 wells were still leaking," the group's spokesman, Drew Hutton, said.

INQUIRER P20



Smoke on the keys: Wayne Connolly with the old Neve mixing console used to produce AC/DC albums on the left

RENEE NOWTAR

Home of Aussie rock still rolling

IAIN SHEDDEN
MUSIC WRITER

WAYNE Connolly has a bit of rock 'n' roll history at his fingertips when he goes to work every day. The music producer has his own studio in Neutral Bay, at the headquarters of J Albert and Sons in Sydney.

The old Neve mixing console he works at, or at least half of it, is the same one on which classic Aussie rock albums by AC/DC, Ted Mulry Gang and the Angels were recorded in the 1970s at the old Alberts studios in the city's CBD. That partly explains why there are a lot of cigarette smoke stains on the controls.

"When AC/DC were recording there would be eight of them in there smoking continuously," Connolly said yesterday.

As producer in residence, Connolly is part of the 50th anniversary celebrations this year for Albert Productions, the record label founded by Ted Albert in 1964 that launched the careers of the Easybeats in the 1960s and AC/DC, the



AC/DC at the Neve console

Angels, John Paul Young, Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs and many more in the 70s. The label's legacy represents a golden age of Australian rock and pop.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary Alberts this month are releasing *Good Times*, a five-disc collection of the greatest moments from the catalogue.

J Albert and Son chief executive David Albert is determined to see the company prosper as an iconic Australian family business long into the future. "Music is something that underpins the family," he said. "The ethos is that this is a family business, rather than a business in which the family has some involvement."

Revealed: Bacon, leaks and the plot to bring down an Abbott



Journalism teacher and writer Wendy Bacon

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"Did you get it?" Ms Newman replies 24 minutes later, saying she's on "edupoint right now and there's very little on here but just trying to generate a report".

She adds: "There's a bit about Francis (sic) meeting with Leane on Feb 21 2011 and then receiving a managing (sic) director scholarship for 2011 three days later... that's I've found for the moment."

In a further email to Mr Kyriakidis sent 23 minutes later 6:43pm, Ms Newman says: "I am. Might go meet Chris now talk tactics. see you tomorrow."

New Matilda published its first article on the issue the next day May 21, claiming a scholarship awarded to Ms Abbott on the basis of merit was "contradicted by test money and documents obtained by New Matilda".

Ms Abbott was offered the "managing director's scholarship" at the first and only meeting with institute owner Leanne Whitehouse, more than 500 others might have rather than undergoing an exhaustive application process.

Graham would not confirm to *The Weekend Australian* last night whether he thought he was the my aspect of the coverage.

"Chris" referred to by Ms Newman in her last email. He also would not comment on whether he knew Ms



Graham Newman and Ms Abbott

Newman, or had received any information from her regarding the Abbott scholarship grant.

Graham would also not confirm whether he knew Mr Kyriakidis, or whether he had discussed the matter with police. He said he could not discuss confidential sources. "It's been sensitive coverage and I can't discuss any of the sources on the stories," he said.

He said, like him, Ms Bacon was deeply involved in preparing the Whitehouse scholarship story from its inception, in her capacity as a contributing editor and writer for New Matilda. Asked whether he had any concerns that the student records of Ms Abbott and

Leanne Whitehouse more than 500 others might have rather than undergoing an exhaustive application process.

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"Chris" referred to by Ms Newman in her last email. He also would not comment on whether he knew Ms

means, he said: "I don't have any knowledge of it."

One clue about the transfer of information from the Whitehouse Institute's "edupoint" software system directly to New Matilda following the May 20 emails is that the word "managing" is misspelled in the original files, a Newman email and the New Matilda article.

Detective Sergeant Paul Grace

'I'm not concerned about the coverage'

CHRIS GRAHAM
EDITOR OF NEW MATILDA

from Sydney's Surry Hills police station confirmed an investigation was under way following a complaint by the institute. He said it was close to completion.

NSW police are believed to be awaiting confirmation of one further detail.

Ms Newman, who did not return *The Weekend Australian's* calls, was a part-time night librarian with the Whitehouse Institute on May 20. She did not return to her job the day after computer files were accessed, which was also the day New Ma-

tilda published its article about Ms Abbott's scholarship.

Ms Newman's Facebook listing describes her as an undergraduate student at the University of Technology, Sydney, the institution where Ms Bacon headed a journalism program until her retirement two years ago. Ms Newman is described as the UTS women's officer and is active in student politics.

Mr Kyriakidis, co-founder of the Space3 Gallery for painting and photography in Sydney's Chippendale, did not return calls. He resigned from his position as a part-time institute teacher in early June after being asked questions by management. He has an "adverse action" complaint lodged with the Fair Work Commission over his treatment by the Whitehouse Institute.

Ms Whitehouse, the institute's founder and managing director, wrote to all students yesterday to express regret after evidence had been uncovered of "an unauthorised access of confidential computer records from our computer system by a member of staff".

She told students police had informed the institute their investigations were nearing completion and they believe an offence had been committed. She said the institute was unable to determine

with certainty the extent of the breach of privacy, but could say with certainty it involved more than 500 current and former students. "We respect anyone's right to protest about government policies," she said. "However, there is simply no justification for such a gross — and illegal — violation of our students' privacy."

It is understood Ms Newman did not have access to the institute's computer system. According to reports made to police, a person gained access to the system using the login of another staff member. There is no suggestion the person whose login was used was connected to the alleged computer hacking.

In response to questions last night about whether she would have concerns if material from Ms Abbott's student records, and those of others, were inappropriately and possibly illegally obtained, Ms Bacon said last night: "As a professional fellow at UTS, I give occasional guest lectures. As a journalist, I do not discuss stories involving confidential sources."

The Weekend Australian also asked if she knew Ms Newman and whether Ms Newman had been a student of hers, or whether she had had contact with Ms Newman over the New Matilda article.

Queensland Treasury and Trade

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