

We have nothing to lose but chains

ARE you too sick of the regular, sometimes almost inevitable, rubbishing of Liverpool and other parts of western Sydney.

A lot of the stuff in the media is a beat-up designed to make the deeply superficial residents of harbourside suburbs feel better about themselves and their water views.

Unfortunately, a lot of this stuff is also true; not that you'd know it if your information came from the State Government or some of its western Sydney apologists.

We who live here know what's good about the place; we also know what's wrong – and what's got to be fixed. We know who's to blame, but

EDITOR'S CORNER
by Eric Kontos

the bottom line is it doesn't matter that much any more.

What matters is what are we going to do about it. And I mean we, because, as we know, there's a limit to what politicians can do.

Of course, the people need visionary leaders who will tackle such a task with gusto. But it is we the people who need to articulate what Liverpool's pressing needs are.

There's no doubt in my mind that

there's a great desire among many in Liverpool to rip the shackles off once and for all and to embark on a great journey of progress in which everyone who calls this place their home can play a role.

We've talked before about the importance in September of electing a council that will take us forward. It's just as important, if not more so, that the right person is elected to the highest post in town – that of mayor. He or she will play a crucial role in shaping our future, so we must get it right on election day.

Finally, on a happier tack, I want to once again thank those kind readers who responded to my plea earlier this year for tips on what is

the appropriate speech for a father of the bride.

Well, I was a very proud father of the bride last Saturday, and, what's more, thanks to some *Champion* readers, I made a speech that by all accounts was pretty good.

In a small way, this was just another example of how a community can achieve more, can aim higher and kick bigger goals if it works together.

The sky's the limit for Liverpool if we all put aside our self-interest and join hands to make this town the jewel of western Sydney. You know we can do it and come September will be the first sign we are fair dinkum about this.

CONFIDENTIAL

LIVERPOOL *Confidential* was amused to receive a media release from former environment minister Phil Koperberg's office stating: "Since 1995/96 the Lemma Government has provided almost \$29 million for more than 630 projects."

We know it's hard to tell who's actually in charge of the mess, but we're sure it was Bob Carr for some, if not most, of that period.

■ Local dog-lover Sandra Thode, whose reunion with missing pooch Peppa was documented in a September issue of the *Champion*, wrote in with an update on her pet's condition.

It appears Peppa was taken in by an Asian family who overfed the dog and caused its liver to shut down.

"I've spoken to a few people and they've explained to me that, in some Asian communities, if your pet is fat, it means you love your animal very much," Sandra reports.

The good-natured family contributed \$2000 towards vet bills and Peppa is slowly returning to good health.

Take a bow-wow.

■ A *Champion* staffer with too much time on his hands wanted to see if cats preferred naps on clean clothes or dirty clothes and busily set up similar-sized bundles on the floor as a test.

A few days on and it has become apparent that cats do indeed prefer the feel of clean clothes.

The staffer also has a lot more clothes to wash this weekend.

The cat wins – again.

If you have an item for *Confidential*, send it to liverpooleedit@fairfax.com.au.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

WE REPORTED that the council would sell some properties and spend the more than \$3 million proceeds on "revitalising the city". The council voted to sell three "under-performing" properties and use the money to fund roads and footpaths and build sports and community facilities.

Properties to be sold included two industrial premises in Macquarie Street, a commercial/retail premises in the library plaza, vacant land at Pleasure Point, nine lots of Green Valley and the former 2GLF radio station site in Christie Street.

A report to the council stated that the money would be spent on "most urgent community infrastructure needs".

MY JOB

ANGELA ROTHWELL: Swim school director, at ABC Swimming.

How did you end up in your current job? I started with a part-time swim teaching job.

Best part about your job: Watching children I have taught to swim, grow and become good swimmers and young adults.

Worst part about your job: The amount of hours involved.

What extra talent do you wish you had? Cloning myself, so that I could be everywhere at once.

What would you never do again? Eat brains.

What do you like about the area? The facilities.

What don't you like about the area? The stigma of the western suburbs.

How do you unwind? Watch television and read books.

What's your greatest extravagance? My house.

What would you never give up? My family.

What's your favourite thing to do on the weekend? Relax with my family and friends.

What's your favourite local haunt? Westfield.

Describe Liverpool in one word: Diverse.

If you were granted three wishes what would you ask for? Fly a plane, have a butler who would cook and live in a castle can.



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