

## Forum Flash

Date: 7 July 2010

### WSPTU Transport Symposium 2010

The Western Sydney Public Transport Users (WSPTU) is convening the Transport Symposium 2010 on Saturday 7 August at the Granville Youth and Community Recreation Centre between 10am and 4pm. They are looking for people from local areas in Greater Western Sydney who are interested in working on public transport issues in their area. They are particularly looking for people from Campbelltown, Fairfield and The Hills.



Western Sydney Community Forum has been supporting the development of the Western Sydney Public Transport Users group (WSPTU). The WSPTU works as an umbrella organisation to support the work of local people working on transport issues in their areas. There are currently groups working in Liverpool, Bankstown, Parramatta, The Hills, Mt Druitt, Penrith and The Blue Mountains. The groups are at various stages of development, some are long established with strong local and institutional links while others are new with a loose collection of local people who are interested in transport issues.

There will be presentations from experts and workshops for participants. The main topics will be:

- ***The Gap: the distance for passengers to local bus services***
- ***Talking to CityRail: How do you get something done?***
- ***Bus stops: Who is responsible for them and how do we get them improved?***

If you know people who would like to come and learn how to advocate for better services in their area, RSVP for the Symposium before August 4<sup>th</sup> by emailing [wsbustop@gmail.com](mailto:wsbustop@gmail.com) or phone Hugh on 9633 5068. You can find out more online via the WSPTU blog [www.wsptu.blogspot.com](http://www.wsptu.blogspot.com)

### WSCF Staff Profile - What We Do!

#### This one is different - we are saying goodbye!



After 5 years at the forum Noel has decided to pursue other interests such as Tribunal and consultancy work. Noel will be on annual leave and long service leave for the next few months. WSCF will have a sector farewell for Noel following our AGM in November.

We thought it was a good opportunity to have an interview with him.

Q. *What was your role at WSCF?*

My role was as one of the Regional Resource Workers at the WSCF for

the last 5 years, and my responsibilities included Home and Community Care (HACC), Disabilities and generalist Regional Resource Worker.

*Q. How did you come to get involved with the community sector?*

I have been involved in the community sector for some 35 years, predominately as a disability advocate and lobbyist, fighting for the rights for people with disabilities; I have also served on a huge range of committees from People With Disabilities Inc. to the PIAC Utilities Task Force, from CDSE & WSAAS ranking panels to Australian Standards 48 (building code) - numerous other State and Commonwealth committees that were established to address access, education and employment and health related issues for people with disabilities. I am currently Chair of Disability Enterprises Leura; Co-chair Mountains Youth Services Team (MYST), and Director for BreakTHRU Personnel Services.

*Q. What do you find challenging about the sector?*

The biggest challenge is the size of the sector and its diversity, and unfortunately there is not a one size that fits all.

*Q. What is the most rewarding experience you have had working in the sector?*

I think the camaraderie and the sense of doing things to help people as opposed to doing things to simply make money.

*Q. What changes have you seen occur in the sector over time you have been involved in it?*

I have been 'immersed' in the sector for 35+ years and I have been involved in a significant amount of change. The Disability sector has changed the 'face of the planet' in terms of access to the built environment and in terms of the attitude towards people with disabilities. The HACC sector has matured and become a vital part of the economy and provides services that ensure the well-being of Australians.

*Q. What are the future challenges for the NGO community sector?*

It will be difficult for small organisations to survive without obtaining critical mass that will give them the resources to deliver services and compete with the large faith based charities.

*Q. Last word / advice for WSCF*

'Think strategic and maintain the rage'.

As a final point, I would like to wish my comrades from WSCF and the sector in general all the best especially considering the changes that will take place as the Commonwealth takes over the administration of the HACC program. (Noel Hiffernan 5 July 2010)

## Sydney Alliance - Training August

We have seen in recent political events how important our work of building the stronger voice for civil society is. It looks like the market, the media, and internal party politics are determining how Australia is governed, not the people. Our voice for reformed taxes, climate change action and fair refugee / asylum seeker policy is not being heard. Short-term economic and political

aspirations are the dominant discourse/paradigm. This is where we need new strategies such as Sydney Alliance. Want to know more about this and why WSCF is a member? Click here to read more ([click to download WSCF & SA](#)). If you are interested in finding out more about the Sydney Alliance, you can attend the Listening Assembly Launch this Sunday 11 July, 1.30 to 3.30 at Blacktown Council ([click to download invite](#)). The Alliance runs two day Leadership Training - there will be twelve sessions over a great range of locations in August and they are free for WSCF members ([click to download August 2010 Institutes flyer](#)) - take advantage of this great opportunity to be part of the development of the deepest civil movement Sydney has ever known.

## Training Courses On offer!

### NSW Protocol for Responding to Abuse of Older People

*This session conducted by Miguel Ferrero is an introduction to the new Interagency Protocol, and consists of two parts, covering the following topics:*

- *Identifying and Responding to Abuse of Older People*
- *Implementing the Interagency Protocol*

Date: Thursday 15 July 2010, 9:30 to 1:30pm

Venue: WSCF Parramatta

### Roles and Responsibilities of Management Committees

*This information session will provide participants with opportunities to understand the difference between Governance and Management, roles and responsibilities of MC and the role of the executive committee.*

Facilitator: Miguel Ferrero Date & Time: Tues 27 July 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Venue: Sector Connect, 351 Welling Drive, Mount Annan NSW

Cost: Member - \$10, Non Member - \$10

### Leading with Presence

*This two-day experiential program has been developed by the Ariel Group to provide participants with the skills and tools to become authentic leaders.*

Facilitator: Johanna de Ruyter Date & Time: Thursday & Friday 29 & 30 July 9:30am - 4:30pm

Venue: WSCF, Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta, Cost: Member - \$70, Non Member - \$150

## Community Builders

No news yet of outcomes of Community Services Community Builders submissions - on 25 June, Minister Linda Burney told WSCF it was imminent, and Community Services Annette Gallard said it would be within the week but we are still waiting.

## Joke Spot

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is it homeless or naked?

## For a full copy of the WSCF HACC Flash

[Click link to HACC Flash in Flash file](#)

A Stronger Voice for Western Sydney Facebook Page: <http://www.ngo.net.au/strongervoice>