

Crime and Social Isolation: Beyond Moral Panics and Bad Parents

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GOOD AS GOLD

Huon Hooke tracks a red from grape to glory **GOOD LIVING**



When it's time to take an axe to history

ELIZABETH FARRELLY Page 15

NET NASTIES

Why your mobile phone is a target

NEXT Liftout

Not disadvantaged, just bad, says Carr

Debra Jackson, Anna Davies and Justin Harris

A scene erupted for a briefly night at Macquarie Fields last night. But Carr had the blame only on the individuals who were drunk and in a state it was the lack of government which had thrown poor police people together in a rather lessening scene.

"Listen, reality check," the Premier said yesterday. "There are no excuses for this behaviour and I am not going to take it out that this behaviour is caused by mental disadvantage."

"A lot of people grew up in circumstances of social disadvantage and they did not go out and attack people with bricks and light boxes in the streets... There have been here and there in the towns who went out and threw bricks and caused harm. There's only one thing to say to those the police will get them, because they are engaged in illegal behaviour."

In the fourth night running, about 200 residents watched police patrolling their town with noise and bricks to average for the deaths of Helen Robertson, 47 and Matt Robertson, 18, who died when the stolen car in which they were passengers crashed during a police chase on Friday night.

The trouble erupted after officers pulled a white van the owner of Catherine Brown and Macquarie Drive which Mr Robertson had shared with three men. Witnesses said the van was used to transport a young boy and a woman, who arrested nearby after the van, in which police seized a rifle and a police baton.

By midnight police had arrested 19 people, including a woman charged for punching a policeman in the ground. At the bottom of Macquarie Drive, as many as 20 people had to work which exploded at the feet of a platoon of about 70 police.

While the crowd on Macquarie Drive and the nearby young drove into Macquarie from lower streets and talkback radio called outside Macquarie Fields, aerial police operations continued. Mr Carr tough talk and demand of the social nature of the riot.

"It's 90 per cent wrong," said New South, a commentator on police justice and the cause of social crime. The problem of Macquarie Fields would not be solved through a rigid law-and-order stance, but through police

MACQUARIE FIELDS RIOTS DAY 4



Protesters explode at the feet of riot police last night. Photo: Alan Larkin

Justin Kelly, the 19-year-old who fled the fatal crash that sparked the Macquarie Fields riots, was involved in clashes with police two nights after the accident, the **NEWSPAPER** says. Page 6

A SUBURB COMPARED

(All median figures)

Macquarie Fields All Sydney

WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME

\$2500 FIVE \$2000 FIVE

AGE

35 34

MONTHLY HOME LOAN REPAYMENT

\$900-\$1000 \$1000-\$1100

WEEKLY RENT

\$100-\$145 \$100-\$145

SNAPSHOT

MACQUARIE FIELDS

Population 12,756

Unemployment rate 11.2%

One-parent families 1087

Dwellings fully owned 1121

Bricks bought 1069

Wanted from housing authority 1275

Source: NSW Housing Authority

Friends of Matt Robertson, whose death last night the riots, found it hard to know how and he said, "Every time his birthday comes up he was in jail," and said. Page 6

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attack at the morning and play the long and they really had and get their arms on. We want revenge."

Empty beer bottles and cans littered the streets and parks, graffiti splattered on most buildings piles of discarded furniture of an apartment and several houses equal to previous night.

Back in the 2070s, the suburb's council of 2000 public housing properties and 2000 private-owned houses in 17 per cent, an unemployment rate is almost double that of greater Sydney's 6 per cent, while about 17 per cent of its people are jobless.

"There's a number of people who tell me they haven't eaten for a few days. It's a reality in this area," said a Salvation Army welfare office spokeswoman who declined to be named.

Professor Thomas said the riot was bad taken the view that the police had demonstrated by chasing car drivers to their deaths and he

found it hard to disagree with them. "Capital punishment is a very harsh penalty for stupid kids who do stupid things," he said.

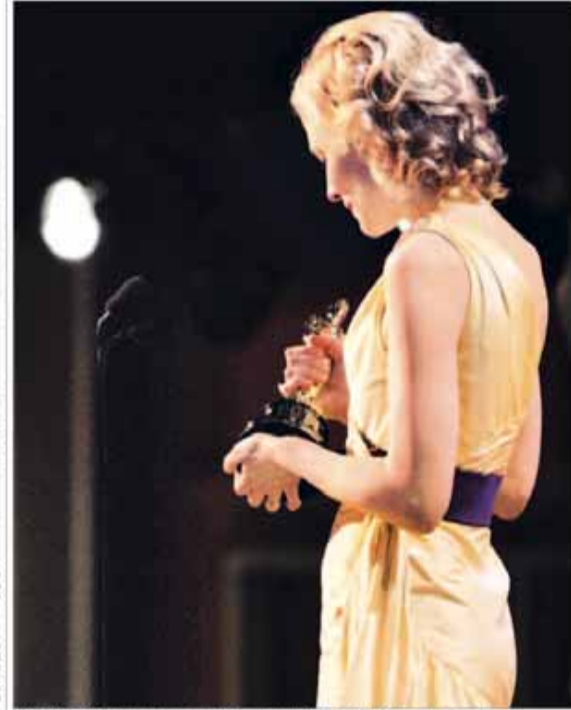
Dr David Marshall, senior lecturer in criminology at the University of Western Sydney said, "There is an ongoing tension between outsiders hearing outside and crime. It's not just this country. It's everywhere in the Western world."

The Minister for Housing, Greg Combet, said the Government had had a policy for a decade of dilapidated conversions of public housing and had spent \$40 million upgrading facilities in the suburb.

"Banking concentrations of public housing means that people who are in a very poor area are in a very poor area," he said. But nothing would be done, he said.

The reason for the riots were complex, unexplained and should not be used as an excuse for the riot, he said. "It's not a matter of failure with different coloured skin," he said. Page 6

Change? Darling, you have no idea



It's blood, Kate... Kate Blanchett accepts her award for best supporting actress for her work in *The Aviator*. Photo: Alan Tanaka

Caroline Overington
Her first Commentator
in Hollywood

Car Blanchett has a reputation for being a thoroughly original person despite her fame and success, but that is definitely going to change now she has an Oscar. "Oh, you just won't," she said. "I'm delighted."

Friday if winning an Academy Award would go to her head. "I know you think it's being about being, you have no idea!"

On stage she thanked her husband, Andrew Upton, saying "I know you think it's being about being, you have no idea!"

She also thanked her director, John Dahl, saying "I know you think it's being about being, you have no idea!"

Blanchett's first award for best supporting actress for her work in *The Aviator*.

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WEATHER - Details - Page 13

- Sydney City: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Sydney Coast: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Liverpool: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Newcastle: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Brisbane: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Perth: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Melbourne: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Adelaide: Min 16°C, Max 21°C
- Darwin: Min 16°C, Max 21°C

Pay \$50m or we'll shoot: threat to Multiplex

Kate Atkin
For the past four weeks the international construction firm Multiplex has been threatened with major strikes on its workers unless it hands over \$50 million.

The threat undermines what the international firm has done to have a major share in a major project in an important area.

Multiplex are working closely

have suggested as possible sources of the extortion threat, although the union had no evidence of this.

"They are aware of the situation and they are aware of the situation," said a union spokesman.

"We will be working in a way to ensure that we are not a major threat to the project."

"We are working closely

Iraq bomb kills 115

A suicide car bomb attack on a street in the town of Falluja, south of Baghdad, killed 115 people and wounded 185 in the single deadliest attack since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The incident occurred in a busy street in the town of Falluja, south of Baghdad, which is a major military base for the coalition forces.

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INSIDE

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"I'm not around so I want my identity stolen from me," the man said. "I have just attempted to register for my name, and received the message that the office of State Revenue does not recognise me as a person and will not proceed with my registration. Does this mean that I am missing?"

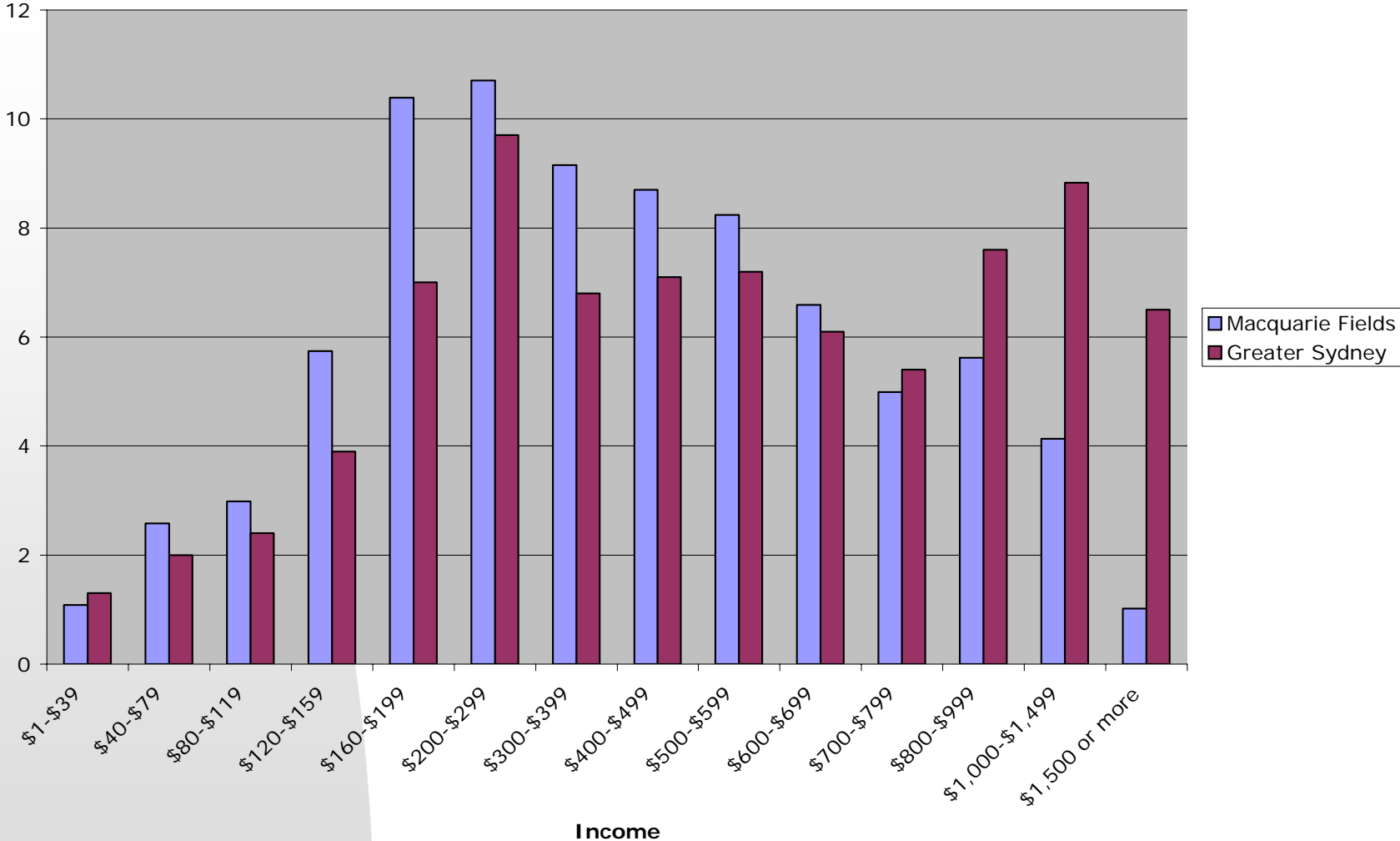
Following parent, can you be sure if you don't exist?

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Average Weekly Income Macq Fields: \$700-\$799 Sydney: \$1000-\$1199

Weekly Income Macquarie Fields vs Greater Sydney



% Public Housing:

- Greater Sydney 5.3%
- Macquarie Fields 29%

Boredom

- And that comes back to a major problem [that's]... been my little goat for a while, the infrastructure for the children of the area and the teenagers there's none, not a thing. Doesn't matter whether your in the private or your in the housing, it does not matter, our kids have got nowhere to go. OK they have a blue light disco once a month, that's fine but that's it. Most of us here have kids that are going to be teenagers shortly... now they've got nothing, absolutely nothing.
- Female: My boys home now, I left him in bed, he hasn't been up, there's just nothing to do. I'm not getting up, that's his attitude.
ML: How old is he?
Female: 16...[]
Male: There's no escape at all, not at all for them.

Public Transport

Male 1: It's more expensive in this area...

Male 2: It's getting your family out and then back home, on an average, if we take our family out for the day its up to \$20 just in fares, if we've got to catch a bus or whatever from the other end.

Female 1: Well its \$8 each way, that's just from the bus...

Female 2: It costs me \$5 ...to Campbelltown on a bus one way...[]

Female 1: Sometimes you wait for the bus for 2 hours, or an hour or so, in the sun.

Female 1: We don't have many sheltered bus stops.

Male 2: Because it comes back to the kids have got nothing else to do so they wreck them.

The 1970's

- Smaller scale estates of mixed cottages and town houses located in Macquarie Fields, Minto, Claymore and Airds

The 1980's

- Housing priorities re-focussed away from just public housing as 'blue collar workers' housing to housing those most in need
- Nuclear working-class family no longer typical applicants.
- Growing numbers of single people, including sole parents, the homeless, older people, people with disabilities applying for public housing...

The 1990's

- The Neighbourhood Improvement Program (later renamed Community
- Renewal/ Regeneration) commences
- The targeting of housing assistance to those in priority need increases in response to continued reduction in Federal funding...

■ <http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au>, Accessed 04/03/05).

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Services

- Female: Take the Shopping Centre, we had four banks, two butchers, greengrocers, sewing shops, we could always go and buy anything we wanted. Then they sold it and they built that monstrosity out there where they play football, and that's where the money went, and now we've got nothing, we don't even have a bank. If you want to do any proper banking you've got to go all the way to Ingleburn.
- Female: How many phone boxes are left on the estate?
Male: One, one.
Female: Yeah we've got no public phones.

Community Renewal / Regeneration

ML: So that process had made quite a big difference?

Male: Oh big difference since we've been in the area. All the walkways have gone which is better because its taken the broken glass out and the hooligans in them.

Female: (there used to be) the police chases of a night.

Paul: Your sleepin' that far away (opens arms) from the old walkways and you'd have a bike come flying past.

ML: Flying up the walkways and things?

Female: They used escape from the police through the laneways. Now they can't.

Male 1: And how do I look at my front yard? Through the kitchen window. And how do I get into the house through the laundry. That's what you get, they couldn't pick up the houses and turn them around that was physically impossible.

Male 2: What happened is they had funding and as they got around, they started at the bottom of the hill, and as they got around they ran out of money so it gradually got less and less.

Education

- Female 1. Then they get their drop kick little teachers straight out of University who don't know what they're doing and they've got to come here because...
- Female 2: They've got come here because that's where they've been placed...
- Female 1: We get em fresh out of University.
- Female 2: Shhh, they're University people we're talking to...

- Male. And these kids that actually don't attend school because their parents just don't care whether they go or not, it has to be dealt with, its an issue, now these kids are going to be unemployed, they're going to be roaming the streets, they're gunna steal cars, its just not appropriate...
- Female: Yeah, the education, I think they need to concentrate on these kids that just roam the streets. There's just too many kids not attending school, now whether they've been expelled, suspended whatever its not good enough. Putting them on the streets is causing a hell of a lot [of problems]...

- Female: My daughter's in year 10, she's going on but there's only about, out of 90 of the kids down there there's only about 30 that are going on, the others can't wait to get on the dole. You know there's just no ambition and a lot of that is because they're sort of, mum and dad are doing the same old thing so they do the same old thing, and yeah they're stuck in the area, they're not getting out and seeing the world sort of thing. Even when a couple of the girls will say we'll go to the movies, it's a really big thing for these kids to got to the movies...

The Police

Female: that's another thing the break and enterings around the suburb, you complain to the police and they'll tell you take 'em down the bush and bash 'em yourself.

ML: Right, so there's no support from the Police?

Male: They can't do nothin' cause they're underage.

Female: And the kids know it.

Female: People are speed demons, there's speed limits all round here but the police don't worry about them.

Female 1: We have actually got a start and finish line up on Eucalyptus for the drag races to go around Eucalyptus.

Female 2: This corner here, I'm surprised since we've been sitting here we haven't had a real example because this was my office, everyday you'd see a near miss or something, and you'd see the kids screaming round the corners.

Female 1; That's like the house next door to me got broken into and I rang up, I said "look they're still in the house", and he says yeah we'll be there, they come 6 hours later, and I said to them "you didn't expect them to still be there?"

Female 2: They were having a sleep and a barbie.

Female 1: He goes well what did you do? I said what did you want me to do go and make a house arrest? They're simple.

ML: And does that worry you that they are so slow to....

Female 2: They don't care, they don't care.

Service provider: But certainly that perception of, you know if something hairy happens your pretty much on your own, in terms of not having court support or police support is pretty widespread, and in some respects not unjustified. I mean some of the response times and some of the stories I hear about how people have been treated when police do turn up...

Community Violence

- Service Provider: I find especially with slightly older children. They have a tendency to intimidate the younger children...standover tactics, sort of 10 and 11 year olds, it can be quite scary when you think they're doing it at 10 or 11 what are they going to be like in a couple of years time. There's no respect for anybody or any property...

Domestic and family Violence

- Service Provider: There's a lot of dialogue around here at... women's groups about the ineffectiveness of the court system or the policing system to defend women against domestic violence. Some people seem to indicate that they think its just because Macquarie Fields Police are slightly useless. I have to say from my own background, my observation is there's actually a systemic flaw rather than a particular group of Police who don't give a rats. AVO's largely do not create levels of safety that they could, they're very hard to enforce.
- Service provider: My view would be that people were disturbingly well aware of the dynamics of domestic violence either from their own experience or the experience of their extended families. So its almost, normalised might be too strong a term, but its like Oh yeah that's happened and that's something that happens.
- Service Provider: I think its [domestic violence] so entrenched that, not that its overlooked but again it just becomes part of the status quo, which is wrong but its probably one of many issues that families are dealing with in this area.

Conclusion

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Thank You!

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