

Media Release
Friday 15th Feb, 2007



JOHN BROGDEN – OUT OF THE DARKNESS

The former NSW Opposition Leader John Brogden will be the first speaker in the ongoing Wayside Speaking Out series for 2008. On 21st February at 6.30pm, John will be addressing his journey from suffering depression to coming 'Out of the Darkness'. Hosted by political activist and commentator, Tim Brunero, the address will be followed by an open forum.

The Speaking Out series follows in the tradition begun by internationally renowned humanitarian, Ted Noffs, of offering the Wayside Chapel as a space to address and debate community issues. The 2007 series included debates that broached whether Federal drug policy is doing more harm than good and depression in the community. Last year's speakers included Federal Member for Sydney, Tanya Plibersek, former Federal Minister for Health and Aging, Tony Abbot and NSW Greens MP, Lee Rhiannon.

The Speaking Out 2008 series will continue to address both topical and important issues for the Wayside Chapel and the wider community, focusing on exploring all sides of an issue, giving voice to sometimes controversial viewpoints. Aiming to extend commentary beyond the media sound bite, the series fosters deeper understanding of the debate surrounding issues. The events are hosted in an informal manner, often allowing for direct access to decision makers.

The Speaking Out forums are held at the Wayside Chapel with a history of over 40 years at the forefront of social justice issues, offering non-judgemental support to all in the community, welcoming those of all faiths and none. Wayside and Ted Noffs have been behind some of the most innovative social welfare developments including co-founding Lifeline, which has John Brogden as Patron of the Lifeline NSW network.

When: 6.30pm – 8.00pm, Thursday Feb 21
Where: The Wayside Chapel, 29 Hughes St, Potts Point

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The Wayside Chapel is a well known Sydney Icon that provides unconditional love, care and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross. It has a long history of being at the forefront of social justice issues. Wayside pioneered Australia's first 24 hour crisis centre, the first Drug Referral Centre, co-founded the Aboriginal Affairs Foundation and started Life Education Australia. In the 60's and 70's it was also considered a first-class arts establishment.