



WORKING: Council presentation manager Lisa Scully with the mural at Adamstown soccer field yesterday.

— Picture by Simone De Peak

Murals put pride in picture

SPLASHES of colour are appearing all over Newcastle under the city council's Pride of Place initiative to reduce graffiti.

The old Lucky Country Hotel's boarded facade was the first for a facelift under the program. A wall near the

Frederick Ash building and a soccer practice wall at Adamstown were next.

City presentation manager Lisa Scully said the graffiti management strategy combined removing graffiti and painting murals to reduce tagging in certain areas.

She said the Adamstown site had been a hot spot for tagging and the mural would go a long way to preventing more vandalism in the area.

"The success of the mural at the Lucky Country speaks for itself," she said.

The bridal district at 484

Hunter Street has been earmarked for the mural treatment. The program complements the graffiti hotline, 1800 223 840, on which residents can report graffiti on council property.

— Martin Dinneen

Afghan, two Aussies injured

TWO Australian soldiers and an Afghan National Army soldier were wounded when an improvised explosive device hit their joint patrol in southern Afghanistan.

Defence said the Afghan soldier was badly wounded while the two Australians suffered non-life threatening wounds.

The incident occurred during an operation on Monday.

Australian Defence Force chief of joint operations Lieutenant-General Mark Evans said the Afghan was evacuated to a coalition medical centre.

Student attack 'ended career'

A TEACHER whose hair was ripped out by a nine-year-old student felt worthless and depressed after the attack, a Sydney court has heard.

Margaretta Slingsby, 58, is suing the NSW Education Department for negligence over the May 2005 assault at Lismore Heights Public School in the state's north.

Ms Slingsby claims she was unable to teach and suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after the student kicked and scratched her, and pulled hair from her head.

The case continues before Judge Truss.

Church suspends accused priests

By DAN PROUDMAN

THREE Newcastle Anglican clergy have been stood down pending an investigation into possible criminal conduct.

Police will meet Newcastle diocesan officials to discuss the "serious allegations" made against the three priests by an adult who had approached the church interstate.

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Reverend Dr Brian Farran, confirmed yesterday he had stood down two of the clergy after

becoming aware of the allegations last Thursday. The third priest had his licence suspended yesterday.

The exact nature of the allegations, including where and when it is alleged to have occurred, has not been made clear other than they were of a "historic nature".

One person has made the complaint against the three men.

Dr Farran said the men were accused of "examinable conduct", which meant "that they've infringed the code of professional standards of the church".

He said the clergy would be offered counselling.

"They cannot exercise any priestly function at the moment," Dr Farran said.

He said the diocesan professional standards unit had been contacted by an interstate diocese over the allegations last Thursday.

He said he would not comment further on the allegations because it could "complicate the investigation".

It is not believed NSW police were aware of the allegations until yesterday and last night

released a statement saying the investigation was in its "early stages" and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

"NSW police are to meet with the Anglican diocese in relation to allegations of a criminal matter against three of their clergy," a police spokesman read from a statement.

Dr Farran said the diocese had implemented "strong policies in relation to professional standards".

"These policies will be adhered to and the diocese will co-operate with police," he said.

Libs say PM backtracking on refugees

THE Rudd Government has been accused of creating its own form of the Pacific Solution, dismantled after Labor's 2007 election win, amid warnings of an expected influx of thousands of asylum seekers.

As another boatload of asylum seekers was being escorted to Christmas Island, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd confirmed he had called Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono before a vessel



STANCE: Kevin Rudd.

carrying 280 people was intercepted by the Indonesian Navy on Saturday.

Mr Rudd said he made "no apologies" for "deploy-

ing the most hardline measures necessary" to deal with illegal entries.

"This is a problem for all countries in the region. That's why we work closely with our friends in Indonesia," Mr Rudd said.

Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman Teuku Faizasyah said the boat had not been apprehended at Australia's request.

The architect of the Howard government's border protection policy,

Philip Ruddock, said the move to stop the boat before it reached Australian waters was akin to the Pacific Solution.

"You're asking Indonesia to detain and enable people to be processed offshore," Mr Ruddock said.

"It would be the equivalent of Rudd's Pacific Solution."

Mr Rudd said the former immigration minister had "zero credibility" on asylum seekers.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

■ 32 illegal entry vessels carrying 1711 people intercepted in Australian waters in the past year.

■ 1016 asylum seekers and 19 crew in detention on Christmas Island.

■ Christmas Island can house 1400 detainees.

■ The Northern Immigration Detention Centre in Darwin can house more than 500 detainees.

Debt Recovery... how to get paid what you're entitled to...

"If you've got money owing to you by a person or company, there are a range of legal measures that can be taken for you to get your money back in a relatively quick timeframe and at a value-for-money cost," said Jacqui Walker.



Jacqui Walker, Lawyer, Turnbull Hill Lawyers, a Commercial Litigation lawyer at Turnbull Hill Lawyers.

"These measures include issuing a letter of demand, preparing and serving a Creditor's Statutory Demand (where the debtor is a company and other pre-conditions are satisfied), and preparing and serving Court documents (such as a Summons or Statement of Claim) on the debtor. Because of our expertise in this area of law, we've helped hundreds of clients recover what's owing to them," advised Walker.

"In one case we were involved in recently, we recovered \$287,000 for our client in only 10 days! Our client was understandably ecstatic with that result!"

"If you're a business owner, then it's particularly important to take prompt action to recover debts," said Walker, "as cash flow is the life blood of your business. If your debtors are not properly managed, you may not have the cash to pay your bills - and you might find yourself facing corporate insolvency or personal bankruptcy."

If you need help to recover money owing to you, call Jacqui Walker now at Turnbull Hill Lawyers on 49048000. She'll be delighted to assist you!

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