



Glebe culture larger than life photographic treatment

GLEBE will be transformed into an outdoor gallery when 150 life-size photographic portraits of local personalities go up this month.

Glebe photographers North Sullivan and Tom Psomotragos have spent the past 11 months taking many hundreds of photos of writers, activists, musicians, students, shopkeepers and mechanics.

Their work will be displayed in more than 60 locations, including on apartment facades, in shop windows and in cafes.

There are portraits of local identities including artist Reg Mombassa, honky tonk piano player Bridie King, author Peter Corris and British Sweet Shop owner Andy Adams, as well as less well-known people. Paul Angell, president of Glebe Chamber of Commerce, which has led the project, hopes it will become an annual event.

"It is a documentation of our culture in a very real sense," Mr Angell said.

"We really are more than just a sum of our parts."

He said the portraits were "how people see us - they're not necessarily flattering".

Mr Angell said the two photographers were very different artists.

"They both talk a lot. They're lovely blokes, but their perspective is very different."

Psomotragos works more in black and white and is more photojournalistic whereas Sullivan's work is a burst of colour and more structured. Sullivan said the project had been a lot of fun.

"I met a lot of interesting characters. Glebe is a very diverse community," he said. "I wanted to tell something of their story and capture a sense of them. Overall, I wanted to tell the story of Glebe and its people." The Grand Tour Gallery coincides with Glebe's 150th anniversary and runs from October 24 to November 28.

About Tom Psomotragos

Tom Psomotragos is a respected photographer with a breadth of experience.

His works have been shown in the National Gallery of Victoria, Christine Abrahams Gallery in Melbourne and the Art Gallery of NSW.

"Tom's images reveal inner, mythical, worldly and intensely human concerns. His photography is a complex, often spontaneous dialogue with his subjects.

From a base of outstanding and innovative technique, Tom uses timing, instinct, reflection and a deep study of human nature to create his images. The resulting works never fail to startle, move and suggest mystery of the human condition to the viewer."

PHOTO: Portrait of Reg Mombassa in his studio. Photo: North Sullivan.

Blinking Hazzard makes Keneally see red

WITH something akin to a wink and a nod, the Labor identity Graham Richardson has been meeting planning officials for coffee - some of whom have served as ministerial political advisers; one of whom, Michael Comminos, wants a Labor seat.

But it was another form of wink that had the Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, exercised in question time yesterday. A wink she claimed came from the Opposition's planning spokesman, Brad Hazzard, after he chose to exploit the issue of Richardson's contacts by moving a motion against the Planning Minister.

Keneally has fallen on claims of sexism to counter the Opposition argument she has no control over her portfolio or the lobbyists her bureaucrats meet.

But she will find it harder to evade the question of why she did not know about Richardson's meetings with planning officials on an almost monthly basis since she got the Planning Minister's job last September - a job she won with the sponsorship of Eddie Obeid and Joe Tripodi.

And the question arises - is it the case she just does not want to know about the meetings between lobbyists and her officials, because it is politi-



cally inconvenient?

"Did you just wink at me?" Keneally exclaimed after Hazzard announced he would be moving a motion condemning her handling of the Richardson issue. "For God's sake," blasphemed the self-confessed theologian. Hazzard denied winking.

Keneally later took it further, comparing the alleged action to the Opposition's finance spokesman Greg Pearce's claim at a committee hearing earlier in the month that the minister was one of "Joe's girls", referring to Tripodi.

"I would've thought ... men in the Liberal Party would have learned something about treating women," she said.

Keneally arrived late for question

time, looking immaculate as usual in a red suit. But her side was largely silent when she spoke - usually a dead giveaway that there is less than enthusiastic support for her position.

The first strike came from Barry O'Farrell in a question to Nathan Rees. He asked the Premier if he supported Keneally's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on lobbyists.

Cleverly, the Premier moved to take the focus off Keneally by saying the Opposition was trying to smear her director-general Sam Haddad, a man of 30 years' experience in the public service, with its attacks. Not really convincing but it did the job.

Then Keneally was the next target, from National Party Leader Andrew Stoner, who asked her if Haddad was being set up to take the fall for her.

"That's outrageous," Keneally shouted before she talked of two days of hearings of the McGurk parliamentary inquiry and claimed: "What do we have to show for it? Land [owned by the developers Ron and Roy Medich] at Badgerys Creek was not rezoned ... the other thing we find out is that Graham Richardson drinks coffee - well, for goodness sakes."

Keneally at one point referred to Hazzard as the "member for Fairfax" in an attack on him and the Herald. The shadow leader of the house, Adrian Piccoli, retorted: "Well, then, you're the minister for Tripodi."

At another point, when Ms Keneally appeared to disobey a speaker's ruling that she should conclude an answer, Piccoli rose and questioned whether the minister with the American accent "doesn't understand Australian".

Ms Keneally thinks this story should go away - that the people of NSW should not be concerned about the lobbying of her planning officials. But that is unlikely. Not while developers are giving hundreds of thousands to Labor and people like Richo are meeting bureaucrats in coffee shops. Not while NSW remains a mates' state.

Article from the Sydney Morning Herald

How Ancient Greeks Guide Modern Medicine

Hippocrates was clear: "Do No Harm"

In his work "The Art," the ancient Greek Hippocrates wrote, more than 2,500 years before the modern era, that medical practitioners were not scientists, but artists, and that their art was using their knowledge to do good. Healthcare providers were also described as people who knew when to use their medical techniques on a patient, and when to refrain from doing so, and the wisdom to know the difference was summed up beautifully in the words, "Do no harm." These guidelines are still in use today, and experts argue that more of the contemporary medicine should revolve around these old concepts, Technology Review reports. In their therapeutic arsenal, practitioners have numerous approaches to treating a certain condition, or batch of diseases. Any "intemperate" use of these options could lead to severe consequences in a patient, and Hippocrates knew this two and a half millennia ago. Most modern doctors taking the Oath believe that "do no harm" refers to avoiding causing pain in the healing process. However, the majority of treatments used for the more serious conditions involves some degree of discomfort and pain, and people accept that as part of their healing. What Hippocrates actually meant when he wrote the undying words was that physicians should avoid putting their patients at unneeded risks. This seems to have been forgotten in modern days, when doctors subject people to a wide array of procedures that they do not have to necessarily undergo. One reason for this is, of course, the fact that the healthcare providers place the interest of the patient second to covering their own actions from a legal standpoint and to avoiding lawsuits. Others play the agenda of pharmaceutical companies, and over-prescribe drugs when this is not needed. Very often these days, analysts say, doctors use a large number of medical procedures in investigating a patient, but do not take the time to actually talk to the people they are taking care of. Large emphasis is placed on treating the diseases, rather than addressing their causes and attempting to prevent them. Statistically, more than four million people in the United States alone have been exposed to very high doses of radiations from CT scans and other imaging techniques, which is not at all a good thing. Even before people are sick, they undergo a large number of such procedures, which increases their risk of developing the disease of modern societies, cancer.