

# Weighing the prose and cons

BEVERLEY HUDEC

## FOOD AND VERSE

POET Alan Clarke likes to serve his Street Mission cafe clients with more than just pies, sandwiches, muffins and drinks.

The Manly street cafe volunteer now throws in a side-servicing of poetry.

"They go down quite well. I've written 100 poems in four years," the Street Mission founder and cafe manager said.

One recent Friday night the Beacon Hill soccer coach treated his audience to a tribute to Johnny Warren.

"I write about everything and anything. If an event happens, like Beslan, I try to write about it, but I have to be in the mood."

It was fellow poet Michael Darby who initiated the Friday night poets' corner with a stirring recital of *The Man from Snowy River*.

"I met Michael at a function and he wanted to help the charity, so he came down one night," Mr Clarke said.

The cafe has been operational since the winter months serving food and drinks to disadvantaged people. It's set up just before 7pm outside the Uniting Church, opposite Manly police station. It's open to the elements and in wet

■ **MISSION:** Street Mission cafe offers food to homeless people on Friday nights outside the Uniting Church, opposite Manly police station  
 ■ **VOLUNTEERS:** If you would like to help with the cafe phone 8901 0719  
 ■ **DONATIONS:** To donate money visit the website at [www.streetmission.com.au](http://www.streetmission.com.au)

weather volunteers serve from the back of a van.

"It's mainly men that use it. It's going quite well," he said.

In the new year Mr Clarke is considering a move to Saturday nights. He will put the suggestion before the Street Mission committee when the six-month pilot scheme finishes in February.

"The Salvation Army soup kitchen operates Friday lunch time, so they don't need sandwiches Friday night."

He's also aware how hard it is to get volunteers on Saturday nights.



WAXING LYRICAL: Michael Darby and Alan Clarke reciting poems at the Friday soup cafe. Picture ROS CANNON

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**Saturday 18th December 10am to 3pm**  
 Unit 1, 3 Vuko Place, Warriewood  
 (Cash, Mastercard, Visa, Bankcard)

## CORRECTION

The Dee Why RSL Club What's On feature on Friday 10 December listed the wrong date for final draw of the 'Happy Holden Holidays' promotion. The correct draw date for this promotion is **TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER** at the club. We apologise for any inconvenience.



For information of Members and their Guests

## RUMP STEAK WITH CHIPS OR MASH - \$5.95 - LUNCH 7 DAYS - SILVERTAILS BISTRO

### MEMBERS CASHMANIA

EVERY TUESDAY

**Voucher Bingo**  
 7pm

**Bonanza Raffle**  
 7.30pm



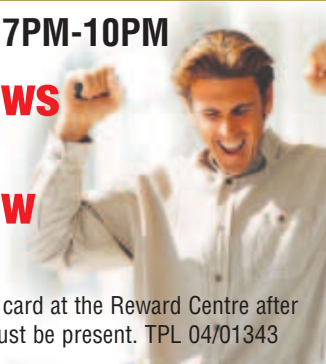
### MEMBERS CASHMANIA

EVERY WEDNESDAY 7PM-10PM

**\$250 Cash Draws**  
 every 15 minutes

**\$500 Cash Draw**  
 at 10pm

To enter swipe your membership card at the Reward Centre after 6pm each Wednesday. Winner must be present. TPL 04/01343



### ENTERTAINMENT

**Free Cabaret at 8pm**  
 Saturday 18 December  
**VARIETY IS BACK**  
 Featuring Lucky Starr

**FREE DUO'S** every Fri & Sat 8.30pm  
 This week featuring THE WANDERERS  
 Every Thurs 7.30pm  
 This Thurs featuring THREESOME TRIO  
 Sunday 2.30pm  
 This week featuring AUBREY & MARTIN

