

## Getting behind Gaza

By FATIMA MRAD

MARRICKVILLE Council voted to condemn the Israeli assault on Gaza last week, more than a month after the bombing ceased, and Canterbury Council will be voting tonight on whether to follow suit.

Marrickville Greens Councillor Cathy Peters said she was "horrified by Israel's attacks on Gaza," and that Marrickville Council needed to take a humanitarian stand against the "continued oppression of the Palestinians by the state of Israel," highlighting Marrickville's sister city relationship with Bethlehem.

"This is an issue close to my heart as my father was a Jewish refugee who fled Berlin in 1938," Cr Peters said.

"I was heartened by the genuine support for this motion by all the ALP councillors including the Mayor, who agreed that it was important to condemn Israel's attack on Gaza and the attacks on UN schools."

"We all condemn the use of internationally banned weapons containing white phosphorous as well as criticise rocket attacks by Hamas against the Israeli population."

As a result of the motion, Marrickville Council will write to the Australian Government, the Israeli Ambassador and the representative of the Palestinian Territories in Australia, expressing their view on the plight of Gaza.

Canterbury Greens Councillor Linda Eisler will put forward a motion to also condemn the Israeli attacks, which will be voted on at tonight's council meeting.

"Canterbury is a multicultural community, Canterbury Council believes in peace, and I believe that the Israeli invasion was unwarranted, and a disproportionate response," Cr Eisler said.

"Violence merely begets violence, and the Middle East solution is not based on violence."

Canterbury-Bankstown Peace Group spokesperson Raul Bassi said the motion is a positive step for the community.