



## **NO WAR - Sydney Opera House – 19 March 2003**

One week before the outbreak of Iraq War II, two protesters climbed to the top of the Opera House and painted "NO WAR", before being arrested.

After being led down by Police Rescue, **British** astronomer **Dr Will Saunders**, 42, and **Australian David Burgess**, a 33-year-old environmental campaigner from Bucketty, NSW, were charged with malicious damage.

**Burgess** told *smh online*: "The majority of Australians are against this war. This is a message to John Howard: please do not go." When questioned about his malicious damage charge, he said: "Our prime minister is about to go in and maliciously damage an entire nation". Asked whether the protest was worth it, he replied: "Absolutely, it was."

**Saunders** told journalists: "I love your country" and insisted he would have made the same protest in London, had he been there.

**What was done to the Opera House compares to the deaths of 1,000s of people.  
What is the point of a protest that is not noticed ... is not controversial?**

**The damage to the Opera House was not permanent.  
The damage done in Iraq is.**

***Postscript:** Will and Dave were both convicted and spent 9 months weekend detention in jail. They were charged \$151,000 for the cleanup of the Opera House roof.*

*This debt was finally paid in full in Aug '05 by them and through donations & sponsors.*

*Pictures: SMH online*

