

Marg Barry MEMORIAL LECTURE

Redfern Town Hall 73 Pitt Street, Redfern Thursday 22 May 2008 3.30pm to 6.00pm

About our MBL Lecturer

The Lecture this year is called **"Reconciliation After the Apology"** and will be given by Prof. Larissa Behrendt, who is a prominent aboriginal lawyer, academic and writer.

Larissa is Professor of Law and Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney.



"Reconciliation After the Apology" *Prof. Larissa Behrendt*

Special events:

- Inaugural Life Membership Award to Terry Murphy
- Best wishes on retirement to our Executive Officer Faye Williams



Inner Sydney Regional
Council for Social
Development Inc.

Attendees are welcome to stay for drinks, finger food and lots of talk

This event is free but donations for expenses are welcome

Please RSVP by Monday 19 May to Edwina,
Phone: 96987690 E-mail: innerv@iinet.net.au

Margaret Barry 1934 – 2001.

"She is gut-strong, mind-quick, moral-certain. Therefore formidable. But also light of heart, vivacious, funny and a self-put-down merchant . . . She is single, single-minded, singular", wrote Craig McGregor in a profile of Marg for the Good Weekend back in 1995.

Margaret Barry, one of the founding Directors of Eastside Radio, died suddenly in her home on 28 February three weeks after a serious operation. She was a tireless community activist and advocate known widely in her local community of South Sydney and way beyond. A champion of the importance of community-owned and run media, she was also been a founder of CTV1 in Redfern where she read the news every Sunday night for some ten years, and as the force behind Inner Voice, a quarterly journal about social justice focused on the inner suburbs of Sydney.

She got involved in community activism in the 70s when the house she shared with her mother in Raglan Street Waterloo was targeted by the 'slum clearance' policy of the then State Government to make way for public housing high rise. Despite intimidation, legal threats and little hope, Marg and her mother confronted the bulldozers and joined with the Builders Laborers Federation in the now world-famous Green Ban movement and won their fight to save the old terraces of Waterloo after 14 and half years. (The story was the subject of a documentary feature film by Tom Zubrickyi).

While becoming an Alderman on Sydney City Council in the '80s, she is best known for her work as the Co-ordinator of the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development where for twenty years she organised, published, networked and bullied various governments and bureaucrats of the day into listening to the needs of the disadvantaged in the inner city until her retirement in 1999. During those twenty years she helped establish numerous community organisations and

services which today are an integral part of inner Sydney. She was constantly attending meetings, serving on committees and seeing information made its way to the places it was most useful.

She worked seven days a week for three days pay, was widely respected and sometimes feared. But those who were not in her firing line knew her to be a warm, gregarious and mischievously funny woman who generously shared her talents and enthusiasm, inspiring all who met her. In 1999 she was awarded the Order of Australia for service to her community.



There is no-one quite like Marg Barry and our city is the richer for the contribution she made.