

Lloma's Fab Foodie Trail

Pino's

Cnr Maddox & Lawrence Streets, Alexandria

If you haven't found *Pino's Vino e Cucina* (Wine and Kitchen) in a walk around the area, as we did, take yourself to the corner of Maddox and Lawrence Streets, and find Pino's, only a 15 minutes by foot from Erko.

It has a great bar (fabulous bartender/sommelier), and the whole space is very atmospheric, and deservedly popular. The wine list is really interesting, but for us, the food.....

The menu is not extensive, but it's

still really hard to choose from a range of seasonal, modern takes on traditional southern Italian fare. As you would expect, they make their own pasta.

We've enjoyed everything we've eaten from the menu, but standouts for us from a few visits were the fregola (small Sardinian pasta) with prawns – delightful, the best baby octopus I've ever eaten and a deconstructed cannoli dessert, which was so light, so that it did not feel decadent. The wait staff are attentive but unobtrusive, and really take the time to make you feel welcome.

You won't have a cheap night out, but we think it's one of the best restaurants in the area. So, it seems, do a lot of other people, because every time we've been there, people have been turned away...you definitely need to book for weekend nights.

They also do lunch on weekends. Checkout their [Facebook page](#) which they use to showcase seasonal offerings. And enjoy your visit!

Reviewed by Lindy, in Lloma's absence.



LOCAL FIRE CHIEF, MATT MURPHY, DISCOVERS AN EARLY ERKO SCAM

WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE

An intriguing tale from the early history of Sydney wherein is unearthed the **DASTARDLY** doings of **SHADY** convicts, **LAZY** bureaucrats, **DISREPUTABLE** lawyers, **TROUBLED** governors, **SCHEMING** businessmen, **MANIPULATIVE** brides and other **SCURRILOUS** and **DECEITFUL** rogues to document the unfolding drama of what was the **LONGEST AND MOST EXPENSIVE COURT CASE IN AUSTRALIA** regarding that fertile valley of 210 acres which now contain much of the suburbs of **NEWTOWN** and **ERSKINEVILLE**, known as **THE NEWTOWN EJECTMENT CASE**

MATT MURPHY

In 1794 and 1799 Superintendent of Convicts Nicholas Devine was granted 210 acres on the edge of the current CBD of Sydney. After the demise of Governor Bligh (to whom he was closely allied) Devine reluctantly retired to his estate where, as an old man living alone, he was constantly beaten and robbed.

An Irish convict named Bernard Rochford befriended the old man in 1825 and upon his death in 1830 forged a Will and seized control of the estate and proceeded to subdivide it and sell it off.

So begins *Weight of Evidence*, a new book by sometime Erskineville resident, Matt Murphy. Matt jokes that he wrote the book practically by accident. He explains that it grew out of a university essay on convict rights and, as historians and researchers say, he went down the rabbit hole and came up with a lot more than he anticipated.

The most amazing thing he discovered was that no one had written the story before! He says it makes him think there are many stories

sitting in archives that are just waiting to be discovered. Another thing that did interest Matt was just how 'fluid' the convict assignment system was and that no one really knew who was meant to be where and how easily this situation could be taken advantage of.

Many of the purchasers of the land (and others, including the Governor) knew Rochford was in no position to sell the land as even if the will he had was authentic, he was a nonetheless a convict and therefore was prohibited from holding property, let alone profit from its sale. Rochford sold much of the land in exchange for grog and was continually in court over a variety of issues. As devious as Rochford was, he proved no match for his wife whose deceit landed him in jail where he died in 1839.

Many of the streets in the area are named after the key players in Matt's story. The Rochford apartments behind us are named for him, and Matt jokes that if the developer knew the whole story, he would have chosen a more salubrious title.

Matt Murphy is the fire chief at Newtown and *Weight of Evidence* is available as a paperback and Ebook from wherever you buy your books.



The annual external **clean** of the building's **windows** has been delayed due to issues with the access hatches. As soon as this is rectified, the windows will be cleaned.

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ERKO News

AN OCCASIONAL JOURNAL OF NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

WHAT ISSUES FOR THE AGM?

The ERKO AGM will be held early May—(see overleaf) and the only "hot-button" issues will be the ongoing resolution of the original defects and some minor changes to the by-laws.

After a harrowing three years of negotiation, the majority of the defects have now been resolved. The SC will brief the residents on the outstanding issues at the AGM.

Doug Turner, the partly retired lawyer and law-lecturer, who is the one-man Governance/ Compliance sub-committee, has tidied up the building's bylaws. He reports that he keeps a log over the course of the year of any issues re the by-laws, as they come up, and he is pleased to report that there have been very few issues, and all the amendments to be presented could be categorised as incremental improvements only.

Residents will be asked to vote on two items of capital expenditure, the first, generated by the SC, is to replace the lighting in the public area with LEDs. The cost of this will be recouped by energy savings within 2 years. The 2nd is to add capacity to our CCTV system by adding 26 cameras as explained elsewhere.



Volunteer Fair at Erko Town Hall

Last year the City of Sydney Council surveyed residents and workers to measure the nature of social cohesion and social interaction in the communities that lie within their boundaries. They are using the survey results to identify how to best support the community's social wellbeing. One of the key take-outs from the survey, was that residents are keen to find out about local volunteering opportunities and activities. Just from the survey alone, SCC developed a list of more than 150 keen locals ready to lend a helping hand.

The city's Community Development Coordinator, (and good friend of this little newsletter), Tereza is planning a Volunteer Fair on 26 May at Erko Town Hall where you can meet a range of organisations and find opportunities to match your skills, interests and passions. Local initiatives are encouraged – at a recent volunteer fair in Green Square, a Waterloo resident brought a pen and paper and signed up 11 neighbours to help with organising a 'Buy Swap Sell' day in order to find unused items a new home and be more sustainable.

Results from the survey can be found here - <https://cityfutures.be.unsw.edu.au/research/projects/my-place-local-community-survey-2017/>



The opportunities for volunteering are endless. Shown above is Gig Buddies, who pair up people with and without a learning disability to go to gigs and other events together.

But there's also programs to recycle furniture and whitegoods to those in need; and many organisations that support the less fortunate, but all need one thing—warm bodies.

The fair is at Erskineville Town Hall on Saturday 26 May. If you work for a volunteer organisation who would like to be included, or if you have ideas for the community that would be appropriate, contact Tereza (that's her above left at the Green Square Fair) at communitydevelopment@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Otherwise just come along on the day and find something that suits your passions.

DOES ERKO NEED ADDITIONAL SECURITY CAMERAS?

Heeding the concern of the residents, the SC has engaged the security consultants who provided the original cameras for the building to consider how best to deter theft from the storage cages.

Although the SC still believes that the best deterrent is a robust lock and storing your valuables out of sight, they have received a proposal for additional cameras.



The proposal will add a further 26 cameras to the building, ensuring that every cage in the basement levels are covered. The camera technology has improved dramatically in the three years since the initial installation, and the cameras to be used are more effective in low-light and have a far greater number of pixels. An enhanced signage program will be used to further deter the thieves.

This proposal will be voted upon by the owners at the Erko AGM in May. If accepted, it will be funded by a special levy for 12 months which will add a little over \$30 a quarter to the strata fees.

Will it stop all theft—it's unlikely, but it should deter the average low-life. What we don't want, is lots more images of blokes wearing hoodies and sunglasses.

Where in the world is....

Residents of Erko travel to some unusual and out-of-the-way spots. Here we take a look at just one Erkonian.

...MAGGIE?

Maggie and her partner traveled to China in February to visit the Snow & Ice Festival at Harbin. They expected it to be dramatic, they expected it to be spectacular, and they expected it to be very cold. They weren't disappointed!



Six hours in a bullet train from Beijing brought us to the northern city of Harbin, founded in 1898 with the coming of the Chinese Eastern Railway. The city initially prospered as it became home to the overwhelming majority of immigrants from the Russian Empire—the so-called White Russians.

The temperature is minus 18 degrees as we leave our warm hotel. We are wearing every layer of clothing we possess.

Our first stop will be Sun Island, the home to the annual Snow

Sculpture Expo. These sculptures (below) are made from compressed snow and then sculptured over a period of weeks into the most remarkable forms. Many are enormous, witness the scale of the people

on the frozen lake. Sculptors from around the world participate in this competition, and a 4 metre high Ganesh sits awk-



wardly alongside a collection of running zebras.

As the sun sets we arrive at the World of Snow and Ice (bottom). Here blocks of ice, around 1 cubic metre, have been cut from the river as it freezes, and assembled into a city of ice. LEDs have been placed in the ice, and as darkness falls, the city is illuminated, the vibrant colours shining through the sculptures of the Kremlin, the Taj Mahal and a host of recognisable international buildings.

At that moment, it all becomes worthwhile, The streaming eyes, the frozen fingers and toes, the running nose. It's nothing short of magical, and worth the long journey to reach Harbin.

[Read more here.](#)



What's the Community Group Up To Now?

- **Community social events** are planned for 2018, such as a [Garden Info Session](#), a [Market Day](#) and a [Garden Movie Night](#)...stay tuned for details and as always, we will remember consideration of our neighbours and care of property on each occasion
- **Little Library** – situated in Recycling Room, (aka The Room of Magical Recycling Possibilities), it is cared for almost daily by several volunteers. Extremely popular and well supported, it includes a variety of literature and DVDs for all ages...enjoy browsing



- **Terracycling** – this is recycling of any items Council do not take, eg batteries and coffee pods. Pilot programs are planned, however the response from organisations involved is slow, as those which are free of charge appear to have resourcing which does not meet demand...our volunteers will keep trying! Unfortunately, no solution for polystyrene so far, as only **drop-off** options are available free-of-charge (message the Community Group on Facebook if you'd like to volunteer)
- **Clothing Bin** – City of Sydney is planning to establish a service in 2018/2019 to pick up second hand clothing, so an enquiry has been placed to find out how soon this might happen in Erskineville; should the program not be in place this year, the Community Group has made enquiries to one for-profit operation and two not-for-profit organisations. The Smith Family and Salvation Army have

been approached and if it isn't viable for them to supply a bin, King Cotton is next to be approached.

- **Recycling Foodscraps or Worm-farming** — This is also a tricky concept as there's a threat of vermin or noxious odours. However, we'd all acknowledge that the scraps we waste on a daily basis have a nutrient value that deserves better than just being shovelled down the chute.
- **Friday Night Drinks**—thanks to all who responded with comments, both positive and negative on the future of our Friday nights drinks. Expects further news on this soon.

Erko AGM—Hold the Date!

The Annual General Meeting for Erko will be held at the Joseph Sergeant Community Centre, 60 Prospect St Erskineville on Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 6.00pm.

The formal notice of meeting will be distributed by Strata-plus in about two weeks together with the statutory proxy and other forms. The notice of meeting can be a sizable and daunting document, so it's worth taking a moment to come to grips with its contents prior to the meeting.

There's unlikely to be any contentious issues. After three years nearly all of the "wrinkles" have been ironed out and we have a committed, active Strata Committee. There will be minor changes to the bylaws (mentioned overleaf) and an update on the rectification of the outstanding defects. Reports from the various subcommittees, Finance, Building, Gardens etc will be presented.

The AGM provides the opportunity for owners and residents to have direct input into the management of the building that is our home, and the Strata Committee urges all residents to attend the meeting.