

## **Public Commentary**

### **Moving Story-Telling Vehicle**

*Blue Mountains - Surry Hills - Green Square - Waverley*

Astra Howard (Action Researcher/Performer - AR/P)

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### **BLUE MOUNTAINS**

Tuesday 7 - Friday 10 April & Saturday 30 - Sunday 31 May 2015 - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

**Passerby** (male) - *"Is this art?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Is it a survey or something?"*

**Passersby** (male & female) - *"Where is the tourist information?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Good luck!"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Could you put up 'Johnny sucks?'"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"That's a better place."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Have you got an Allen key for that?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"It's a great idea, come back when it is busier here."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"If you are there for a while, I will bring a chair for you."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"What does it mean?"*

**Passersby** (male & female) - *"We saw you at Katoomba yesterday, it was brutal out there!"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"I thought it was poetry, but my husband wasn't sure."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Oh, you get to choose what it says!"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"If it gets too cold, you can come in the atrium."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Are you a local? Where is the bank?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"So you are selling something?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"I've read that book."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Well you are very enthusiastic. I am sure it will be marvellous."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Are you a budding poet?"*

**Passerby** (male & female) - *"Can you tell us where the post-office is?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"That's really dope."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"I saw you at Katoomba and Blackheath."*

**Passerby** - (male) - *"I just have to ask, what are you doing?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"She's back again!"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Is this performance art of poetry?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Can I give you this dollar?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Is this a long-term thing?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"You can come into the churchyard if you like."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Are you getting any money for this?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Where is the tobacco store?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Are you a researcher?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Where is the church?"*

**Passersby** (male & female) - *"Congratulations, we really like this!"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"You could take this to lots of other places and also in hospitals."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"I really like it."*

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## **WAVERLEY**

Friday 8 December 2017 - Waverley Council

**Passerby** (female) - *"Waverley is family friendly. I live here with four of my boys."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Are you an artist?"*

**Maria** (female) - *"We have been here for 40 years (shoe shop repair). It is too expensive to rent here now. The rents are too high. We sublease the front of our shop so we can survive. We need more people coming through and stopping in the mall, otherwise we will lose our business. Everyone goes to Westfield rather than stopping at shops in the mall. I would like to see more buskers and music in the mall. They used to have the markets on Saturday, I would like them to bring that back. It would be good to bring more life into the mall."*

**Bill** (male) - *"I think there is too much political activism. We should leave people to have free speech. The issues become distorted and people get distracted from the main issues. There is political manipulation. The activists have won. An example of this was the protest against the development at Wellington and Ocean Street in Bondi. They were going to build a nursing home, which we need in the area with the ageing population. But this was stopped due to the protests. Then the site was sold off by the Benevolent Society who owned it and a developer bought it. Now there will be high-rise apartments. So it is a worse outcome for the community than what it would have been before. Will you give the information you have collected to Waverley Council?"*

**Marcie** (female) - "You can't afford Westfield. There are a few \$2 shops. The lifts are terrible there. They are too small. They spent all this money redeveloping Eastgate Shopping Centre and the lifts are no bigger. There is no parking on the South side of Bondi anymore. I am in Bondi Junction because it is as far as I can get. Coles don't deliver anymore. No frozen stuff. The church on the corner does a lot of good community work. They are open Monday to Friday. You have to watch your pennies when you are on a pension. The oldies are dying off here. Houses are being bulldozed. Clovelly is all going high-rise. The yuppies have moved in. It's a 'me world' now. There is no 'how are you' from people anymore. People used to help each other out. There are locked bins for homeless people to keep their gear in, which is good."

**Passerby** (female) - "A lot has changed here. Coming out of the depression, I remember there was a tip on Edgecliff road. The tip caught fire and the rats walked out. Back then everyone was the same. There used to be a sandstone quarry here."

**Earl** (male) - "There used to be slums in Redfern. In the 60s there was a tip here. The incinerator was around Green Square. Nowadays the developers are taking over. It costs \$800 for a unit."

**Passerby** - (female) "The roads are terrible. There are potholes everywhere. I have tried to talk to Council about it many times, but they say to talk to the Roads and Maritime Authority, but then they don't do anything about it."

**Passerbys** (males) - "Can you put on COS, that is my tag. Can you put C\*\*K."

**Passerby** (female) - "I have no specific comment to add, but I applaud your work."

**Passerby** (male) - "I have been here in the area since I was 14 years old and have never been out of work. Since Whitlam was the Prime Minister they decided to give money away to people. These people, activists, they don't work. They are parasites. Someone should get a whip and smash their heads."

**Passerby** (female) - "This area is very creative. There is so much to do. Kings Cross surprised me that it was so rough. I just had some bad news from home in Dublin, but I think I am still going to stay here."

**Passerby** (male) - "Love is in the air, well summer is here!"

**Passerby** (female) - "They should not have closed the mall here to cars. But now there is chaos on the roads. There is traffic everywhere. For those who have been here for a long time, we have seen a lot of change."

**Passerby** (female) - "Randwick Council banned alcohol in the parks. They can't live without their booze."

**Joachim** (male) - "I work at Flight Centre in the mall. I don't live in this area, but I like to work here. You have everything you need here. It is always quite busy here. If I lived here I would never leave, as it is so easy with everything here. That's why I live further away, also because of the price of rent here."

**Passerby** (female) - "I live in Clovelly. It's an uplifting area. People are nice, open and friendly. A lot of other suburbs look the same, but Bronte and Clovelly are unique. People are open-minded. I love the cliffs opposite the cemetery. I have seen whales in the water there. There is something for the heart here. I am leaving to

*Austria but I will be back. I travel between the two areas each year. It touches my heart this area."*

**Passerby** (female) - "So Waverley Council supports this?"

**Peter** (male) - "This area has changed beyond recognition. It is a transient place."

**William** (male) - "The last of the old buildings are going. First they knocked down the old houses and now they are knocking down the old apartments. Nothing historical or from another time can be left. We don't keep the heritage. I think this loss of connection stems from our lack of acknowledgment of the land taken from Aboriginal Australians. There is a lack of observation. People don't look up. For example there is an apartment just up on Oxford Street that has these two ornamental figures and some has placed to air-conditioning units right in front of the place on top of them. I think everyone really cares."

**Passerby** (female) - "You are advertising Bronte! This is the best place to swim, we don't want more people there."

**Passerby** (female) - "What is this? It's a good idea."

**Passerby** (female) - "I live at Bronte and I am beautiful, so it must be about me!"

**Greg** (male) - "You should put some of the words and sentences backwards, for more of a challenge for people to read. You should add more questions, so that people come up and answer the questions. For example, where you have Bronte, you could ask, 'is Bronte or Cate Campbell a better swimmer?'"

**Luanna** (female) - "Australia is not exactly what I expected. I am studying English at the school just up there. I leave in March, but I hope to come back here sometime."