

Community Newsletter

Winter 2011

With Compliments: **Ray White**™

WELCOME—MARK COURE MP

This year's local election was certainly a nail biter and voters were kept in limbo for days awaiting the announcement of the winning candidate. It was a close shave and whilst the well-liked Kevin Greene had served his electorate wonderfully for a number of years, it was obvious that locals were looking for change – and who better than Mark Coure! He may be a tad younger than his predecessor, however, Mark has a wealth of experience when it comes to politics combined with an intimate knowledge of the area.

Mark attended St Joseph's Primary in Oatley before moving to Marist College Penshurst and Kogarah, then finished his schooling at Macquarie University. His passion and interest in politics started in Primary School and by the age of 15 he'd joined the Liberal Party.

"My first taste of 'real' politics was working for Joe Hockey MP Member for North Sydney for five years" says Mark "and then serving as a Councillor on Kogarah City Council since 2004." It's through this previous experience that voters have now put their confidence in Mark by electing him into what would be the highlight of his political career thus far, as Member for Oatley.

"My family has been in the area since the 1970's and having been born and bred in Hurstville Grove I've seen a lot of change over the years, much of it positive but some of it not so positive" says Mark. "I've seen inappropriate high rise development built in Hurstville, which has had a negative impact on our local area and smaller suburban centres. I have seen services cut at Oatley railway station and the urgent need for a lift to help the elderly, disabled and parents with strollers."

Mark has worked hard since he was first elected to Kogarah Council and over the years has successfully secured money for Hillcrest Avenue and major infrastructure projects like Neverfail Bay, additional parking in Oatley and strengthen-



Mark Coure delivering his Inaugural Speech to Parliament.

ing Council's graffiti policies. He's also fought hard to protect the area from over-development and advocated for improved services and infrastructure.

"I'm keen to continue a lot of the issues I've already pursued at a Council level and ensure that our community has the best access to services, a vibrant local economy, the best place to raise a family and the best opportunities for young people to have high quality education and find work" says Mark. "Specific projects I am working towards include the installation of lifts at Oatley and Narwee train stations, a St George Men's Shed, a youth support and refuge facility and a new school hall for Peakhurst High School."

In his spare time Mark likes to collect coins, stamps and political memorabilia and enjoys sitting down to relax with a good biography, but for the moment these things will have to be put on the back-burner as Mark rises to the challenge of representing such a vital and ever-changing community. Good luck Mark.

Mark Coure can be contacted through his office:
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E oatley@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mark Coure's first 100 days in Government has seen many changes that will benefit the St George region including:

- ✓ A 9% reduction in the price of monthly, quarterly and yearly rail tickets.
- ✓ Legislated improved move on powers for police to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ Abolition of the Homebuyer's Tax, saving an average household \$1,250 in tax.
- ✓ Repealing Part 3A of the planning legislation to give decision making powers back to Councils.
- ✓ Changed rules around affordable housing to protect the character of suburbs and ensure adequate parking and access to public transport.
- ✓ Passed legislation to provide for Local Health Districts and District Health Boards to restore local decision making.
- ✓ Set up of an inquiry into the selloff of the state's electricity assets.
- ✓ Established 'Destination NSW' to reinvigorate the tourism industry and promote Sydney as a tourism and event destination.

Mark Coure's To Do List

- Fight for more funding and nurses at St George Hospital.
- Install CCTV at Mortdale and Narwee train stations.
- Increase police patrols to make our community safer.
- Greater funding for schools.
- More reliable and less crowded buses and trains.

LIFE SKILLS—TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE REAL WORLD



Oatley West Public School students selling their pet rocks for "Redbacks".

Oatley West Public School has introduced an exciting program called "Life Skills". The Program is designed to teach students about financial matters in the real world using a hands-on approach.

Students are encouraged to explore new ways of thinking and apply these ideas into action in order to develop leadership skills and work as a member of a team. In addition, it forms an important part of learning social interaction and time management skills.

Students are able to earn money called "School Redbacks" via a number of different methods:

- Recycling aluminium cans.
- Working in a variety of roles such as craft, gardening, candle and jewellery making.
- Becoming a Director of an individual business or be on the "Life Skills" Board of Directors.

School Redbacks are deposited by each student into their

own "Life Skills" bank account where interest is calculated throughout the year. Students can spend their money at School Market Days or Auctions.

In addition, students can operate their own businesses by providing and selling their own merchandise at Market Day stalls. All profits in Redbacks are shared evenly amongst the stall workers. Money exchange booths operate on Market Days when students can withdraw and exchange Australian currency for Redbacks (eg \$1.00 = 10 RB), in order for them to learn the process of bank withdrawals and currency values.

"So far the program has proven very successful" says program director Wendy Chalmers, "it has many appealing qualities for children and has stimulated their curiosity regarding all things financial. It's wonderful to observe them working together as a team, and see their excitement as they watch their bank accounts grow."

Ray White™

SUBURB SPOTLIGHT: HURSTVILLE GROVE



Sunset over Hurstville Grove's beautiful Oatley Bay.
(photo courtesy Jim Barlas)

Population: 2,300. Hurstville Grove is located 19 kilometres south of the Sydney CBD and is part of the St George region. Stretching from Hillcrest Avenue to the shore of Oatley Bay on the Georges River, it lies across the local government area of the City of Hurstville. The area was granted to Captain John Townson and his brother Robert in 1808, however the brothers were not happy with the heavily timbered land as it was not suitable for the farming of sheep for wool. Eventually the land was sold to Michael Gannon in 1850 and became known as Gannon's Forest. When the railway arrived in 1884 the station took the name Hurstville from the local school.

Hurstville Grove offers a limited number of prestige waterfront homes, combined with high quality family dwellings, villas and townhouses. A number of parks and reserves are scattered throughout the suburb including a beautiful waterfront reserve on Oatley Bay. With cricket nets, basketball and tennis courts and just a stones-throw from Moore Reserve Wetlands and the busy hub of Hurstville, Hurstville Grove offers its residents a strong sense of community spirit and family values. One of the smallest neighbourhoods in the area, Hurstville Grove is more than just a suburb, but a community way of life.

THE ITALIAN JOB

You may recall the buzz in the area when The Italian Job Cafe first splashed its name across the black building on Hillcrest Avenue in the leafy suburb of Hurstville Grove. It brought a feeling of mystery to the area and many wondered what dark secrets lay beyond its doors. Whilst the mafia-inspired restaurant is free of gangsters and machine guns, it is filled with the old-school Italian charm of days gone by.

Five years on, chefs and owners Teresa and Dominique Stasolla are still delivering traditional home-style Italian cooking that is simple and tasty, with none of the modern twists.



Teresa Stasolla knows all about traditional Italian food.

"I was raised with old-fashioned Italian cooking" says Teresa "and was always encouraged to watch and learn. When I was young, Australia's knowledge of Italian food didn't extend beyond spaghetti bolognese. While all the other kids at school were eating vegemite sandwiches, I was eating home-made Italian bread with home-made salami that was hanging in the back shed.

Even though I used to get teased, these foods stayed with me my whole life and I now understand

and appreciate having been exposed to these traditional foods (that we now know as "gourmet"), and I am able to give this knowledge back through my cooking to my customers.

Television shows such as Masterchef offer a more modern cuisine, whereas we focus on the traditional – and ironically because it's traditional, it's unique."



The menu is quite extensive and Teresa and Dominique re-vamp it every six months in order to take advantage of foods that are in season. "We are mindful that people like to focus on more healthier options these-days" says Teresa "however, our main aim is to offer customers tasty food in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere. After all, eating is a part of life – and so it should be enjoyed."

The Italian Job Café is BYO and open Monday to Saturday from 5.00 pm. Home delivery and takeaway is also available. For bookings call 9580 8080.



De-Clutter to Help Kids

Second Chance Toys is a new community initiative in Australia to rescue and recycle gently used plastic toys by donating them to children in need.

Many plastic toys are disposed of when they could still be used. When perfectly useable toys are thrown out, they become waste in landfill, take up a lot of space and do not biodegrade. Many children throughout Australia who could benefit from these toys, go without them.

Second Chance Toys provides a waste-need solution to these problems. Unwanted toys that are still useable, are rescued and prepared for distribution to children in need through local community organisations. It's a win-win situation; parents (and their children) can feel good about giving at the same time as de-cluttering the house!

For more information on how to get involved with Second Chance Toys, please contact Cheryl Staddon
E secondtoys@optusnet.com.au M 0422 752 862
W secondchancetoys.com.au



Farewell, but not Goodbye

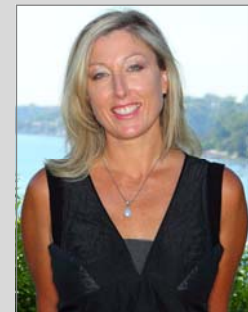
After 25 illustrious years with Ray White, Lisa Pentland is heading into semi-retirement whilst acting as a consultant in the busy world of Corporate Real Estate.

Lisa began her career at Ray White Peakhurst before taking over Ray White's Penshurst office where she ran a successful operation for many years. In 2006 she opened a brand new Ray White office in Oatley.

With plenty of hard work combined with her intimate knowledge of the industry, Lisa built the business from a small office with a meagre staff, into the thriving and successful company it is today. Ray White Oatley's market share has quadrupled since that time and the office was recently expanded to accommodate the dozen staff that are now employed.

John Michaelis remains as Principal of Ray White Oatley, and whilst Lisa will be greatly missed by staff and clients alike, you will still see her dashing around the area whether it be in joggers or heels, and her sage advice is only a phone call away.

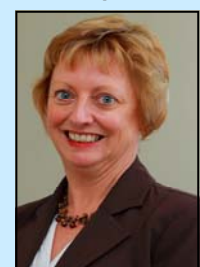
In the meantime, the rest of the Ray White team remains, ready to offer the friendly and professional service that Lisa built the business on all those years ago. Good luck Lisa!



Ray White Oatley Launches Loan Market Office

Maria Finneran has joined Ray White Oatley's new Loan Market Office after working in the finance industry for many years. Loan Market works closely with Ray White and are committed to providing low interest loans and a professional service for their clients. Maria lives in the local area and has strong community ties. She enjoys meeting people and believes in providing her clients with the best possible customer service, to make their experience in home loans fast, simple and hassle free. Maria has built her career on helping people achieve their financial goals. **For an obligation free loan appraisal please give Maria a call.**

T 9580 0677 M 0411 584 016
maria.finneran@loanmarket.com.au



PEAKHURST SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Pindari Road, Peakhurst Heights, 2210
Ph 9153 7256 Fax 9584 1468
email: peakhursts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



A vibrant and exciting learning centre where the whole community "strives to excel"
ENROLLING NOW FOR NEXT YEAR



If you would like a copy of the Local Property Market Review for your suburb, or if you have an item to submit into our next newsletter, please contact your Ray White Oatley Office: oatley.nsw@raywhite.com or 9580 7111.

When Oatley Public School teacher George Phillips took a holiday to India with his wife Camille, they ultimately brought back with them the most precious gift of all.

It was 1987 when George and Camille set off to India to visit some of Camille's relatives that resided in the city of Mumbai, India. Camille's Uncle is a Jesuit Priest, and at the time was overseeing some of Mother Teresa's orphanages in the area. He suggested that perhaps they'd like to take a child home with them! George and Camille having no children of their own, jumped at the opportunity.

The adoption process in India at the time was quite liberal, however, this was not the case in Australia and despite the fact that there were huge numbers of orphans available, there was no formal relationship between Australia and that orphanage regarding adoption. So George and Camille returned home to Australia and began the long, arduous, costly, time-consuming and sometimes frustrating process of adopting a child.

After almost two years of paperwork, red tape, costly legal documents and counselling sessions, combined with countless encounters with government agencies who tried to coerce them into adopting from Asia, Korea or South America where protocols had already been established, George and Camille were finally allowed their Indian child.

"It still took another six months after that before everything was finalised" says George "we had to pay the orphanage a monthly fee but we were ecstatic that the process was finally coming to an end. The barriers we came up against never stopped us from achieving our goal, we just had to keep on covering all the bases at this end".

In November 1989, two years after the process began, George and Camille finally made their way back to India to collect their baby girl, Jesima. Once the plane landed in Mumbai they made their way straight to the orphanage. They were seated in a waiting area and their beautiful 11-month old baby was presented to them. She had been dressed beautifully in preparation for their arrival and once they saw her, emotions ran wild.

"Everyone was crying, except Jesima" says George "when I picked her up there was an instant bond between us. She was happy to be held and cuddled – it was very emotional".

They spent the next four weeks in India, getting to know Jesima and making the final preparations for their return to Australia. George left first, and upon his return, adorned the house with Christmas decorations and signs saying "Welcome Jesima".

When Camille and Jesima returned to Australia, they immediately started introducing Jesima to their family and friends. "Camille had always wanted to start a family" says George "she's one of those special people that loves being around children and our



Jesima with some of the orphans upon her return to India.

family and friends knew this, so everyone couldn't wait to meet Jesima and share in our joy".

Jesima made the transition from India to Australia easily, partly because she was so young, but mostly because of her happy personality. "People were very accepting of the cultural difference between us" says George "and quite often strangers would peer into the pram and say how much she looked like her father, which made us secretly laugh".

Almost immediately, George and Camille decided Jesima should have a sibling to play with, so they began the adoption process all over again, and after two years they all headed back to India, to the same orphanage, and collected a beautiful baby boy, Glen. "It's very unclear as to how each child is allocated to a family" says George "however, we positively knew that Glen was chosen for us purely because he shared the same birthday with Jesima, only two years apart".

Jesima and Glen grew up just as any other family, attending school, making friends and behaving just as any other brother and sister. As the years went by, Jesima was often in two minds as to whether she'd like to return to her birthplace. She felt very little connection with India and was comfortable with her family and the wonderful lifestyle that she had been given. However, as the milestone of her 21st birthday approached, she began thinking more and more of her birthplace and the brief life she had led 21 years prior, another world away.

With a decision that surprised her parents and her friends, Jesima told them of her plan. A 21st birthday party with no gifts. Instead, she asked her guests to donate money, whatever they could afford, which would then be used to pay for her trip and the rest given to the orphanage that cared for her all those years ago.

"At first I was surprised to hear of Jesima's plans," says George "but then I was so pleased and proud of her that she wanted to give back in such an unselfish way".

So, almost 20 years after her last visit, Jesima and her boyfriend, Mitchell, along with George, Camille and brother Glen, made the journey back to India. However, the unexpected culture shock when they landed in Mumbai was overwhelming.

"I'd never travelled outside Australia before," says Jesima "and the sights, sounds, smell and heat attacked my senses, not to mention the crowds of

people. Mumbai's population alone is 21 million, so almost the entire population of Australia was squeezed into one city. People were stroking us and children were tugging at our clothes, begging for money – it was a huge shock".

After spending a week in Mumbai, they headed to the orphanage. Some of the money she donated had already been allocated to purchase clothing for the orphans, and upon their arrival, all the children were dressed in their new clothes. A party had been arranged, and they spent the afternoon playing and singing with the children. It was clear to Jesima that these children were the lucky ones. The difference between the orphanage and what lay beyond its walls was obvious.

"The orphans are very fortunate in some ways" says Jesima "it's sad that they have lost their parents but the orphanage is clean, the children are cared for and they have three meals a day. The kids that live on the streets of Mumbai aren't so lucky."

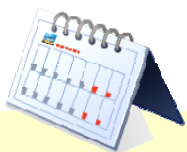
Jesima had various expectations prior to her return to the orphanage. "I imagined that I would be more emotional when I entered through the doors. I did have some brief memories of collecting my brother Glen, but rather than the flood of emotion that I had expected, I was actually swamped with a sense of gratitude when I was faced with the harsh reality of where my life could have taken me had I remained in India. The overcrowding, poverty and disease that is rife on the streets of Mumbai, when compared with my own life, made me feel grateful for my family and friends in Australia, and especially Mum and Dad who persevered through countless barriers all those years ago, so they could take me home".

"Actually, I just felt like an Aussie girl, visiting another country. As for my biological parents, all I know is that my mother was very young when I was born. The Indian government don't keep records of orphaned children, and discourage contact once a child has been given up, so finding them would be like trying to find a needle in a haystack. But, I really have no urge to locate them, I already have two fantastic parents".

Jesima may return to India one day "but there's plenty of other places that I'd like to visit first" she says. "I will never regret my decision to return to the orphanage and I feel I've finally been able to give something back, because when you think about it, the orphanage gave me the greatest gift of all – a family".



George & Camille in 1987 on the day they picked up Jesima.



July 2011

31st Hurstville City Council Native Tree Giveaway
Mortdale Memorial Park 9.00 am—3.00 pm

August 2011

1st Education Week

5th Jeans 4 Genes Day

15th RSPCA Cupcake Day

18th Oatley Uniting Church Art & Craft Show

22nd Keep Australia Beautiful Week

26th Daffodil Day

Oatley Park Fun Run 2011

The 800 runners raised over \$5,000, which was donated to Learning Links, 1st Oatley Scouts and the Cerebral Palsy Alliance. JORG (Jim Owens Running Group) would like to thank all participants and sponsors for making the day such a great success.



Jim Owens presenting Learning Links CEO Warren Johnson with a cheque for \$3,500.

38th ANNUAL
Art & Craft Show
Thur, Fri, Sat
18, 19, 20 Aug 2011
OATLEY UNITING CHURCH
Cnr Frederick and Letitia Streets Oatley
All enquiries phone: 9758 1173
A WIDE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY ART & CRAFT ON SALE
PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND THE FLOOD RELIEF

SHOW TIMES:
 Thursday 10 am to 6 pm
 Twilight Art & Craft 'Meet the Artists' on Thursday 7-9 pm. Tickets \$10 each
 Friday 10 am to 6 pm
 Saturday 9 am to 5 pm

FEATURED ARTISTS:
 Freda Surgenor and Joseph Bezzina

OTHER FEATURES:
 Morning and afternoon teas and light lunches available each day
 Saturday - cake stall, barbecue, children's activities, bands and silent auction

ENTRY TO SHOW: ADULTS \$3.00 CHILDREN FREE

PROPERTY REVIEW

Winter is here and along with it a dark cloud hanging over the property market. The world has been swept up in a wave of economic uncertainty and the so called property experts are all predicting massive down-turns in house prices. Lucky for us we live in a desirable area that is bucking the trends and holding firm on prices for units, villas and houses.

The up-side to a slow property market is when you work with seasoned professionals that know how to operate in this environment they can create truly magical results. Fewer properties on the market have meant that buyers have less to choose from, and when a premium property presents itself they are enticed to act quickly to secure it. It is simply a matter of demand and supply with some great prices being negotiated.

The trick to doing well in the current market conditions is following a solid marketing strategy designed to attract and service real buyers. Knowing your clients and their needs is critical with

internet and Domain newspaper ads all written with intent to target the right buyers. Showing the property to qualified buyers will always result in a faster sale at a premium price. Good old fashioned honesty and service for both vendors and purchasers is always appreciated and should form the basis of any successful sales strategy.



John Michaelis, Principal Ray White Oatley

Spring will be upon us sooner than we think with a flood of new properties expected to come onto the market in September and October. This will give buyers more choice but will also place more downward pressure on prices longer term. If you are looking to sell, then sooner rather than later seems to be the call.

HAVING A GARAGE SALE?

Our directional signs are available to local residents "FREE OF CHARGE"
For more information contact Ray White Oatley



Ray White Oatley Investor Evening

The Landlord and Investor Evening held by Ray White Oatley in June was a resounding success. The evening aimed to provide attendees with up-to-date information on recent movements within the Investment Property sector. Key areas covered were changes to the Tenancy Act, tax tips on depreciation and making your Super work for you. In addition, Ray White Oatley launched its "Loan Market" business, which now allows us to realise our goal of offering a complete "Property Service Centre" to our clients.

The evening afforded the opportunity for like-minded individuals to get together over a drink and a bite to eat and share their ideas and experiences. Thank you to all who attended.



WINTER WONDERS

Where's Hot & Where's Not

WINTER WARMERS!

Ready to thaw out? Here's a few holiday suggestions that won't break the budget.

Fiji - Once the school holidays are over, there are great air fare and accommodation deals available, and there's no better place to relax and unwind.

Hawaii - A fun destination now with the added bonus of a great exchange rate making shopping at Ala Moana a 'must do', however Hawaii is very popular so you'll need to book early.

Bali - There's much more to Bali than Kuta Beach. Why not stay at the more traditional Sanur Beach, with its temples along the foreshore still used by the Balinese for colourful ceremonies, or Udud, in the foothills of Mount Agung, where boutique resorts nestle amongst rice paddies and traditional dances are performed in the grounds of the Royal Palace?

Thailand - Has it all! From bustling, frenetic Bangkok, to the holiday playgrounds of Phuket and Koh Samui, or Chiang Rai in the cooler mountains in the North.



Courtesy:
Philip Cox &
Belinda Di Guglielmo
St George Travel
43 Mulga Road, Oatley
T: 9579 2488
E: travel@stgeorgetravel.com.au

Health & Healing

HAIR MINERAL ANALYSIS

Hair Analysis is an excellent, painless diagnostic tool to check for both mineral imbalances and heavy metal toxicity.

WHY: A blood test can be inaccurate when it comes to your mineral levels. If you are deficient in a mineral such as calcium, the body will actually draw calcium from the bones, and transport it through the blood to your heart where it is most needed (rendering the blood test inaccurate).

Hair Analysis will reflect what has been happening in your body for the last three months and also report heavy metals such as lead and mercury that could have built up over time.

Signs of heavy metal toxicity include: candida, muscle spasms, chronic fatigue, recurring infections, depression, dizziness, dermatitis, insomnia, joint pain, memory loss, arthritis, headaches and hyperactivity.



Courtesy:
Julie Mactier &
Sienna Sirkka Wolke
ND BHSc
Health, Herbs & Healing
21 Frederick St, Oatley
T: 9585 2777

Fitness & Exercise

EXCUSES TO EXERCISE?

If how you look and feel is important to you, then there are no excuses. Here's my response to the four most common excuses:

#1 Too busy at work! Squeeze in a brief but intense 10 minute workout before and after work!

#2 Shoulder/arm injury! Your upper body injury now gives you a good reason to focus more intensely on your lower body, abs, and interval training.

#3 Leg injury! Do upper body/tummy work.

#4 Too busy with the house/family! If your house and kids are priorities, you should make your health and fitness priorities too? If you can't get to the gym, there's lots you can do at home: skipping rope, stairs, crunches, pushups, lunges, or a quick walk around the block.

Good luck during Winter. Work hard and you'll reap the rewards... and remember, NO EXCUSES!



Courtesy:
Lisa Greenberg (BSpSc)
LPR Fitness Studio
4/53 Lorraine Street
Peakhurst
T: 0418 448 185

NB: We have in preparing this document used our best endeavors to ensure the accuracy of all the information provided. We accept no liability or responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies and recommend that all recipients make their own enquiries to verify any information given.