

## Pleasure of dining alone

■ With my job there is lots of travels and that means dining alone, I often eat alone in restaurants and I must say I enjoy it,

I took myself to lunch this past weekend and a patron in the restaurant asked me why I was eating alone?

I replied I enjoy it – which got me thinking, I looked around the restaurant and observed I was the only person on my own, I often am, its part of the norm in **Europe** to dine alone.

It's also quite decadent to sit and order a plate of oysters and a glass of very cold Sav Blanc and eat them alone. I highly recommend it.

I love being single and have never viewed it as a second-best situation. It's a choice as is dining alone. More people than ever are choosing to live alone, nearly half the prepared meals that can be bought are eaten alone and demand for "meals for one" has exploded.

**British** author **Sasha Cagen**, says of women choosing to be on their own, "quirkyalone" – women who celebrate being alone, and "resist the tyranny of coupledom". She couldn't have put it better.

Not like the **French** philosopher **Jean Baudrillard** who wrote, "Sadder than destitution, sadder than a beggar is the man who eats alone in public.

Nothing more contradicts the laws of man or beast, for animals always do each other the honour of sharing or disputing each other's food."

I prefer the words of writer **Charles Lamb**, "Oh, the pleasure of eating my dinner alone!"

## Collecting clutter

■ Am fascinated in two television shows at the moments: **Hoarders** on the **Bio Channel**, and **Clean House** on **The Style Network**.

These programs both deal with people who collect clutter, and as a result end up drowning in their possessions emotional.

Often associated with obsessive compulsive disorder this is a serious problem that lies in lots of homes in **Australia**.

It is usually a well kept secret within the families or persons associated with it. It's a creeping disease, hoarding or rat packing.

I first heard about it when I read the most fascinating book **Ghosty Men: The Strange But True Story of The Collyer Brothers, New York's Greatest Hoarders**. It is at Borders if you want to buy it.

It's well worth a read if you are prone to collecting clutter. Collecting clutter does get out of hand.

A true tale by author **Franz Lidz**, whose unsung heroes are a couple of classic hoarders, **Homer** and **Langley Collyer** who moved into their handsome brownstone in white, upper class **Harlem** at **2078 Fifth Avenue** (on the corner of **128th Street**) in **1909** (it's known as **Manhattan** these days)

By **1947** however the fire department had to carry **Homer's** body out of the house he hadn't left in **20** years. The neighbourhood had degenerated, and their house was a fortress of junk: in an attempt to preserve the past, **Homer** and **Langley** held on to everything they touched.

The scandal of **Homer's** discovery, the story of his life, and the search for **Langley**, who was missing at the time, rocked the city; the story was on the front page of every newspaper for weeks.

On **April 8, 1947**, workman **Artie Matthews** found the body of **Langley Collyer** just **10** feet from where **Homer** died; he had been crawling through their newspaper tunnel to bring food to his sick brother when piles of paper and a home made booby trap fall on him and crushed him.

It's an amazing story, all told; police and workmen removed **130** tons of garbage from the **Collyer** brownstone.

Among the rubbish were **14** grand pianos both grand and upright, thousands of newspapers, beds, baby carriages, a kerosene stove, chandeliers, old rusted bicycles, food, potato peelers, **25,000** books on medicine and engineering and **2500** books on law.

Eight live cats were found, tapestries, hundreds of yards of unused silks and fabrics and countless bundles of magazines some decades old.

● Turn To Page 6

# To

# D

# For

## IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

■ Here we are almost **Valentines Day** and I swear we just put the **Christmas** lunch dishes in the dishwasher!

I love a success story and the sweet smell or taste of success is my story about the introduction of **Lollypotz** first store in **Melbourne** just in time for **Valentines Day**

On **Monday** this week (Feb. 8), the national **Lollypotz** franchise opened its first **Victorian** store, selling chocolate bouquets in **Melbourne**.

The new store means that **Lollypotz** – an online and retail business specialising in chocolate gift bouquets – has outlets in four States, plus its head store in the **ACT**.

Operated by 34-year-old mother of two, **Susy Vulich**, the **Greensborough** store opened in time for **Valentine's Day** on **Sunday** (Feb. 14).

"We offer something very sweet and different for chocolate-loving **Valentines**," **Susy** said.

The new **Lollypotz** store is at **11/60 Main St, Greensborough** – opposite **Greensborough Plaza**.

Deliveries to anywhere in **Melbourne** (and indeed **Australia**!) [www.lollypotz.com.au](http://www.lollypotz.com.au)

**Susy** is **34** years old, and was born and raised in **Melbourne**, where she lives in **Preston** with her husband **Andrew** and two children, **Louis**, **6**, and **Amelie**, **2**.

Working as a paediatric clinical nurse specialist at the **Royal Children's Hospital** in **Melbourne**, **Susy** graduated from **RMIT** with her Bachelor of Nursing in **1995** and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in paediatric nursing.



● Di Rolle and Sir Cliff Richard (see story at right)

## All about it

■ **Lollypotz** is an online and retail business specialising in chocolate gift bouquets.

Established in **December 2008**, **Lollypotz** is one of **Australia's** fastest growing franchise operations with **25** franchises nationally.

The **Lollypotz** range includes tastebud-tempting chocolate bouquets and boxes for all occasions, as well as specialised collections: **Baby Potz**, **Potz of Love**, **Liquor Potz**, **Potz for Him** and **Festive Potz**.

Prices start from **\$19.95**, plus delivery.

All products can be ordered in-store, online at [lollypotz.com.au](http://lollypotz.com.au) or by calling **1300 565 597**. For more information, see [www.lollypotz.com.au](http://www.lollypotz.com.au)

## Sweet revenge

■ I also love a sweet revenge story. Interesting note about **Valentines Day**. This year as we know it falls on a **Sunday**, which

spells retail disaster for florists around **Australia**. A prickly thorn in their cash flow.

According to one national flower wholesaler, a **Sunday Valentines Day** trading is estimated to reduce sales by at least **40** per cent compared to when it falls on a work day.

Consumers shy away from the idea of wilting flowers hidden away.

This is where the national franchise **Lollypotz** is preparing

to reap the benefits, while some businesses lose customers, others will win.

Director of **Lollypotz**, **Louise Curtis**, says her online franchises and ordering system positions them perfectly for a **Sunday Valentine's Day**.

Customers can order on line and they are delivering to all metro cities around **Australia** and now **Melbourne** on **Valentine's Day** – straight into the arms of a loved one.



● Louise Curtis of Lollypotz

*I love my job!*

with leading Melbourne publicist **DI ROLLE**

## 50 years on

■ **Cliff and The Shadows** dominated the **British** popular music scene in the late **50s** and early **60s**.

I remember, I was such a fan all the way through, enjoying both solo and joint success.

Between them they achieved no less than **19** No.1 hits, including, **Living Doll**, **It's All In The Game**, **Traveling' Light**, **Bachelor Boy**, **Wonderland Land** and **Apache**.

They appeared together in the movies **Summer Holiday** and **The Young Ones**, from which came million selling hit singles and albums.

From **1968** **Cliff and The Shadows** pursued individual careers. Throughout the **70s** and **80s** **The Shadows** toured regularly and enjoyed **Top 10** successes, often competing with **Cliff** for the number one spot, **Cliff** went on to achieve huge worldwide success as a solo artist, scoring the most **Top 10** and **Top 20** hits in the **UK** singles Charts.

He remains the only **UK** artist ever to achieve a Number **1** single in five consecutive decades!

**50** years on **Cliff Richard**, **Hank Marvin**, **Bruce Welch** and **Brian Bennett** take to the stage together for the very last time on this tour. Don't miss it!

**Saturday** and **Sunday**, **February 13-14**, **Rod Laver Arena**, **8pm-10.55pm** (includes interval **9.05pm-9.35pm**). I can't wait!

## La Compania

■ **La Compania**, **The Renaissance Band**, are a brilliant group of musicians and take you back in time, today (Wed.) they will present in conjunction with **Melbourne Recital Centre** **Los Maestros De Silva** featuring **Danny Lucin**.

**Seville** as the sole port for the riches of the **New World**, flourished in the **16th** century with its cathedrals attracting the finest composers and musicians, and its publishing houses printing many of the masterpieces of **Spanish** music.

Turn To Page 6

Or people can pick up a chocolate bouquet on **Friday** from work and hide it in a cupboard knowing they won't die.

Can't wait to get on line and place my order! Ummm who will I have as my Valentine?

## We love him

■ **Valentine's Day** is a big day isn't it? Over the years I have received heaps of wonderful **Valentine's Day** surprises and have cleared the desk in anticipation of this years arrivals!

Am tempted to treat myself this week and go and see **AC/DC** – they are thundering into town. I think they will be awesome to see.

Also catching up with **Sir Cliff Richard** this week. I worked with him three times over the years so will be good to see him when he visits here this weekend: **February 13-14**, courtesy of **Dainty Consolidated Entertainment**, in his **Final Reunion** tour – **Cliff Richard & The Shadows**.

When I was a young school girl I had his pictures all over my bedroom wall much to the horror of my parents.

I thought **Cliff** was fabulous, and meeting him and working with him, he is just that, a great person, fun loving, mad about tennis, generous and kind.

It was in **1959** that **Sir Cliff Richard** first recorded and performed with **The Shadows**. In **2009**, exactly **50** years later, **Cliff and The Shadows** started on the road for their final tour.

The tour has brought them to **Melbourne** for the very first time, as a group, since **1961**.