



the
(sydney)
magazine

Kristina Keneally and Barry O'Farrell answer your burning que

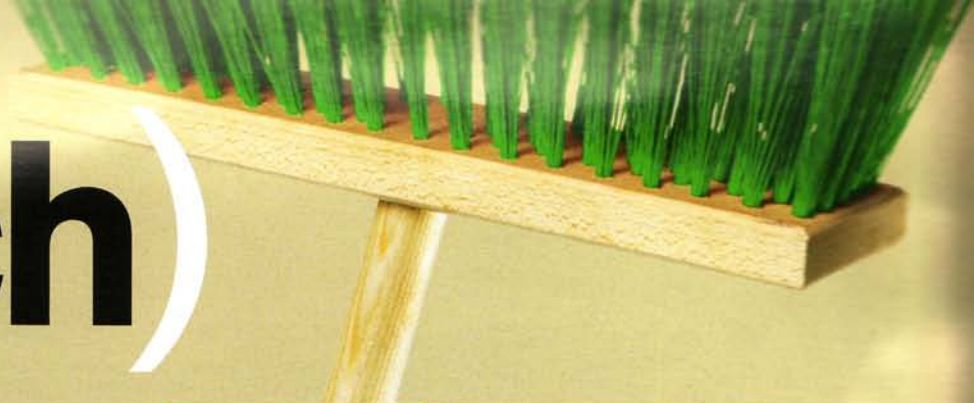
The big picture
A walking tour of
our top art galleries

Culture shock
Can Michael Spence
fix Sydney Uni?

On your bike
We rate the most-
used cycling routes

Plus Sydney's
custard tarts
and other sw

March



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If all you can remember from high-school French is "Tu vas au cinéma ce soir?", from tonight until March 21 the French Film Festival gives your partner an opportunity to reply, with Gallic nonchalance, "Mai oui." Various cinemas and times. frenchfilmfestival.org.

All through March, pop-up laneway dinners will be bursting forth in Ash Street as part of the March into Merivale event. 6.30pm-10pm, various dates. \$60. Ash Street, city. Phone: 9240 3000. marchintomerivale.com.

Let the stars of film and the stars of the universe capture the imagination at Starlight Cinema. Be quick, though – the outdoor movies only twinkle until March 20. Films start at sundown and tonight's flick is Ricky Gervais's *The Invention of Lying*. \$10-\$20. North Sydney Oval, Miller Street, North Sydney. Phone: 9949 3137. starlightcinema.com.au.

The organs of government are working again when the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ will open the Town Hall Revival Recital concert tonight. Katie Noonan and others are also playing. 7pm. Free (RSVP required). Town Hall, George Street, city. 8258 2222. cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Why do people flick cigarette butts to the kerb? Or leave food containers on the beach? Or dump cars in rivers? Surely not so that there's something to do on Clean Up Australia Day today? Phone: 8197 3400. cleanup.org.au.

Across Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Russia and Uzbekistan, International Women's Day is an official holiday. Back here, today's the day to make an unofficial fuss over the women in your life. internationalwomensday.com.

Francis Crick uncovered the building blocks of each of us and tonight Professor Robert Olby digs into the life and influences of the Nobel Prize-winning discoverer of DNA. 6.30pm. \$15-\$20. Seymour Theatre Centre, corner City Road and Cleveland Street, Darlington. Phone: 9351 7940.



Four days and 50 signature dishes from Sydney's best restaurants. However you do the maths, the Taste of Sydney festival will test your appetite. March 11-14, various times. Entry \$15-\$30, extra for food. Brazilian Fields, Centennial Park. Phone: 9331 7507. tastefestivals.com.au.

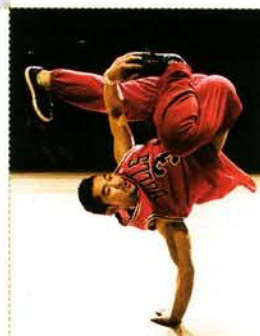
Gnarly, dude. It's the first time in two decades that an international surfing competition has come to Bondi. Catch surf champions Kelly Slater and Mick Fanning in the Boost SurfSho at the city's most famous break. 8am-5pm, March 12-14. Free. Bondi Beach. boostsurfsho.com.au.

Indulge your parochial palate at the Sydney Cellar Door in Hyde Park, where more than 110 wineries will be pouring their wares as part of NSW Wine Week. There are also the Tour of the Regions Dinners, hosted by hatted chefs during the week. Full details at nswwineweek.com.au.



This farewell tour is guaranteed not to suffer from "Farnham syndrome". The 89-year-old sitar virtuoso Ravi Shankar joins daughter Anoushka for his final tour of Australia. 8.30pm. \$135-\$175, plus booking fee. Sydney Opera House. Phone: 9250 7777. sydneyoperahouse.com.

It's St Patrick's Day so Guinness stocks will be under siege. The official Sydney parade and family day marking everything Irish is on Sunday, March 21. stpatricksdaysydney.org.au.



With workshops on popping, locking and breaking, it could be a burglars' introductory class but the Platform 3 Hip Hop Festival is chock full of street attitude and colour, with a day of free events tomorrow. March 19-20, various times and prices. CarriageWorks, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh. Phone: 8571 9099. carriageworks.com.au.

During NSW Seniors Week, more than 700 events across the state will celebrate the joie de vivre and wisdom of our elders. Various times and locations. nswseniorsweek.com.au.

Olafur Eliasson's exhibition may be called *Take Your Time* but you shouldn't take that literally. The eye-bending exhibition finishes up on April 11. 10am-5pm. \$15. 140 George Street, The Rocks. Phone: 9245 2400. mca.com.au.

Kings Cross is never dull but 40 years ago, with hippies, American GIs and the Yellow House artists, it was buzzing. The *Up the Cross* exhibition features photos by Rennie Ellis and Wesley Stacey from that period. 9.30am-5pm, until August 8. \$5-\$10. Museum of Sydney, corner Phillip and Bridge streets, city. Phone: 9251 5988. hht.net.au/museums/mos.



Only 365 sleeps until the next state election. Yes, it's going to be a long, long year.

The Kayak for Kids challenge is on today from Blues Point to Clontarf. Paddle the course to raise funds for kids with an intellectual disability or developmental delay. From 6.30am. \$85-\$660. Event registration at Blues Point Reserve, North Sydney. Phone: 6230 5332. arocsport.com.au.



The Sydney Philharmonia Choir's 90th-anniversary season kicks off tonight with *Ode to Liberty*, a program that features Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and a world premiere Australian work. 8pm. \$45-\$80. Sydney Opera House, city. Phone: 9251 3115. sydneyphilharmonia.com.au.

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 April issue of the(sydney)magazine is out today.
 Sign up to our reminder list at www.smh.com.au/thesydneymagazine.

Clean up the coast
 soak up some sun
 kayak for charity

Words **Dominic Rolfe**