

“Organ Donors Save Lives” will get you talking in Organ Donor Awareness Week – 21st-28th February 2009

Organ Donor Awareness Week 2009 from 21st -28th February will be sure to get the people of NSW talking, because they know that by talking to their family about becoming an organ donor they too could save lives.

One organ donor can save the life of up to eight people and many more with tissue donation, so it is important that people make an informed decision about organ donation.

Although 2008 saw a 30% increase in organ donors nationally, the number of Australians waiting for a life saving transplant continues to grow with an increase in diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Discussing organ donation with family and friends will not only help them understand your willingness to

be an organ donor, but it will also help you to know their decision as well.

Manager of LifeGift, part of the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Ms Patricia Wills said that organ donation is only possible in less than one percent of hospital deaths because organ donors must die on a ventilator in hospital.

“We are talking about a very small group of people who are eligible for organ donation because they die on a ventilator in hospital, Ms Wills said.

“In addition approximately only 50% of families provide authority for organ donation of a loved one.

“That is why it is really important to discuss organ donation with your family and friends and let them

know your decision to be an organ donor.

“Knowing your decision gives families confidence to proceed with organ donation at the time of the death of a loved one, which is a very traumatic time for families,” she said.

To find out more information about organ donation you can go to the website www.organdonor.com.au, call LifeGift for a brochure, or speak to a State Organ Donor Coordinator on 02.92294003 or talk to your family doctor.

“There is a lot of information in the community about organ donation. Questions and concerns can be answered by going to a website such as the [organdonor website](http://www.organdonor.com.au) or asking your local family doctor.



Seafood stars: Notaras Fish Market staff (from left) Mohammad Yakoob, Kathy Notaras, Jamie Borg, Damian Notaras, Beou Miller, George Notaras and Niti Chanthapan. Picture: Chris Lane

Fish shops wait as judges mullet over

SOUTHERN Sydney fish shops have been recognised for their excellence with nominations in this year’s Sydney Fish Markets Seafood Excellence Awards. There have been more than 300 nominations across Sydney.

The owner of Cronulla’s Notaras Fish Market, Damian Notaras, said it felt “pretty good” to be nominated. Mr Notaras said his customers appreciated the freshness of the fish. “Everything, except the potato scallops is cooked fresh in front of their eyes. They choose it out of the cabinet,” he said.

Ramsgate Beach Seafood was also nominated for the award and owner Kerry Komodormos said they tried to do the right thing by their customers. “If we don’t eat it, we don’t sell it,” he said.

The awards will be announced and presented on March 14.

Article from The Leader

‘The Dark Knight’ earns the actor, who died last year, a posthumous Oscar for his malevolent turn as the Joker.

Accompanied by a standing ovation and a reverent silence, Heath Ledger’s family accepted the supporting actor statuette.

The 28-year-old Australian actor, who died after being found unconscious last January in his New York apartment, was posthumously honored for his toxic performance as the gleefully malicious Joker in the Batman saga “The Dark Knight.”

“Menacing, mercurial, droll and diabolical,” co-presenter Kevin Kline summarized as he listed Ledger, felled by an accidental overdose of prescription drugs, among the supporting actor nominees.

The actor’s father, Kim Ledger; mother, Sally Bell; and sister Kate Ledger jointly accepted the award. “This award tonight would have humbly validated Heath’s quiet determination to be truly accepted by you all here, his peers, within an industry he so loved,” Kim Ledger said.

Kate Ledger said the family was accepting the award on behalf of “beautiful Matilda,” her brother’s 3-year-old daughter with actress Michelle Williams. Even before “The Dark



“See, I’m not a monster,” Ledger’s Joker tells Christian Bale’s Batman during a brutal interrogation scene. “I’m just ahead of the curve.”

Knight” was released last summer, fellow actors, movie critics and others were predicting, and endorsing, an Oscar nomination for his chilling portrayal. While “The Dark Knight” received mainly positive reviews, many critics concurred that Ledger gave the movie a jolt of malevolent energy whenever he materialized on screen. Los Angeles Times film critic Kenneth Turan praised what he described as a “shocking, indelible performance.”

Oscar history suggests that Ledger’s award was not merely sentimentally motivated. Only one other actor ever has been posthumously honored with an Academy Award: Peter Finch for “Network”

in 1977.

But it’s likely that at least some academy voters were honoring not only Ledger’s work as the Joker but also the breadth of his accomplished, if tragically brief, career. “With this premier performance as well as with a wide range of other roles to which he put his unique signature, Heath Ledger has left us an original and enduring legacy,” Kline said.

Over the last decade, Ledger demonstrated that he could handle comedy as well as serious dramatic roles in movies as varied as “10 Things I Hate About You” (1999), “The Patriot” (2000), “Monster’s Ball” (2001) and “A Knight’s Tale” (2001).

His career high point

arguably was Ennis Del Mar, the emotionally terse ranch hand he played in Ang Lee’s “Brokeback Mountain” (2005), for which he earned a lead actor Oscar nomination.

He had a tall assignment in interpreting the Joker, a character memorably incarnated by Jack Nicholson in Tim Burton’s “Batman” in 1989. Nicholson’s Joker is a witty, self-delighted clotheshorse, brimming with comic sang-froid.

Ledger’s Joker is rawer and uglier, both physically

and psychologically. Like Lon Chaney and other great monster men of the silver screen, Ledger conveyed a wrenching pathos lurking below the layers of makeup and venality.

In interviews, Ledger also acknowledged that filming “The Dark Knight” and another movie, “I’m Not There,” had contributed to his ongoing bouts of insomnia.

Both in movie posters and in the minds of many viewers, the grotesquely smirking face of Ledger’s Joker became the definitive image of the film. And, in one of those convergences of movies and real-world events, his nihilistic character spoke to the fears and uncertainties of a jittery time.