

Festival's future on the line

Shireen Khalil

TONIGHT will determine if Newtown Festival can be saved.

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre chief executive Lisa Burns and festival organisers will meet with local businesses and sponsors to discuss better ways to support the fundraising event.

After *The Courier* highlighted the festival's plight,

LAST-DITCH ATTEMPT TO STAVE OFF THE AXE

Ms Burns said organisers received an influx of letters and phone calls.

"I've even had people stop me on the street to talk about their ideas of helping the festival," she said.

Ms Burns said what many people fail to understand is that the event is a fundraiser: all money goes


towards programs at the community centre.

"If Newtown Festival ceases to be viable as a fundraiser, we would have to stop running many of our programs and activities for the community, which would be a tragedy," Ms Burns said.

"It comes down to simple

math. I need to raise revenue and cut my overheads, and cutting overheads isn't possible."

A mandatory \$3 entry fee has been suggested.

 What should be done to save Newtown Festival?
innerwestcourier.com.au

WORRYING DEVELOPMENT

- Figures show profits have halved over two years
- The festival made about \$45,000 last year when it used to make about \$90,000.
- Lisa Burns stresses the point that it is a fundraising event.
- She says she is particularly grateful for the continual support of the event's biggest sponsor, Marrickville Council.

