

# THE SOUTHERN A PRODUCTIONS

## Changing Times

Thursday, August 6th, 2015

Residents of Strathalbyn are coming to grips with the changing landscape with some hesitation as they protest the new developments planned for the district.

Right or wrong there has been a plethora of assumed information fuelling the arguments.

Ever since a large portion of the central shopping precinct was modified to accommodate Woolworths, the town's identity has changed substantially.

Future plans for the expansion of this complex will herald more radical changes, with more than half of the available space being occupied by the one shop and associated car parking.

Council claims that some buildings earmarked for demolition have no heritage value, but as recently as the previous owner renovated one of the buildings, heritage demands were insisted upon by the council inspector during the refurbishment.

Recently installed banners in Strathalbyn, protesting State Government interference and correspondence criticising a lack of interest by the Federal Member for Mayo, should be reminded how long it took for the long awaited freeway off-ramps, promised at many elections - if they are looking for a quick answer from this source...

And then there is a claim in this week's letters column that 98% of the population do not want this development - 98% Really?

To arrive at a figure of this accuracy would surely involve a participation rate of 100% of the affected population to obtain an accurate gauge of opinion.

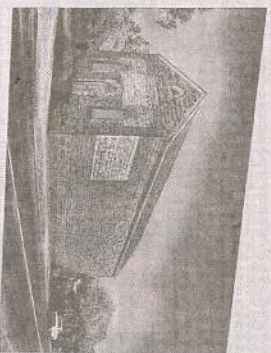
# Strathalbyn's hyper glow

Karen Goldie got her first camera at age ten and today continues to love photography and in particular, photographing old buildings and being transported back, wondering what went on in these buildings.

Bells 'Coffee House', Railway buildings, Catholic Church, Town Hall and many more have been immortalised by Karen in her stand-out 'hyper saturated' style.

Machine as the space in which to hang her SALA 'Illume' exhibition, it has been welcomed by proprietors Steve and Jess and their patrons - Karen wanted to hang her framed works in a conventional space and these walls suit well. Family is why Karen is aware of the need for help in the community. Having regrets that

first aid' was an eye opener to Karen and her sister's situation and how she could have been a much better sibling from the exhibition, plus 100% of raffie proceeds will go to support the Strathalbyn and Communities Suicide Prevention Network fundraising effort.



Photographer Karen Goldie and Cliff Sweetman, chairman Strathalbyn and Communities Suicide Prevention Network who congratulated Karen on her 'Illume Strathalbyn' exhibition and supporting the group.

## Finn's Law fight continues with the introduction of Bill into Parliament

Liberal Member for Hammond, Adrian Pederick, has re-introduced a Private Member's Bill in State Parliament to amend the Statutes Amendment (Rights of Foster Parents and Guardians) Bill 2015.

The Bill, known as Finn's Law, would give foster parents the option to be recognised on a death certificate if a child dies in their care and also give them the chance to be involved in funeral arrangements.

The current legislation states that only the biological parents are provided with the rights of the child including details such as reason for passing and funeral arrangements.

"If successful, there are approximately 1,800 foster parents who will gain new rights as a result of a campaign fought by Mrs Monica Perrett," said Mr Pederick.

"This Bill is challenging because it breaks new ground, but I believe we do the right thing by foster parents and foster

children. "I urge the Weatherill Labor Government to support the Statutes Amendment Rights of Foster Parents and Guardians Bill, giving foster parents and guardians the rights they deserve where applicable.

"I will continue to fight for Finn's Law to become legislation," said Mr Pederick.

My first contact with Monica Perrett was when I learnt that she had won the Barnardos Mother of the Year Award for 2014. I was extremely delighted to learn that Ms Perrett, a well-deserved mother in the electorate of Hammond had received such a prestigious award.

Monica's award symbolizes the efforts of a caring nurturing mother of not only her own biological children, but also those she has chosen to foster, including little Finn - now deceased and also her granddaughter.

This is a very moving award and is recognition that Monica, a foster parent and mother was being recognized for her efforts.

Monica Perrett is a mum to six children and has been a carer for the aged and disabled for over 12 years. She is also an active donor to a variety of different charities, especially those working with children or those whose lives are less fortunate.

She is also a crusader for people that are unable to speak for themselves and almost single handedly brought down a nursing home for severe abuse of the elderly.

**Fostering Finn**  
Little Finn, who Monica fostered in early 2014 was in fact her nephew however in Monica's eyes he was nothing less than her own son.

Finn's biological parents allowed Ms Monica Perrett to become little Finn's carer, until he turned the age of 18 years old under the guardianship of the Minister. When Little Finn was born he was diagnosed with numerous medical conditions including spina bifida,

fluid on the brain and a hole in the heart. Finn was born in February 2014 and entered Monica's care in March 2014 under the Guardianship of the Minister until the age of 18 years and under the 100% care of Monica and her husband.

In April 2014 Monica Perrett won the Barnardos Mother of the Year Award, in May 2014 Ms Perrett kisses Finn goodbye to fly to Sydney for the 2014 National Mother of the Year Awards and heartbreakingly, 12 hours later little Finn passed away unexpectedly after an unexpected emergency admission into hospital.

**No goodbye**  
There is nothing I can imagine that would ease the pain of a mother or foster parent losing her baby. However, on the 7th May 2014, this pain was of the worst kind with the Perrett's not being given the opportunity to say goodbye to their little Finn.

In many cases, the foster parents have been a huge part of a child's life. The current legislation states that only the biological parents are provided with the rights of the child including details such as reason for passing and funeral arrangements.

When dealing with Families SA, Ms Perrett was denied any information about her foster son

## Misplaced glasses

Yesterday my daughter emailed me again, asking why I didn't do something useful with my time - like sitting around the pool and drinking wine is not a good thing...

Talking about my 'doing something useful' seems to be her favourite topic of conversation - she was 'only' thinking of me and suggested I go down to the senior centre and hang out with the gals.

I did this and when I got home last night I decided to teach her a lesson about staying out of my business. I emailed her and told her that I had joined a parachute club.

She replied, "Are you nuts? You are 80 years old, and now you're going to start jumping out of planes?" I told her that I even got a membership card and emailed a copy to her - she immediately telephoned me, "Good grief, where are your glasses?" This is membership to a Prostitute Club!

"Oh man, I'm in trouble again, I really don't know what to do, I've signed up for five jumps a week."

The line went quiet and her friend picked up the phone and said that my daughter had fainted - like as a senior citizen is not getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun.

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