



Coupling: Chris Galea, Erica French, Kath Newby and Aaron Hickey get fit *Picture: Anthony Reginato*

A hot date in the park

By EMMA PRYER

MOST singles wouldn't dream of going on a date in cellulite-hugging gym shorts.

But for one group of Sydneysiders, the prospect of finding love while exercising is luring them to the park in droves.

The men and women, all in their 20s and 30s, are taking part in the latest dating craze to sweep the city.

For \$200 each, Fit2Date promises lonely hearts the chance to shape up with a personal trainer, while meeting like-minded sporty types of the opposite sex.

In the leafy environs of Steyne Park, Double Bay, one such group warmed up last week for a

training session. A group of attractive women did leg stretches next to a bunch of beefy lads. Among them was Chris Galea, 27, a plumber from Epping, who's not found love since splitting with a girlfriend more than 12 months ago.

Flexing his biceps, Chris shared his dating philosophy: "This is like killing two birds with one stone. People get to train and meet new people."

Fit2Date's attractive founder Erica French talks the chatty group through the next four weeks of training.

The first hour-long exercise session is called "Group Date".

Eight men and eight women are paired off and split into two teams, who must then compete

in fun relays against each other. The losing teams have to answer comedy questions about themselves. At the end, individuals fill in a questionnaire about who they like and why.

The second week is dubbed "Double Date", where pairs are split into teams of four; the third is the "Blind Date" and the fourth is named "Your Choice".

Flight attendant Kath Newby, 34, from Coogee, has been single for eight months and doesn't seem perturbed by the process.

She said: "I'm not going to find my perfect guy in a nightclub and I feel a bit desperate doing Internet dating, so this feels more relaxed. It's just like a fun social group."

Barriers torn down over mural

By councils writer
JIM DICKINS

A SYDNEY mural depicting one of the Olympics' greatest controversies will be resurrected after disappearing behind railway sound barriers at Newtown.

Officials from RailCorp and Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TDIC) are investigating ways of reinstating the Three Proud People mural, which had become a landmark for city commuters.

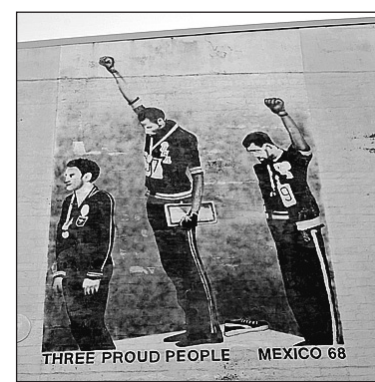
Painted in black and white on a terrace house wall, it depicts the famous black power salute given by US athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos after the 200m final at the 1968 Olympics, with Australian silver medallist Peter Norman by their side on the podium.

The image occupied a prominent position facing tracks near Macdonaldtown Station until it was all but covered up in May by new sound-proofing structures.

After prompting by Sydney City Council, RailCorp and TDIC have considered reproducing the mural on the other side of the barrier, but have been unable to find the original artist. They are also considering a transparent panel, allowing commuters to view the existing version.

Silvio Offria, who owns the house involved, said he was trying to contact the artist, a local man he knew only as Donald. Norman died last year but Ray Weinberg — coach and manager of Australia's athletics team in 1968 — said it was sad to obscure such a prominent mark of recognition.

"I think it would be a shame if it's lost because it was quite possi-



Hidden: The Macdonaldtown mural

bly the most memorable event in track and field history," he said.

Norman was one of the few people to know in advance that Smith and Carlos were planning their gesture, a protest at racial discrimination in their homeland.

He did not join the salute but wore an Olympic Project for Human Rights badge in solidarity and is said to have suggested Smith and Carlos share a single pair of black gloves to complete the look.

Weinberg, also a former Olympian, said the salute was met with bemusement in the stadium but caused uproar among Olympic officials, and outrage in parts of the US, then shaken by civil rights activists.

Smith and Carlos were sent home immediately and Norman was reprimanded. He was never selected in an Australian Olympic team again, despite holding the Australian 200m record. Smith and Carlos were pall bearers at Norman's funeral in Melbourne last year.

Infrared taste test for fruit

MANDARINS and oranges could soon be scanned with infrared light before heading to the nation's supermarket shelves.

The Australian citrus industry is conducting trials of the latest non-invasive, near-infrared technology, testing sweetness and dry matter in citrus fruit.

The InSight Sweetness Head, which is attached to a colour-vision grading machine, can pro-

cess up to 10 pieces of fruit per second per lane and does not damage the produce.

It could lead to improved grading of fruit and the possibility of fruit being sold according to its sweetness.

Trials will be conducted over the next two years and will initially be conducted on mandarins and oranges, before other citrus fruit is tested.

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