

4 If they run on time it's like winning the lottery. They are always late and sometimes don't show up at all — Rusty O'Brien

NEWS

Stripping away the rubbish

Members of naturist group Free Beach Action joined in the community spirit of Clean Up Australia Day on Saturday at Little Congwong beach, La Perouse. Group member Juan, who declined to give his last name, said they regularly cleaned the beach to make it more pleasant for families with children to visit: "We are naturists; we enjoy nature in all its beauty, so if there's rubbish we have a natural tendency to keep it clean." The group will meet with representatives of Randwick Council this Friday to discuss the possibility of Little Congwong being designated as clothing optional. See a gallery of the naturist group scouring the sand at southerncourier.com.au.

Photo: ALAN PLACE



Quicknews

MANMADE REEFS

THE dream of every surfer is more surf, better waves, more often. Find out how some Australian surfers are turning this dream into reality at a special conference at Bondi surf club this Friday. Barton Lynch, 1988 world surfing champion and event MC, is looking forward to hearing from Dr Shaw Mead about the reefs built in Perth, New Zealand and the UK. The conference will also hear about National Surfing Reserves from Professor Andy Short, and Steve Barrett's steel reef concept. Visit surfingramps.com.au.

CYBER BULLYING LECTURE

UNRAVEL the facts about cyber bullying at Beatings without Bruises, a free public lecture at UNSW's Great Hall at 6pm on March 18. This lecture debunks media stereotypes of perpetrators and victims, lays bare its costs to individuals and communities and offers practical pathways for solutions and healing. Phone 9514 1734.

RACING MASS

THE Sydney racing community will gather at the annual racing Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Kensington, this Sunday, March 14. Brother Dan Stafford, the Catholic chaplain to Sydney racing, said: "This will be a separate Mass from the 9am Mass: it will be held at 11am and give the opportunity for the racing community to come together before the autumn carnival begins."

CHARITY AND FAMILY

COOGEE photographer Israel Smith is donating his time, effort and expertise to a project that aims to raise \$50,000 for Sydney Children's Hospital. Mr Smith has devised the "Our Family" limited-edition book project that is designed to share people's ideas regarding the importance of family. Visit israelismith.com/our-family/.

Leesa Smith

WHILE buses that run late or fail to turn up at all are some of the frustrations that have gripped south-eastern Sydney commuters, the Premier, Kristina Keneally, is promising improved services through her Metropolitan Transport Plan.

southerncourier.com.au has been a sounding board for frustrated commuters like Catherine Jefferies, who described the Eastlakes bus service as "terrible and always late", and Rusty O'Brien, who said of the 301 and 303 bus service from Mascot and Eastlakes into the City: "If they run on time it's like winning the lottery."

They are always late and sometimes don't show up at all."

But a plan is on the table, according to Ms Keneally, in the form of the State Government's long-awaited \$50 billion 10-year metropolitan transport blueprint.

The blueprint includes 1000 new buses and bus priority measures like GPS traffic light priority.

The allocations at this stage mean as many as 79 new buses across the southeast. The plan is also looking at a new bus route from Bondi Junction to Hurstville, via Randwick and Maroubra Junction.

Ms Keneally, who is also the Heffron MP, said new bus lanes would be identified after the remaining nine corridors were complete.

"We will also use data on passenger demand to identify additional routes," Ms Keneally said. "These operators have day-to-day, frontline experience, which qualifies them well to identify the areas of most need."

Three extra bus routes have already been put in place in the local area as part of the plan: Randwick to City, Maroubra Junction to City, and Bondi Junction to Burwood, via Randwick and Maroubra Junction.

NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell said the public would take the blueprint with a grain of salt, saying the Government had come

up with an election plan rather than a transport plan.

"The public will judge this rotting, incompetent Labor Government on its record over the past 15 years, that won't be washed away by yet another transport blueprint, one of 10 to be produced by this Government — none of which have ever been delivered," he said.

To have your say on the Metropolitan Transport Plan: Connecting the City of Cities plan go to: www.shapeyourstate.nsw.gov.au.



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