



GROWING UP QUEER

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INNER WORLDS REVEALED

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the South Sydney Herald

NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE MARCH '14 CIRCULATION 22,000 ALEXANDRIA BEACONSFIELD CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON ERSKINEVILLE EVELEIGH GLEBE KINGS CROSS NEWTOWN PADDINGTON REDFERN SURRY HILLS WATERLOO WOOLLOOMOOLOO ZETLAND

SYDNEY UNI EXPANDS ON PLANS

Sydney University is seeking approval for a 68 per cent increase to its Camperdown-Darlington campus floor space by the end of 2020. This will accommodate a 21 per cent increase in students on the campus as well as 4,000 units of “affordable” student accommodation.



Photo: Thinkstock

Geoff Turnbull

THE BULK of the growth is proposed for the Darlington campus where buildings over 14 storeys will replace Merewether (16), Maze Car Park (14), Wentworth (14), Wilkinson Building and International House (up to 17-19 on a 3-5 podium), and a new multidisciplinary building (14) opposite the sports centre next to the boardwalk.

The exhibited documents show elevation in metres. For ease of explanation in this article, heights have been calculated from the plans and converted to industry standard storeys of 3.3m (University teaching floor heights will range from 3.6m to 4.3m).

Four already approved “transformational projects” (Charles Perkins Centre, Australian Institute for Nanoscience and Queen Mary Building in Camperdown, and Abercrombie Precinct Business School in Darlington) account for 21 per cent of the increased floor area.

The balance (47 per cent of the increase between 2013-2020) is covered in a Campus Improvement Program (CIP) placed on exhibition during February as a State Significant Development to be approved by NSW Planning and Infrastructure; not City of Sydney Council.

The University is seeking approval for the heights, locations and envelopes for the buildings (with the actual designs to be exhibited at a later date) as well as approval of other campus design elements and parking levels. The locations for some land uses are not specified in the CIP, with the University seeking approval for a range of land uses broadly within the University.

The CIP states the University only expects to build up to 85 per cent of the building envelopes proposed.



Proposed developments to the Camperdown-Darlington campus (new developments in blue) Graphic: University of Sydney

Development experience indicates developers try to increase height and floor space at the building design stage. To have credibility the under-utilisation must be covered in the approval conditions.

The Queen Mary Building, the former nursing accommodation at RPA, is expected to provide 801 of the 4,000 student beds proposed. The CIP does not clearly state the distribution of the balance of the student housing. The text identifies Darlington Terraces, Merewether, Maze Crescent car park and International House as buildings in which student housing is expected to be located with other possible uses. Under the broad use provisions requested, approval conditions need to state exact locations to avoid student housing moving without community consultation.

The CIP replaces an earlier draft 2020 Masterplan which looked at expanding the University by using other sites in the inner city. The CIP takes the opposite approach by looking at what can be built on the existing main campus. As a consequence, building heights go up from a current maximum of 8-9 storeys and some heritage buildings come down.

Heritage buildings impacted by the

CIP include International House and the Chemical Engineering Building which are ranked by the University as being of high significance, the Blackburn Building and R.M.C Gunn Building ranked as having moderate significance, and the Regiment and Merewether Buildings which are ranked as having low significance.

not say how many car spaces will be in each parking station). The CIP acknowledges a shift in traffic flows to Butlin Ave and argues these changes are minimal in the context of surrounding flows, but no detailed traffic study examining the impact on surrounding roads has been exhibited.

Overshadowing opposite the University Regiment site, which will be up to 9 storeys, has been identified as an issue by locals...

Other elements of the earlier Masterplan transfer across to the CIP, including the aim of making most of the campus car free and moving car parking to the periphery of the campus. Shepherd Street car park is retained and the new car parks under high-rise buildings on Merewether and the Maze car park will accommodate cars currently on campus, and a proportion of the 19 per-cent increase in campus parking proposed (the report does

Overshadowing opposite the University Regiment site, which will be up to 9 storeys, has been identified as an issue by locals, as has increased shadowing of the Darlington Primary School playground. Also raising concern is the proposal to build 3-storey student housing in the backyards of the Darlington Road terraces. Two terraces not owned by the Uni face the prospect of their backyards having 3-storey buildings on both sides built to the fence-line providing an

added pressure on the owners to sell to the University. If this goes ahead, terrace owners in the inner city may want to use the precedent to build 3-storey granny flats in their backyards.

This is just a brief overview of the proposals which can be viewed on the Major Projects website as *SSD 13_6123 Campus Improvement Program 2014-2020 for Camperdown-Darlington Campus*. The main overview document is the Environmental Impact Statement with the balance documents being over 1,000 pages of appendices. [See the Vice-Chancellor’s column (page 3) for information sessions; pages 2 & 9 for more on the issue.]

Any concerns about the concepts proposed in the CIP need to be raised now, otherwise the proposed building envelopes and concepts will be locked in and not challengeable at a later date when development applications are lodged for particular sites.

While the exhibition has formally ended, late submissions can be sent to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure but please also send to the University of Sydney which has undertaken to consider comments received until March 31. Geoff Turnbull has been a community representative on built environment issues since 2005 and is also REDWatch spokesperson.

South Sydney Herald

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Greens preselection candidates for Newtown

SSH

The Greens have announced their candidates for preselection in the new state seat of Newtown: Fiona Byrne and Jenny Leong.

The Returning Officer nominated to manage the preselection, Mr Seamus Lee, said: "All financial members living in the seat are eligible to vote in the Greens Newtown preselection, with Meet the Candidate forums organised to allow members to ask questions and hear directly from the nominees."

Newtown is predicted to be an intense and exciting competition between the Greens and the Labor Party. The ABC's election analyst Antony Green has identified the seat as notionally Green, based on the results of the last state election.

The final count and announcement of the Greens result will take place on March 22.



Photo: Supplied

FIONA BYRNE

A 12-year veteran of the Greens, Fiona Byrne served two terms on Marrickville Council and was elected the first female Mayor of Marrickville in 2010. Fiona is passionate about the Inner West and committed to the diverse and inclusive community where she has lived for 20 years.

During her time on Council and as Mayor, Fiona successfully campaigned for improved community services, advocated for more inclusive approaches for our most at-risk local residents – particularly youth and boarding house residents – and vigorously protested against government attacks on the social safety net, the sell-off of public assets and the lack of action on issues relating to climate change.

As the child of Irish migrant parents who moved to Newtown in the early 1970s, Fiona's commitment to social justice and active leadership on key community issues is directly related to her life experience. Now a mother of three herself, Fiona joined the Greens because she believes in an equitable and sustainable future for all, and her commitment to these principles has shaped her work within the Greens for more than a decade. It is what motivated her achievements on Council and what motivates her to run in the preselection for Newtown.



Photo: Supplied

JENNY LEONG

Jenny Leong has lived, studied and worked in the suburbs that make up the electorate of Newtown for close to 20 years.

Jenny has held community leadership, campaign coordination and project management roles in the not-for-profit sector at local, national, regional and global levels. She was a crisis and global Human Rights campaigner for Amnesty International working in London, Hong Kong and Sydney. Most recently she worked as the Federal Election Campaign Coordinator for the NSW Greens supporting the campaigning efforts across the state.

As a postgraduate student at the University of Sydney she was President of the Sydney University Postgraduate Association and a fellow on the University of Sydney Senate. In these roles she successfully secured funding for student organisations, which ensured their survival in the face of VSU.

Jenny has been an active member of the Greens for over a decade. She is one of the many political activists that was born out of the Howard years – appalled by the Coalition's divisive and destructive agenda, disillusioned by weak opposition from Labor and inspired by the conviction and compassion of the Greens.

Sydney University – consultation disaster

GEOFF TURNBULL

IN SETTING the areas that the University of Sydney's Campus Improvement Program (CIP) had to address, the Department of Planning Director General's Requirements (DGRs) specifically required the University to undertake consultation with, among other stakeholders, community groups.

REDWatch and RAIDD (Residents Acting In Darlington's Defence) were specifically referred to in the DGRs as groups the University had to consult with in its preparation. Further, the application to the Department had to describe the consultation process, the issues groups raised, whether or not the plan had been amended, or, if amendments were not made, why it had not been amended. This condition was in line with the Government's proposal to get communities involved early in planning.

Inexplicably, the University did not follow these requirements and included broad community comments from earlier consultations. The community groups only saw details when the CIP went on statutory exhibition

for 28 days. This resulted in many complaints about the short exhibition time for such a large and important development. In late February, the University, "as a gesture of good will", agreed to undertake further consultation until the end of March, and to consider any input received in their deliberations and in their reporting back to the Department. While the exhibition has formally closed, the Department does accept submissions for a reasonable time after the closing date.

The University could have avoided further eroding good will in the surrounding community, and avoided confusion, if it had complied with the DGRs. Community groups would have had an opportunity to raise issues and have them considered before the CIP was finalised, and would have been able to comment on outstanding issues during the formal exhibition. Instead, they only received a narrow window within which to understand the proposal, consult their members and make comment.

Geoff Turnbull has been a community representative on built environment issues since 2005 and is also REDWatch spokesperson.

Protecting our progressive heritage

SSH

ON MONDAY February 25, City of Sydney Council passed a resolution to protect the Three Proud People mural near Macdonaldtown station in Newtown.

The mural depicts the famous photograph of African-American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos signaling the "Black Power" salute during the medal awards ceremony,

alongside Australian athlete Peter Norman, at the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

Listed as a heritage item, the mural will be protected from the threat of future development or alteration. This is the final step in a process begun by former Labor Councillor Meredith Burgmann and part of a broader street art policy developed by Labor Councillor Linda Scott.

Cr Scott will present the street art policy proposal to Council later this year.

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THE YOUTH OF TODAY

Glebe Youth Services to continue

Jarrod Reid and Dallas Close at Glebe Youth Services Photo: Rowan Taylor

ROWAN TAYLOR

TONY ABBOTT'S recent "closing the gap" speech has highlighted the importance of community organisations in helping young people achieve their best. The staff of Glebe Youth Services (GYS) have faced many difficulties over the past few months, but they're now back in their building and

ready to continue their role as an integral community organisation.

After an absence lasting nearly three months, Glebe Youth Services have returned to their building on Glebe Point Road. Following a report by Housing NSW, which found the building to be unsafe, the staff of GYS had no option but to offer their services as best

they could elsewhere. They made use of public spaces for their group activities and occupied a three-desk office in Glebe Town Hall for administrative duties.

GYS ran a full school holiday program throughout January. This included trips to the beach, sports days and a day trip to the Blue Mountains. GYS had been forced to cut the hours of the 12

casual workers who normally run such programs, so they were run instead by Amy O'Neill and Luke Chesworth (two of the three youth workers who make up the full-time staff). Ms O'Neill explained that the meeting points were outside their building at 84 Glebe Point Road in order to "keep the familiarity of the service alive".
Keiran Kevans, GYS's head

service coordinator, emphasised the importance of "providing a location which feels safe and secure [for our programs]". There were major issues with continuing "sharp end" services, such as individual case management and workshops, during the lock-out. Whilst unable to offer these programs in the usual manner, staff at GYS met with their clients for individual talks at their regular group programs, such as the "After Dark" meeting, or their regular Boyzone and Girlzone activities.

The staff at GYS have recognised the strong support they had from the Glebe community during the lockout. "The support came from everywhere," said Ms O'Neill. "Everyone was involved, [both] individually and through organisations ... it was humbling. If there's anything I've learnt from this ... it's that our link with community is even stronger than I thought."

The NSW Liberal Party announced on their website that Housing NSW has upgraded the electrical systems and fire detection equipment in the building, and plan to commit another \$50,000 over the next year to improve the safety of the premises.

SSH

You can find out more about Glebe Youth Services on their Facebook page.

YOUTH OF TODAY, A REGULAR ARTICLE ON LOCAL YOUTH AND RELATED ISSUES, IS KINDLY SPONSORED BY APPETITE CAFE



Whenever the University of Sydney embarks on a new development program, we welcome

feedback from the local community and do our utmost to respond to the needs of all our neighbours. Take our development program for the next seven years – the Campus Improvement Program – which enhances our proud tradition of investing in the future of Camperdown and Darlington. When you asked us to extend the consultation period for this proposal we listened, and it will now be on display in our Services Building until 31 March 2014.

The NSW Government's Planning and Infrastructure agency had earlier advised us to conclude the statutory public exhibition and consultation period on 28 February 2014, but we have chosen to extend it by 31 days.

This will give you more time to get further information and advice before you comment on the program, and will enable us to respond to everyone who has provided feedback during this longer consultation period.

The University wants all of our developments to enhance the amenity of the neighbourhood we share. This program will improve the cultural, recreational, research and education facilities we offer our students, staff and the wider community. It will re-define the location and purpose of buildings across six campus precincts and create community spaces that are more tailored to the needs of local residents and visitors. These spaces include pedestrian and cycle paths, parking areas, and better community access to University facilities.



You can see the Campus Improvement Program brought to life in the foyer of our Services Building (G12), 22 Codrington Street, Darlington. To comment, please visit www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au and, under 'Search projects', enter 6123. Planning and Infrastructure will consider written submissions for a short period of time beyond the 28 February finishing date.

We encourage you to use these feedback channels, and want everyone to benefit from the social, cultural and recreational enhancements that this program generates. By getting involved, you can both recognise our own contribution and help us to maximise these benefits.

If you would prefer to chat to us face to face, you can attend one of our new community information drop-in sessions in the foyer of our Services Building. During these sessions you will discover more about our vision for the program, and have the opportunity to pose your questions to members of the team.

You are welcome to take advantage of any of the sessions on Wednesday 12 March, from 5 to 7pm; Wednesday 19 March, from 5 to 7pm; and Saturday 22 March, from 11am to 1pm.

We hope that you find the additional information sessions and the extended time frame useful, and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

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Rally for TJ marks ten years of protest

SAMUEL CLARK

REDFERN: THE cries for justice over the tragic death of Aboriginal teenager TJ Hickey on February 14, 2004, have been undermined by the actions of an outside group with its own agenda. The future of the commemorative rally, it seems, is now in jeopardy.

Rally organiser Ray Jackson, president of the Indigenous Social Justice Association (ISJA), was “offended” by a small group of protestors whose members “were not there to support the Hickey family in any way”.

Up to 200 people attended the rally and march from Waterloo to Parliament House commemorating the tenth anniversary of the death of TJ Hickey and calling for an independent coronial inquest. However, offensive banners, abusive language, and misconduct directed at police from some in the march violated an agreement between the organisers and police.

While Redfern Commander Luke Freudenstein admitted there were “other factions who like to come in and cause trouble” he said that “this year we were going to try and stop it and go to the Supreme Court but I had a mediation meeting with Ray Jackson and he gave me his word that a number of things wouldn’t happen which happened last year.

“The word was broken and he dishonoured his signed agreement. It would be extremely difficult to negotiate and to trust Ray Jackson or a member of the Indigenous Social Justice Association again,” he said.

While Mr Jackson agrees that there were some issues during the march, he believes that “the events arising from [the] march have been grabbed by police and mutated into a reason for shutting the march down”.

The events led local Aboriginal leaders Mick Mundine and Mick Gooda to visit Redfern police station to reaffirm their support for the police and assure



Nikki Hickey, TJ's sister, with protestors on February 14 Photo: Claire Mahjoub

them that the offensive views of those in the march were not a reflection of the wider Aboriginal community. “I just went there to show that the relationship between the police and the Aboriginal people is much better than it was before,” Mr Mundine said.

Protestors were unified in their support for the Hickey family, as TJ’s mother, Gail Hickey, continued her call

for justice. “I will not stop till I get what I want. I want the plaque on the fence [in Waterloo where TJ was thrown from his bicycle and fatally injured], I want a new inquest ... and I want an apology.”

The family has been denied the installation of a memorial plaque because the police object to the mention of a “police pursuit”. The Coroner’s inquiry found that there was no

police pursuit, however many are unsatisfied by the findings as they feel vital evidence was overlooked and key witnesses not called.

“We need to stop police investigating police,” Greens MP David Shoebridge announced to the protestors. “What other organisation in any part of our society would we accept [that from] ... when an organisation you believe

is at fault is the organisation that does its own investigation? We won’t get justice while we have police investigating police.”

Despite police views, Mr Jackson remains strong in his resolve, declaring that the march will go ahead next year. “As long as Gail Hickey and her family wish to march, we will march with her,” he said. SSH

Protest ‘peaceful, passionate and very moving’

COMMENT

IRENE DOUTNEY

ON FEBRUARY 14, I attended the TJ Hickey memorial rally [on the Waterloo Green] in the morning, but did not participate in the march, although I have seen photos and footage from the march, heard Ray Jackson’s reflections and read many comments from participants. I found the rally at the Waterloo Green to be very similar to previous commemorations of TJ’s death with a similar number of people and speeches and emotional outpourings.

The difference was that there were more Aboriginal speakers with personal stories of abuse and family tragedy. The rally was peaceful, passionate and very moving.

From what I saw I do not believe that this demonstration was any more difficult or abusive than previous anniversaries but because of the ten-year anniversary the organisers had decided to march to Parliament to make their complaints known to the Government. This may have caused some organisational problems but this is common with demonstrations and is no reason to demonise the march and the marchers. They have a right to do this as do any other groups who wish to

protest about a perceived injustice.

The TJ Hickey commemoration needs to be seen in the context of the broader campaign by human rights activists against the disproportionate number of black deaths in custody and the fact that little or no action has ever been taken against the police involved in some of these incidents. I realise that this is a difficult issue for our young and dedicated police officers who don’t deserve the abuse they receive during these rallies but they are only words, and police should be trained to handle this sort of agitation. It is important to remember that Aboriginal people have had to cope with these sorts of insults for generations.

In at Town Hall we see rallies, demonstrations and marches every couple of days, and from my experience the TJ Hickey rally was uncomfortable for the police but in no way caused more disturbance than what I see every week. Some demonstrations in the City will often sit in the middle of George Street for up to 15 minutes, holding up traffic through the City and blocking the main street. The number of lanes marches take up is always a moot point but half the roadway is standard.

I would also like to stress from experience that you cannot guarantee what protestors will do or how

polite or controversially behaved they will be. Organisers do their best to get people to follow police instructions but it is very difficult to control protestors once a march is underway. I do agree, however, that providing marshals is important to help control a march and believe this is something the organisers can handle better in future. Ray Jackson has reported how difficult it was for him to control the crowd and how unhappy he was with the behaviour of one small group of attendees.

It is also worth noting that Ray Jackson from the Indigenous Social Justice Association was recently awarded a French human rights and peace prize for his work on Aboriginal deaths in custody, and that the Association fights for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are the victims of racism and injustice. The plight of the First Australians is an ongoing injustice and deprivation that still exists in our country and here in our own neighbourhood, and it is important to remember that over 200 years of repression and disadvantage have taken a terrible toll on these our fellow human beings.

On the question of “outside agitators” taking part in the rally, I am dismayed that anyone would think that long-time supporters of the Hickey family and the cause of

Aboriginal human rights would not turn up to show solidarity and support for TJ’s commemoration. We do not live in a closed society and people have a right to freedom of movement and association. However, there was one group that were not known supporters and whose presence was not welcomed by the organisers, nor were their signs.

I was particularly disappointed, however, that a traditional smoking ceremony that was part of the demonstration was conflated with threats to burn down police stations. I thought that the Redfern police were meant to undergo cultural awareness training that would have made it obvious that there was no threat intended and that it was meant as a purifying action of great importance to Aboriginal culture. I think to imply that it was anything more than that is a misinterpretation of events.

I fully support the remarks of David Shoebridge MP when he spoke about the problems of police investigating police. This is a view held by a large proportion of society and, although it is a sensitive issue for police, it is a view that will have its day as more and more people acknowledge the conflict of interest underlying such investigations. It is a common concern and is held across the political spectrum.

In conclusion, I believe it would be

very unwise to try and stop future TJ Hickey commemorations. This would only be a rallying point for the very large human rights movement and could inflame what is currently a small two-hundred-person rally into a major demonstration against the Redfern Area Command. I don’t believe this would be in anyone’s interest and would only inflame existing tensions. I understand that the Redfern police are not used to handling public demonstrations like we are in the City and would encourage them to be tolerant to these marginalised people and their need to grieve over the unexplained death of a 17 year-old boy.

I know that many people will not agree with my comments but I feel that someone has to present the other side of the picture in regards to the rally. I intend no disrespect to the police, who I know have a difficult and challenging job to do, and I hope no offence will be taken as none is intended. This is a difficult issue and I understand the frustration of the police but it is important to also try and understand the frustration and grief that is felt by many other members of the Aboriginal community and their supporters. SSH

Irene Doutney is the City of Sydney Greens Councillor. Her office looks out over St Andrew’s Square in the City.

Access to precious drinking water

SANTIAGO DE SILVA

EVER SINCE I first learned that over a billion people do not have ready access to clean drinking water, I have been an ardent supporter of the cause to change this situation. I mean, I've always been into justice projects, but another thing that really drives me is this simple fact: I love water. I love drinking it, lots of it! Our bodies are about 70 per cent water. We are lucky enough in this country to be able to shower and bathe in clean water so it didn't take long before I became familiar with clean drinking water projects around the world.

I first became acquainted with WaterAid while I was living in London and became a regular donor, as well as participating in last year's Walk 4 Water. I have also raised money for "charity: water" – a similar non-profit organisation that works on clean drinking water projects globally.



Photo: Supplied

Walk 4 Water is an annual event run by WaterAid to raise money and awareness for the lack of clean drinking water in communities around the globe.

Participants walk for 10,000 steps per day over five days, as this is the average number of steps walked per day in the developing world by people who must walk in order to obtain clean drinking water. The people who must spend this time walking to get water suffer a loss of work and educational opportunities as a result. The impact of a few dollars is incredible and this is why I feel so strongly about raising money for this cause.

This year I am participating in Walk 4 Water again, through my new law practice De Silva Legal. I am forming a team with several of the consultants who work for the firm to increase the reach of awareness and the amount of money that we raise. SSH

You can learn all about Walk 4 Water at www.walk4water.com.au and if you would like to sponsor our team, you can visit <http://my.artezpacific.com/TeamPage.aspx?teamID=70689>

A place to drink, rethink and tinker

ANDREW COLLIS

THE BOWER is much more than a second-hand goods and furniture shop. It's a co-operative workshop and resource centre, a treasure trove, a library of books, records, CDs and videos, and, this month, a café too! To mark 15 years of recycling and upcycling (everything from chairs to electric toasters and fashion accessories), the Bower is set to open Sydney's first Repair Café. Patrons can enjoy a hot beverage while learning new skills in basic carpentry and electrical repairs, upholstery, painting, bookbinding, and so on.

Everything at the Bower is done according to four key objectives: reducing waste going to landfill; providing goods at affordable prices; creating employment and training opportunities; promoting reuse and upcycling of preloved goods.

Items are collected from 19 local council areas, with strong support from seven councils in particular – Marrickville, City of Sydney, Leichhardt, Canada Bay, Rockdale, Woollahra and Canterbury. The scope for involvement is growing at a steady pace.

General Manager Guido Verbist exudes enthusiasm for what he sees as "creative and ethical" community work. He brings management expertise from work with Greenpeace International, and significant experience of recycling and related not-for-profit activities in the Netherlands and Belgium. "I've only been here at the Bower a short time [Guido commenced as manager in mid-2013], but we have an excellent setup and many opportunities for expansion and development. The staff are excellent," he says.

Guido continues: "The concept of 'planned obsolescence' is so ingrained that most of us have given up even trying to have items repaired anymore – we just leave it out on the pavement for 'council clean-up'. Drive around during council clean-up and you can observe the disease that is our modern 'disposable culture' – streets of broken bits of furniture, electrical items and other once-loved household goods. Many of us are unaware almost all this mountain of 'stuff' left out on the street ends up in landfill, and Sydney, like most modern cities, is running out of room.

"The Repair Café will encourage the community to reject this throwaway culture, and foster a return to a culture



Guido Verbist in the Bower Library Photo: Kat Hines

of creativity, repair and reuse. It will be a place where people can 'tinker' again."

Customer Liaison Officer Sam Worrad, a journalist by training, has been a staff member for three years. "We're getting more and more items on consignment," he says, "furniture mostly, but there are no restrictions. Members receive 70 per cent of sales proceeds. It's a good way to learn and share. Our membership is currently at 170. We're always keen to welcome new members."

Prospective members are encouraged to drop in for a look around or to sign up online. Regular newsletters inform members about workshops and opportunities for involvement as volunteers, including leadership roles on various working groups.

"We couldn't operate without our wonderful volunteers," Guido says. "There's a lot that happens here – the repair and sales work, the teaching, as well as support for people referred by Centrelink and Corrective Services – and we need all kinds of help. Volunteers are essential. We need people with IT skills, crockery skills, library skills. Our library has all sorts of material but we specialise in sustainability and ecology resources." Donations are gratefully received.

Volunteers can expect to be treated the same way as paid staff. "This is important and something we emphasise," Guido says. "We want to ensure that everyone is motivated. We're reviewing our governance right now, but certainly, members have a right to their opinions and input. I hope we're always ready to improve

communications and links between members and the Board that oversees the co-op."

Guido and Sam look forward to imminent changes to the Bower's layout. "Better display areas will allow customers to see items in their natural environment," Guido says, "kind of like IKEA, but not so regimented!"

Sam adds: "We want to showcase the quality of the items. People might be surprised how nicely things can be restored. We also have some unique pieces – an old tyre made into a belt, bookends made of old circuit boards. We'd love to stage an exhibition of recycled and unique pieces."

Guido outlines plans for a restoration and repairs roadshow. "We want to bring expertise and basic tools to community groups, something like we've done in the past at 107 Projects in Redfern." The Bower, in partnership with Curb Collective and Ultimo TAFE, has run courses in upholstery and carpentry at 107 Projects.

The conversation returns, excitedly, to the Repair Café. A successful "crowd funding" campaign has seen more than 50 people pledge over \$5,000 to build the café and workshop space. Construction is just about complete and funds are now sought for the establishment and initial running costs. Pledges of support can be made at www.pozible.com/repaircafe. SSH

The Bower Reuse and Repair Centre Co-op is located at the Addison Community Centre in Marrickville. Contact Sam Worrad: reuse@bower.org.au or 9568 6280. www.bower.org.au



Coalition Cuts

Before the last election Tony Abbott and the Coalition made promises that there would be no cuts to health, education, pensions, or the ABC. They also said, while in Opposition, that they would be a Government of no surprises and no excuses.

Despite this, we've seen the promises the Coalition made before the election be broken one by one. On the NBN, education reforms, transparency and accountability we've seen the Government backtrack. Having campaigned so hard on keeping promises, the Government's record is abysmal.

Before the last election, Labor was accused of scaremongering for claiming that the Coalition would have to make cuts to our vital services, such as health and education. Last week, we saw Tony Abbott start to prepare the ground to make exactly the sort of cuts he said he wouldn't make. In a speech to the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum Tony Abbott flagged future cuts to services, including health and education.

This comes while the Commission of Audit continues to look for areas to cut. The Government still hasn't revealed any of the Commission's recommendation, so we still don't know what they will eventually recommend.

However, Health Minister Peter Dutton has already said he supports a \$6 tax every time we visit the doctor. The Government said 'no school would be worse off' if they won, but Gonski education funding under Labor would have been \$15.2 billion. That's gone down to \$2.8 billion under Tony Abbott. He also refuses to rule out cuts to pensions to pay for his expensive Paid Parental Leave Scheme which pays wealthy women up to \$75 000 to have a baby. They've also attacked the ABC to soften the public up for a \$226 million cut to the Australia network.

Labor will fight any attempt to cut our vital services. We will stand up for fair education to all and for our universal healthcare system, Medicare. These services are crucial to maintaining a fair, decent and compassionate society and we simply cannot afford to see them cut.

Tanya Plibersek

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Penny Sharpe Photo: Supplied



Sean Macken Photo: Supplied



Natalie Gould Photo: Andrew Collis

Community preselection for Newtown – Labor contenders

VICTORIA PEARSON

THREE ALP candidates have been announced to contest preselection for the newly rezoned state seat of Newtown. Penny Sharpe (MLC), Sean Macken and Natalie Gould will be campaigning for the position of the ALP representative when voting begins on March 10, 2014.

Ms Sharpe, previously a Councillor on Marrickville Council, is currently a member of the NSW Upper House and Labor's Shadow Minister for Transport. A resident of the area, Ms Sharpe lives with her partner Jo, two children and a variety of pets. As an active member of the local community, she believes her experience in the area will allow her to help the community with a variety of issues.

"I am a local who cares passionately about the inner city and the inner west. I want our voice heard loudly in the NSW Parliament – I believe in equality, diversity and the ability of communities to make change. I want to use my experience to help individuals, community groups, schools and others to deliver for Newtown."

Key issues at the top of Ms Sharpe's agenda include transport, overcrowded schools, lack of child care and before- and after-school care, lack of affordable housing, not enough support for renters and the impact of health cuts on RPA. "If elected, I would like to address Redfern station, cleaning and maintenance issues in public housing, lack of child care and the need to involve the community in planning decisions," she said.

Rental support and overcrowded schools are also a community concern for fellow candidate Sean Macken, a strategic planning consultant for NSW. Mr Macken has lived in the historically progressive area of Newtown his whole life and has been "passionate about improving the lives of people in the inner city for decades".

"Housing affordability is a killer for everyone under the age of 45. Paying the rent or struggling with a mortgage is a real issue for many of us. Getting a good education is also getting harder as many of our schools are full."

If elected, Mr Macken would like to focus on the issue of public transport in the city. "I'd like to see a comprehensive, long term, public transport plan to help Sydney along the path to sustainability."

"The new light rail proposal is welcome but the route needs to be changed. The problems with congestion in our area won't be solved by more clearways and highways and I'm opposed to the Westconnex idea," he said.

Mr Macken supports the ALP preselection process for this election, saying "Labor needs to try something new".

"The old system of factional appointments ruined the last Labor Government and has brought Labor to its knees. Getting the community and the local members to decide was always the best way to select our representatives. Local talent should be tested through the democratic process, not appointed from on high", he said.

It is on this issue that not all the candidates agree. Fellow candidate Natalie Gould, daughter

of the late Newtown bookstore owner Bob Gould, does not believe the preselection process is an effective means of finding the right representative for the party.

"I'm opposed to the preselection ballot," she said. "It devalues Labor party membership, it becomes a sideshow for this election. It's not a competition of ideas."

Ms Gould has lived in the area for the past 30 years and has been a member of the Labor party since she was 15 years old, joining the day Gough Whitlam was dismissed from Parliament. She is currently working for the famous Gould's Books, the store owned and run by her father and an institution among Sydney book lovers.

She is running for preselection because she is unhappy with the current state of the Labor party. "I'm really disillusioned with the way that the party's going. As 'rank and file' Labor party members, we don't get listened to very much. We don't often get to say what's wrong, so for me it's an opportunity to say how unhappy I am with the Labor party," she said.

Ideas align with fellow candidates on the pressing issues that Newtown faces.

"The thing about Newtown is, although a lot of people are pretty well-off, it's progressive. They want to live in a society that doesn't cut out the 'have-nots'. We haven't got enough after-school care, there's not enough schools – the kids are coming back to the inner city now and we need more schools for them. They're overcrowded," she said.

Online voting for the ALP representative will begin on March 10, with in-person voting held on March 29.



Urban Billy's bass player at the Redfern Neighbourhood Day, Poets Corner, January 31 Photo: Geoff Turnbull

TANIA IS a remarkable woman with an inspiring story and a big heart. She started selling *The Big Issue* many years ago in Pitt Street and has returned, sharing a pitch with James outside Badde Manors Cafe on Glebe Point Road.

"This last year was a big mess for me but this year I'm changing for the better. I love *The Big Issue*, I love getting out there and talking to people. You meet so many interesting people."

Years of abuse, the loss of her mother and brother, and having her daughter taken away from her have left Tania struggling with depression. "Before I sold *The Big Issue* I was not doing anything. Now I'm looking after myself properly and I'm doing things like having coffee with people instead of going and taking drugs, alcohol and whatever else can destroy my life."

Despite her experience she is still helping others. "Even when I sell *The Big Issue* I still give money to the people asking for money. I can't give them much more but a

dollar, something that helps."

"I just want to say a big thank you to my best friend Neffy Taylor; if it wasn't for her I wouldn't be where I am today. I would also like to thank the staff at *The Big Issue* because if it wasn't for you I'd just be at home depressed, feeling sorry for myself and I probably wouldn't have gotten off the pills. You have been a big inspiration to me and for the month that I have been working it has been remarkable. I'm happy."

PHOTO BY PETER HOLCROFT

***The Big Issue* is Australia's leading social enterprise. It is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that develops solutions to help homeless, disadvantaged and marginalised people positively change their lives. *The Big Issue* magazine is published fortnightly and sold on the streets by vendors who purchase copies for \$3 and sell them for \$6, keeping the difference.**

to find out more visit: thebigissue.org.au

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VENDOR PROFILE



TANIA

MARKED VEGGIES & FRUIT WITH BUGS

by Louisa Dyce

On selecting your fruit and vegetables do you always look for the perfect specimen in the belief that what you pick will be the better product?

Now, in my travels around fruit and veggie markets, I have to say that picking the best-looking item may be to your detriment. You may be ignoring some old-fashioned tasty produce. They are called "heirlooms" and I urge you to look into them. The best example I can give you is the fabulous tasting ox heart tomato. Sometimes this tomato is not a pretty sight. In fact, the ox heart can look nothing like a tomato should. Sometimes three tomatoes can grow together. One I saw looked as if it had small fingers popping out of it and some others I swear have had noses. They can have golden marks on them from rubbing up against each other or from hitting the dirt. But do not despair about these marks because what you are looking at can be harbouring a full-on tomato taste.

So, on your other fruit and veg, if you see dimples, odd shapes like noses on eggplants, golden lines and black spots please ask the person selling what they are. They shouldn't be thrown out simply because they don't meet the strict criteria that the large supermarket chains expect. A hole in a vegetable like kale or silver-beet is good as it indicates the vegetable hasn't been sprayed with pesticides.

Please also be aware that many of the fruit and veg in the supermarkets are treated with things like wax to make them shine brightly. They are also sprayed with preservatives to give them a longer life in storage, and frozen, and they are frequently sprayed with pesticides so that they won't be eaten as they grow. In fact, you may think I'm weird, but I celebrate the bugs that I now find on my purchases as proof that what I'm being sold is what the seller says it is.

I like buying in season. Then I have food that I can look forward to, and this way I never become bored with that I eat. Autumn is upon us so we should be looking out now for the beginning of fruits like pears, persimmons, strawberries, berries, kiwi fruit and apples. In the vegetable arena keep your eye out for beans, broccoli, chillies, Chinese cabbage, capsicum, okra and white turnip.

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Nathan with his Ooooby order Photo: Andrew Collis

City cousins keep fair food connection

ANDREW COLLIS

LAST MONTH, Food Connect ("fresh produce from local farmers at a fair price") was taken on by another social enterprise called Ooooby (Out of our own back yards). Ooooby had decided to discontinue the "city cousin" program that sees fruit and veggies delivered for pickup to local collection points. However, after feedback from subscribers and city cousins, they have reversed their initial decision. The city cousin program will continue with one small difference – pickup is now on a Tuesday rather than a Wednesday. (There is also the option of free home delivery – please see the Ooooby website for details.)

Tim of Redfern, a Food Connect subscriber over a couple of years, appreciates the city cousin program. He said: "Ooooby will not deliver to secure buildings like the apartment block where I live. Without a city cousin, I couldn't continue with Ooooby."

Miriam Pepper, city cousin at Waterloo for three-and-a-half years, pointed out that up to 50 per cent of subscribers in the local area depend on

the city cousin program. "The program is not only about picking up boxes," she added, "it's about building relationships around sustainable food. City cousins also continue in Darlinghurst, Surry Hills, Newtown, Camperdown and Chippendale" (for contact details see the Ooooby website).

Julian Lee, co-founder of Food Connect, sent the following email message to subscribers: "It is with some sadness that I bid you farewell. The last four years have been quite an adventure. I have met many wonderful people, eaten some amazing food and been proud of how we have all come together as a community to support our local farmers. It is also with anticipation that I look to a bright future with Ooooby, building an even stronger local food economy. I want to thank each of you who have participated and shown your support, from simply taking an interest and talking to your friends about 'fair food', through to devoting your energies to supporting our local farmers and community."

Pete Russell, the founder of Ooooby, is Sydney born and bred, and learned a lot about the globalised industrial food system while running a food

importing business in Marrickville. Pete saw firsthand how, by partnering with a multinational food corporation, his business was able to undercut local suppliers and dominate the market within a matter of two years.

While it was a great way to make lots of money, Pete noticed that the side effects of the global food game had a devastating impact on the health of local communities and ecosystems.

Ooooby is a social business that pays everyone fairly and all profits are invested into seeding local food production start-ups. The first Ooooby prototype was established on a small island in the Auckland harbour and has since developed into a thriving local food enterprise in both Auckland and Sydney with a team of people who are committed to building a better and fairer food system.

Ordering is easy. Each Thursday subscribers receive an email with a list of the contents of their next box plus a longer list of fresh produce to choose from to top up or swap out.

Marrickville resident Nathan is a strong supporter of fair food. "Something I really like is that as well as fruit and veggies you can also get

eggs, bread, honey and tons of other stuff," Nathan said.

Ooooby operates by ensuring that 50 per cent of each box goes back to the farmers. This is much more than a supermarket, and is part of Ooooby's continuing mission to pay farmers a fair price and make local food a viable option. In addition, this means that any

price increase is reflected by an equal increase in produce value in the box. SSH

South Sydney Uniting Church is a "city cousin" collection point - 56a Raglan St, Waterloo - each Tuesday from 5-6.30pm. To subscribe, contact Ooooby on 1800 774 706 or email Andres: sydney@oooby.com; www.oooby.org/sydney



John at work in the Eden Community Garden Photo: Andrew Collis

Inside the Gates of Eden

ANNE CAMAC

WATERLOO: IF you walk around the back of South Sydney Uniting Church you will hear the clucking of happy chooks, birds tweeting and frogs croaking. They live in the community garden, which is run by the church. There are over 12 garden plots and the current gardeners are growing crops like basil, parsley and carrots. The summer mulberries have all been eaten, there are some beautiful pumpkins growing and autumn planting is underway.

The church wants the garden to be a place of peacefulness and friendship so there is a shaded picnic table and access to kitchen facilities. The garden is open for all and you don't have to be a member of the church to be a gardener.

For a \$20 refundable deposit you can have your own plot, which can be used to grow flowers, herbs and vegetables. Don't worry if you don't have a green thumb as the head gardener – Keith Ferguson – is available to help with advice about what to grow and why your plants may not be thriving. Keith is a very experienced and enthusiastic gardener who has been part of the garden since its beginning.

Eden Community Garden is part of South Sydney Uniting Church and is in Raglan St, Waterloo. There are plots available now. If you would like to have a plot please contact Keith Ferguson on 0409 912 478.

A conversation to have with loved ones

SSH

WHY WE all need to take control, make plans for the future and "get it in black & white".

Seniors Week from March 15-23 has the theme Live Life! While everyone hopes that they will live an active, healthy, independent life as they age, recent research suggests that most people in Sydney are not prepared for the possibility of something adverse happening to themselves or their ageing parents.

The vast majority (89 per cent) of adults with ageing parents in Sydney expect to be involved in some aspect of decision making for their parents, should this be required. However, children who have had conversations with their parents about their wishes are in the minority. For example, 74 per cent have not discussed how finances would be managed, 72 per cent have not spoken about what medical or health treatment they would (or would not) want, 67 per cent haven't discussed where they would live and 63 per cent have not spoken about how their parents wish their estate to be distributed after they die [Lonergan Research, Planning for Later Life Report – study conducted among 1,016 Australians aged 18 years or older, September 2013].

The NSW government has launched a campaign – "Get it in black & white" – to encourage people to seek out the right information, have these conversations now, and take control of their own plans for later life while they have the capacity to do so.

According to Imelda Dodds, CEO of NSW Trustee & Guardian, if you leave it until it is too late, loved ones may be left guessing your financial, health, and lifestyle needs. This will mean they may have to go through time-consuming application processes at a tribunal to obtain permission to manage your affairs.

"This is often the last thing people need at a time that is already likely to be stressful and overwhelming. Similarly, if you don't have a Will, your estate will be intestate and the Succession Act 2006 will determine who receives your estate and your loved ones may not inherit," Ms Dodds said.

The research carried out on behalf of NSW Trustee & Guardian showed only four per cent of adults in Sydney have a clear understanding of the documents that relate to pre-planning – a Will, Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship Appointments. Information about each of these documents can be found on a comprehensive website developed for the campaign: www.planningaheadtools.com.au.

The online resource provides simple and straightforward information about how and why people need to take control and make legal, financial and health decisions now rather than waiting until it is too late.

"We like to believe things only happen to other people and that somehow we're invincible, but the truth is we are not and we should all prepare for the future. For example, it is particularly concerning that 56 per cent of parents with young children in NSW do not have a Will, so are unlikely to have considered guardianship of their kids," Ms Dodds said.

"Planning for later life is like having an insurance policy in place – except it covers your health and financial requirements, and ensures your loved ones are looked after when you are no longer around. She cautioned that the time to do the planning is now: "To prepare legal documents, such as a Power of Attorney, an Enduring Guardian or a Will, you need to have the legal capacity," she added.

The above website has been developed to suit different audiences and needs. It includes a section for health and legal professionals and of course individuals wanting to find information for themselves, carers or families.

SSH



Lani McLachlan in Redfern Photo: Supplied

Kindness of a stranger

MARILIE BOMEDIANO

REDFERN: LANI McLachlan, 47, was so touched by a picture of an old handicapped Filipino in a makeshift wheelchair in faraway Leyte, the Philippines, who survived super-typhoon Haiyan in the nation's south, that she offered to send a walker-rollerator she owned.

Lani had never met 63 year-old Prudencio Padayao whose picture in a wheelchair was featured in a story of a western Sydney-based Filipino-

Australian monthly newspaper, *Ang Kalatas*.

A friend had given Lani a copy of the newspaper, and her immediate reaction of compassion was to offer a walker she had just received as a present to replace her older one.

"I think Dencio would need this newer walker more than I would," she said.

The walker was soon collected by Filipino chef and activist Marx Canoy who was preparing to travel to Leyte on a brief rehabilitation-support mission with other Filipino-Australians.

SSH



READERS' LETTERS

'Manhattanisation' of Sydney Uni

The "Manhattanisation" of the University of Sydney is happening apace! What were once distinctive, pleasant grounds of some heritage import, friendly to locals and wildlife, are about to have one of their last tiny green buffers, between the University and the Darlington community on Shepherd Street, replaced by another invasive and overbearing multi-storey building. This edifice will also remove one of the last internal parking areas, and force the last of the businesses' cars onto our local streets. Removal of the rear of the intact row of heritage Victorian terraces on Darlington Avenue is also scheduled. Every year or so, the University selects one of its few remaining open spaces and builds, or replaces the native vegetation with hard landscaping. The cumulative effect of this creeping increase in site density is detrimental to the local communities with whom it allegedly shares its campus, and to its own staff and students. I would hope that full site heritage and wildlife impact studies of the campus have been required. The campus seems subject to fewer planning regulations than a single apartment block! A massive document, Campus Improvement Program for the Camperdown-Darlington Campus for 2014-2020, has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for approval, without community consultation. I doubt local communities will support these infrastructure changes increasing the density of the University campus, including proposals to double the site floor space to 97,000sqm, and house more than 10,000 students over seven years. We will be uniting in strident objection.

Alexandra Rivers
Darlington

The Big Issue's big mural

As a regular visitor to Little Eveleigh St, Redfern - I volunteer at a small school there - I have been delighted by the mural that now decorates the offices of *The Big Issue*. The artwork is amazing and really enhances what is otherwise a drab building in a drab street. *The Big Issue* is a truly worthy organisation, promoting and supporting homeless people by giving them a hand-up and not a handout. I feel that all their endeavours should be supported. Clearly, the mural depicting the sellers of *The Big Issue* gives them enormous pride when they visit the office to pick up their supplies of the magazine. The mural is also spiritually uplifting for passersby.

Ian Partridge
Redfern

The artwork near my school definitely captures my eye. I think it's wonderful that homeless people get recognition for their bravery and courage. I can also relate to homelessness because I have been there before, in and out of refuges for quite some time. I'm also Aboriginal and love art. That's just my outlook on the situation.

DLS
Redfern

Dismay over refugee policy

GUEST EDITORIAL

DAVID HANSON

THE AUSTRALIAN government's asylum seeker policy is problematic on many levels. The very notion that we accept brutalising a desperate minority in order to "send a message" to others should cause us to reflect on what we have become.

The utilitarianism that pervades our discourse on the issue bodes ill for our future - if we rationalise our barbarism by counting "the number of boats that have been stopped", how far are we prepared to go in dealing with vulnerable others in our society such as the disabled and the elderly? All our talk of "queue jumpers" is rendered meaningless in light of our average intake of fewer than 200 UN-registered refugees from Indonesian camps per year since 2000. It is not a proud moment for our nation.

On a more pragmatic level though, I find our approach to be simply absurd - just look at the economics. There are a number of

camps, including Christmas Island, Nauru and Manus Island, as well as others on the Australian mainland. The story for each is the same, so let's look at Manus Island to illustrate the point. Each taxpayer in Australia is contributing over \$100 to fund the Manus Island detention centre - over \$1.2 billion in total for the next 20 months - all paid to the multinational Transfield. That's a lot of money. For the same fee we could fly them all business class to Sydney from the UN camps in Indonesia (\$5,000), pay them the Australian average full-time income (\$75,000), put them up in a four-star hotel in Sydney with breakfast (\$73,000) and still have enough left over to put them through a degree at Sydney Uni, paying full international student rates (\$45,000). When our treasurer and prime minister are lecturing us about austerity, how can they justify this largesse for the shareholders of G4S, Serco, Transfield, et al?

Currently, asylum seeker policies attract bipartisan support. It is unlikely this will change unless we demand it of our elected representatives.

David Hanson is a resident of Redfern.

The God of the Earth

FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

Many religions appear to believe in a God who occupies the "heavens" - as though this God is always above us and around us, rather than beneath us. I guess it sounds grander to image a God who is beyond us, occupying a universal space, high in the skies.

On the other hand, maybe we might be more respectful of the earth beneath our feet, the land on which we live, if we absorbed the understandings and imagery which lie in the ancient teachings of the Indigenous people in our country. They often refer to divine life within the earth and clearly have a very special relationship with that earth. Their attachment to country is not simply about claiming clan territory, but their sense of life which lies beneath them and offers them gifts and strength for living.

When the Olympic Games were held in Sydney, one of the Indigenous godly beings represented in the Opening Ceremony was the Wandjina. It was imaged as a black face with eyes and a nose, but no mouth. This was claimed to be a sign that it had no mouth for judgement - a very lovely image of a godly being.

However, the more common

description of the Wandjinas comes from our Indigenous people in the Kimberleys. These people saw the Wandjinas as the supreme creators and symbols of fertility and rain. The sacred paintings of the Wandjinas are the oldest on the planet. The Wandjinas encouraged them in their care of the land.

Imagine if we, whose people do not originate from this country, whatever our faith or spirituality, were to listen respectfully to the Indigenous people and gather into our faith views their respect and understanding for sacred life which lies within the land itself. Maybe we would be far more caring of the creation in general and would walk on this land in new ways?

There is also something about a God beneath our feet which is near to us, which feels what is happening to us and reaches out to connect with us as we live and have our being.

Every faith has something to offer to another - almost always ideas and convictions which have come from its country and people of origin. Given their gentle steps on this land over so many thousands of years, our Indigenous people might bring to us the beauty and wonder of the Wandjinas and guide us on together. Maybe they could teach us to love this land in new and more committed ways - to respect and preserve the creation.

Two elections better than one?

OPINION

PENNY SHARPE

DID YOU prefer Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama? I was torn between supporting a woman I admire and a charming grassroots organiser from Chicago. We didn't get a vote in the Democratic presidential primary, or "preselection" as we'd say in Australia, but everyone in the new state seat of Newtown will get a say on who the Labor candidate will be.

How does it work?

Every voter in the new electorate of Newtown (which stretches from Petersham to Surry Hills) will receive an info pack in the mail, showing you

how you can vote online, in person or by post.

There are three of us running. You decide which candidate you prefer [see SSH article on page 6 by Victoria Pearson for a profile of each of the candidates]. Online and postal voting will be available from March 10-26. Voting in person will be on Saturday March 29.

Your vote and the votes of Labor Party members in the area will each count for 50 per cent of the total vote.

Whoever wins will be the Labor candidate at the state election in March 2015.

Why is Labor doing it?

Labor believes that politics needs to change. The best way to start is to give

the whole community a say in who will represent Labor at the election. Community pre-selections get a discussion going about the important issues for our community. By having a say, hopefully you'll get more involved and help make our community an even better place to live.

Do I have to vote?

Not in the preselection, no. But I would encourage you to. You can help decide what sort of community we are, what services we need, what happens to our schools, housing, public transport and hospitals by having your say in this preselection.

How can I get involved?

This is an exciting time to be involved

in Labor and we need people to get on board. You can volunteer or become a Labor Party member via nswalp.com.au.

You can also get involved with the individual campaigns of the candidates. So if you live in Surry Hills, Redfern, Chippendale, Newtown, Darlington, Eveleigh, Erskineville, Camperdown, Enmore, Stanmore, Marrickville or Petersham, have your say, and be part of making our community an even better place to live!

Now it is over to you.

Penny Sharpe was asked by the SSH, in her capacity as the duty Labor MLC with responsibility for the seat of Sydney, to respond to the February piece about the new Newtown seat by Greens MLC Mehreen Faruqi.

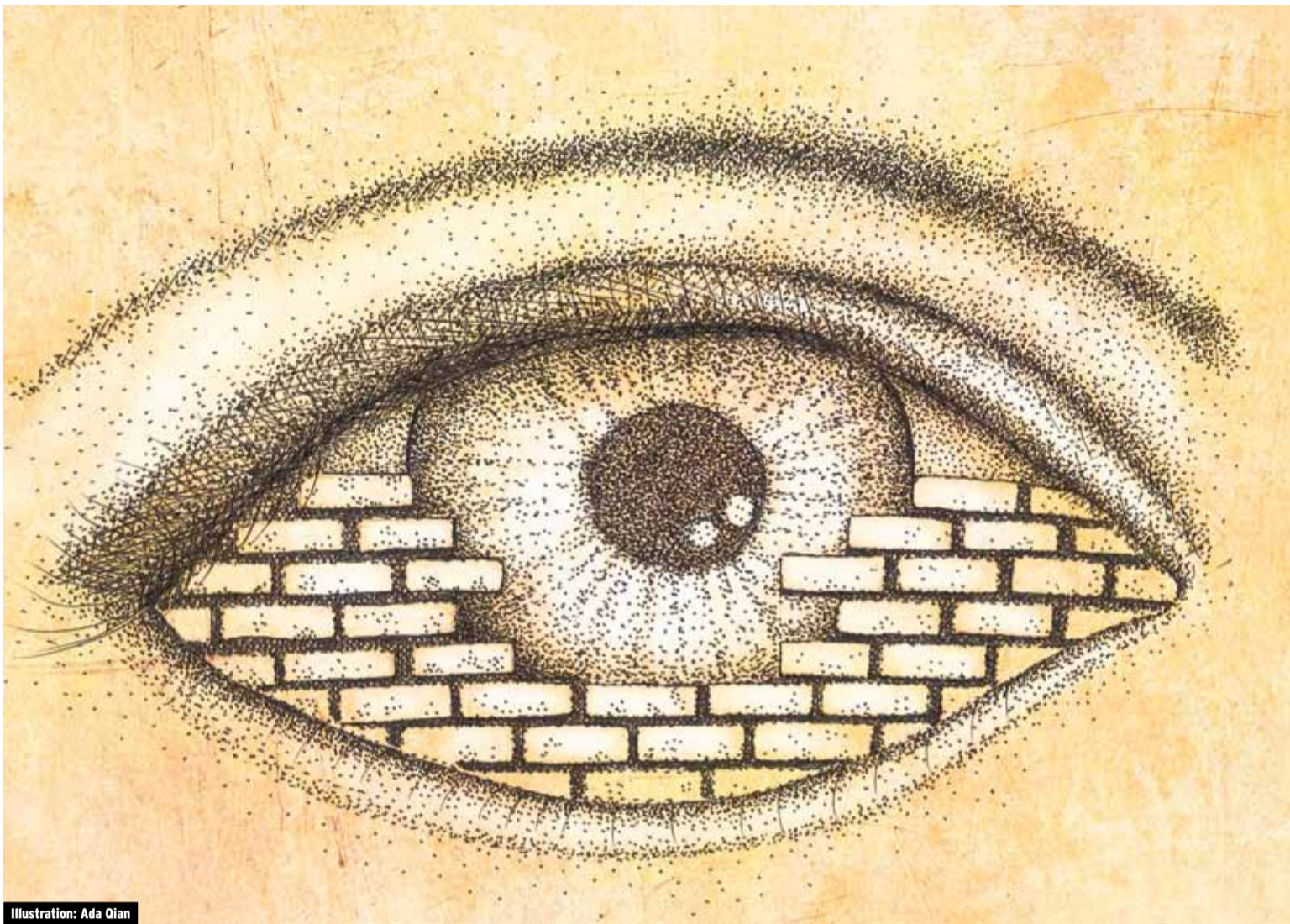


Illustration: Ada Qian

Growing up queer – a personal story

For every two people you know that are LGBTIQ, one of them has thought about taking their own life. Horrifying, isn't it?

CHRIS PYCROFT

IT'S A truth universally acknowledged, that if you're "different" while growing up, something is going to happen to you. Growing up in these times is hard enough regardless of your circumstances. But growing up and being a part of a minority is even tougher. It's a lesson that I learned the hard way, and one that I will never forget. The ironic thing is that experiencing homophobia on a near daily basis while at school made me more determined to make sure that it doesn't happen again to others.

I grew up in western Sydney, spending my first couple of years out at Penrith, before moving to what ultimately became a

sports high school. Shortly after I started, I figured out I was queer. The unfortunate thing is, everyone else cottoned on shortly after I did. I can't remember what it was that I did that initially made me stand out from the rest. Sure, I was a bit of a geek, I got along better with the "less popular" kids, I respected my teachers and enjoyed talking to them, but I didn't think any of it demonstrated that homosexual lifestyle that is so typically (and often unfairly) stereotyped.

Just weeks into my high school experience, a student walked over to me and said, "You're gay". My response of "Yes, I'm aware I'm happy, thanks for telling me" was met with "No, the other kind of gay". I didn't say that I wasn't, because I knew that would be lying.

I was 12. To me, lying was still a bad thing to do, so I didn't deny it. It was then that it all started.

I never actually came out during high school. I didn't need to. Everyone just knew. And that's why they thought it was okay to bully me for it. Because they didn't think I was strong enough to stand up for myself. And because they recognised this so-called "weakness", they exploited it for their enjoyment. This resulted in continuing verbal taunts, being beaten up by several people, and threats of violence from others. The abuse was non-stop. It was soul destroying and unbearable. How the hell I got through that experience, I will never know. I'm so thankful that I did.

It's not just in the school environment that it happens though.

I can remember being in my first job in retail. I would've been 17 at the time. I'm pretty sure my boss knew I was gay. He said he was fine with gay people, and so I figured it wasn't going to be a problem. That was until he told me that everything that a gay person could possibly want, a relationship, a marriage, a family ... was "unnatural".

It's not just my story though that makes this an issue. On a daily basis, far too many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer young people are being subjected to abuse, simply because of who they are. No one ever asks for abuse because of who they are. Enough is enough.

My voice was just one of 1,032 included as a part of the recently released *Growing Up Queer*:

Issues Facing Young Australians Who Are Gender Variant and Sexuality Diverse, a research report delivered by the Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre and two of its partners, the University of Western Sydney and Twenty10. The report was the first of its kind; it combined the stories of over one thousand people aged between 16 and 27. It's important, because it provides a unified message: "This is what happens to me because of who I am, and it isn't right." Sixty-four per cent of those who contributed to the report said that they were subjected to verbal abuse. Almost one in five have been physically abused because of who they are. It's just not right. There's often the misconception that self-harm is entirely a result of what happens in schools. It's not. Coming out can be one of the most difficult things to do. Not everyone accepts you for who you are. I know I've lost friends when I went through the coming out process, and I know many others who have as well. This experience tends to get shrugged off though, something like "If they can't accept it, then they're not your real friends anyway".

Coming out to your family though is that much tougher. The closer you are to someone, the harder it is to do. And sadly, it doesn't always work out the way you want it to. I've heard too many times about young teens who have been kicked out of home because their parents don't want a queer child in their home. Others "accept it", but it's still not spoken about at home, let alone inviting your latest crush to hang out at your place.

All of these factors play a significant role towards mental health and wellbeing. More than 40 per cent of people who identify as gay have thought about self harming; more than one in five have actually harmed themselves. Almost half have thought about suicide. This has got to stop.

Homophobia and transphobia in the workplace and in schools, lack of intervention against this abuse, lack of information in schools, legal discrimination, coming out, not being able to access timely support, all of these things play a role. And for many, it's not just one event that stands out. Rather, there are many small events over a long period of time. It's never too early to tell someone that they're never alone. If you're a young LGBTIQ person, it's perfectly okay to be who you are – or even better, to be proud of your identity. If you are saying or doing something to support someone in their moment of need, chances are you've made a greater difference than you will ever realise.

A queer thing happened on the way to the newsroom...

GEORGIA FLYNN

ASENATE inquiry investigation into the issue of coerced sterilisation of intersex people, including babies and infants. The *Growing Up Queer* Report findings on the high rates of self-harm and suicide among LGBTIQ young people. The misguided belief among administrators that it is the desire to go to clubs and read Oscar Wilde that can prove whether or not an asylum seeker is genuinely gay.

Each of these stories tells us something important about the experiences of the LGBTIQ

community in Australia. And yet, according to the Walkley Media Talk panel convened at the State Library of NSW on February 27, none of these stories has been given sufficient air time or column inches in Australia's mainstream media.

The Walkley Foundation brought together a panel of award-winning journalists and commentators to discuss the reporting of issues of gender and sexuality in the alternative and mainstream media, just two days shy of the 36th annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras celebrations.

Moderated by SBS's Patrick Abboud, who hosted Mardi Gras this year, Monique Schafter (ABC

7.30/Hungry Beast), Senthoran Raj (Sydney Law School), Morgan Carpenter (President, OII Australia) and Elias Jahshan (Editor, *Star Observer*) discussed the challenges they have faced in trying to report the stories that matter to the LGBTIQ community.

That is not to say that members of the panel had not experienced some "wins". For Monique Schafter, it was inspiring a viewer through her affirming story on Ji Wallace's HIV diagnosis for ABC's 7.30. For Elias Jahshan, it was the *Star Observer's* cover story on the Facebook group "Black Rainbow", which supports the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander LGBTIQ community.

What was particularly striking about the stories related by the panelists was the constant vigilance required to achieve these "wins" – a fight in every story meeting, a considered approach in a 24-hour news cycle.

A recurring theme in the talk was the role of language in reporting. In particular, the panelists identified the difficulties in balancing the need to convey meaning to a wider audience while still showing respect to the subject of a story.

However, it seems that the most contested ground is the language surrounding the names given to the LGBTIQ community itself.

Some argued that the so-called "alphabet soup" serves only to exclude people from a group that prides itself on its diversity.

However, the defining message of the talk lay in the acknowledgment that there was no single LGBTIQ community – that each of us is defined not only by our sexual orientation, but also by a complex and evolving sense of identity.

At the beginning of the talk, we were urged to leave our mobile phones on. Perhaps this was an acknowledgement of the fact that it is often at the fringes – of a community or the media – that some of the most interesting conversations begin.

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Performers at the Home Base Showcase, Goodgod Small Club, November 28, 2013 Photo: Sarah Emery

Heaping praise on young musicians

An interview with Charlie O'Brien

JULIA JACKLIN

HEAPS DECENT is an Australian-based dynamic arts organisation that works with young people and emerging artists from marginalised and disadvantaged communities, providing space and means for self expression through music. One of their programs, Home Base, operates out of Redfern Community Centre. Charlie O'Brien from Heaps Decent talks about the work being done in Redfern.

Tell us about Home Base?

Home Base is our weekly drop-in style workshop at the Redfern Community Centre. It's a workshop for young people looking to develop their skills in contemporary music – things like rapping, singing, songwriting and music production. We've been doing free workshops every Monday afternoon for over two years and in that time we've had over 100 participants, with a

core of around 20 emerging artists; some of whom have had the songs they've written with us played on national radio! Heaps Decent acknowledges the support of the Vincent Fairfax Foundation, Matana Foundation, James Kirby Foundation and the City of Sydney Council.

Take us through a workshop.

Home Base is a unique format for Heaps Decent as it's the most versatile structure of our workshops. Often we'll make a beat from scratch before sitting down to write lyrics and record them in the great studio facility at the centre, while other times the young people attending the workshop will come with a beat they want to rap on and we record their lyrics or instrumentation such as guitars. The idea is for the guys to walk away with a finished song, a high-standard piece that they can be proud of and share with their friends and family. It's collaboration heavy and the core of attendees provide a supportive atmosphere

for their peers to come and try new things and develop their skills.

Who do you have working at Home Base?

The Heaps Decent facilitators are a bunch of passionate and skilled musicians, DJs and producers who are established in their own right.

How much emphasis do you place on performing?

One of the main objectives of the Home Base project is performance. The performance outcome gives a definitive goal to work towards while keeping the young people goal-oriented in order to complete songs they will eventually perform. As well as our own performance opportunities, there's the occasional opportunity to perform at other shows; last year Tasha Lee Marshall opened for Grimes' sold-out Sydney show!

Why do you think this is important?

The performance opportunities for young people in a proper club setting

are limited and Heaps Decent does what it can to give our participants a chance to experience this in the ultimate test of the music they've been working on. The crowd is comprised of their family, friends and peers in what makes up a very supportive environment for this experience.

Home Base recently had a showcase at Goodgod Small Club. Who was on the bill and how did it go?

At the end of November last year, we held our fifth Home Base Showcase for the duration of the project. It was a solid turn-out, with nothing but quality music for the entire evening – it always blows us away how much the performers rise to the occasion! For many it's their first time in front of a crowd, and what's more, they are performing original material they have written themselves. It's very impressive. We welcomed (now our latest facilitator recruit) Sydney MC Dutch to headline the show, which included Home Base regulars such as Fowl Murk, Tasha

Lee Marshall and Mai. New additions to the event lineup included Roofless Youth, a group we met at workshops in Wagga Wagga, who took to the stage with vigour, putting on a great show!

Where can our readers listen to some Home Base recordings?

www.soundcloud.com/heaps-decent

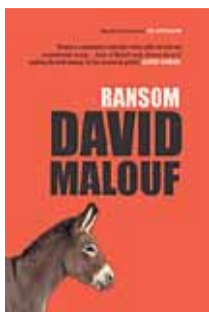
How can people get involved?

Come along to a session! If you're interested in singing, rapping or music production and you want some help or if you've never even made a sound into a microphone and it's something you want to do, then come and see us! Heaps Decent can cater to pretty much any genre you're interested in. We're at the Redfern Community Centre from 3pm to 6pm every Monday aside from public holidays (when the centre is closed).

Any questions, or for more info email hey@heapsdecent.com

The Reviews

Book Review by Joe Castley



Ransom
David Malouf
Random House (2009)

David Malouf's novels have won him many prestigious literary prizes and a devoted readership worldwide since his first novel *Johnno* was published in 1975. His most recent, *Ransom*, published in 2009, won prizes too, and was particularly well received in the American press. It is a poignant recreation from Homer's *Iliad* of King Priam's attempt to obtain decent burial for his son Hector after the vengeful Achilles has dragged his body daily for ten days (because after each day's sacrilege the gods have made it new) around the funeral pyre of his lover, Patroclus, whom Hector has slain in battle. The delicacy, firmness, pathos and lyricism of its writing can be savoured over and over again. One of Malouf's early novels, *Fly Away Peter* (1982) still lives with me, and *Ransom*, published 27 years later, reminded me of it.

Fly Away Peter sets the lovely things of life against their terrible violation in war. It begins with an unforgettable

experience of the pristine coast of South East Queensland, with its water, its bush, and above all, its bird life, especially the magical yearly presence of the migratory birds. Each of the three major characters involves us in a different way in the wonder of it all. With the enlistment of the two young men, the book moves to the battlefields of Europe and we engage with the horrors of war. Malouf, with originality and control, never slips into over-writing. In the trenches, too, we are reminded in detail after detail of the innocence and the goodness that is being destroyed. This section ends with a daring and poignant piece of magical realism before the novella finishes in Queensland with the surviving character touched by the enduring renewal of life.

Ransom's narrator develops the distance and control with which the narrator of the earlier book observed human affairs into an almost godlike overview. The mastery of Malouf's writing is astonishing – and deeply touching. Priam's at first frantic loss and Troy's dire plight evoke our sympathy but are recounted with a mature detachment. It is the terrible mystery of suffering that is being faced up to. The old man, daring to go out to rescue his son's body accompanied only by his driver and armed only with his trust in goodness represents the best aspects of suffering humanity, and throughout the ride his dignity is as great as his vulnerability. And at the end, Achilles' response to him is as moving as it is surprising.

» books@ssh.com.au

Film Reviews by Lindsay Cohen



Her
Director: Spike Jonze
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix,
Amy Adams, Scarlett Johansson
Genre: Nerd heaven

Could a human really fall in love with his or her operating system? Well if you watch enough SBS on Friday nights you'd know that humans can fall in love with anything (roller coasters is a particular fave).

So if you conveniently ignore the fact that intelligent computers of the type that you can maintain a properly human conversation with are generations away at least, then as long as your operating system sounds like a flirtatious Scarlett Johansson, *Her* is not beyond the bounds of credibility (just).

Of course, like all films about people falling in love with inanimate objects (*Lars and the Real Girl*, 2007, where a man falls in love with a sex doll, being the obvious example), *Her* is really about the human condition, in particular the alienation created by technology.

People walking around chatting constantly with their computers in the near future of *Her* isn't that far removed from our relationship with mobile phones today. The phones may be smart but you're

not doing much for your social skills if you have headphones in whenever you're in public.

At least our dress sense is better today. In *Her*, jeans are out and high pants are in, though admittedly that's probably just a comment about conformity or conservatism.

Her is funny, touching and depressing in equal measure – like all good date films. The special effects are clever and understated and Joaquin Phoenix is forgiven for the beard and the narcissistic performance art nonsense of a few years back (type "Joaquin Phoenix beard" into Google if you don't know what I'm talking about).

Rating: Four blue screens of death.



Dallas Buyers Club
Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
Starring: Matthew McConaughey,
Jennifer Garner, Jared Leto
Genre: Academy friendly

It's awards season in Hollywood and in the great tradition of Academy Award best picture nominations, the actor who best portrayed someone gay, sick, disabled or dying (or better still all four) is going to win. Think Tom Hanks in *Philadelphia* (1993) and *Forrest Gump*

(1994), Nicolas Cage in *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995), Geoffrey Rush in *Shine* (1996), Jamie Foxx in *Ray* (2004), Sean Penn in *Milk* (2008) or Colin Firth in *The King's Speech* (2010).

So it's no surprise that Matthew McConaughey is \$1.22 or thereabouts with the betting agencies to win in 2013 (by the time you read this he should have already won).

McConaughey plays Ron Woodroof, hard-nosed, straight and rough as they come Texan, boots, rodeos and cowboy hat included. When in 1985 Woodroof gets diagnosed with AIDS, it sets off a chain of events that are still being felt in the way that large pharmaceutical companies work hand-in-hand with governments to market and regulate their products.

Woodroof took matters into his own hands when he was prevented from participating in AIDS treatment drug trials. What started as sourcing his own treatment eventually became a bootlegging business for alternative treatments he sourced firstly in Mexico then anywhere in the world he could get them. The business became a cause and then a campaign.

What sets *Dallas Buyers Club* apart from most biopics is the successful treading of the fine line between the sometimes-predictable human dramas and the great insights into the social, economic and political dramas of the time.

McConaughey may have lost over 20kg for this role but in terms of his acting CV he's never been weightier.

Rating: Four-and-a-half border crossings.

» films@ssh.com.au



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Detail of "Mood Order Board" by Shelley Kay (2013) Photo: Andrew Collis



"The Illusionist" Image: Patricia Casey

Seven billion faces Artist Profile: Shelley Kay

GEORGIA FLYNN

SYDNEY ARTIST Shelley Kay is a woman who knows about faces – the stories they tell us and the secrets they hide from us. "Each face is like a landscape," she says. "Each face is unique – just like each human being."

There is something oddly haunting about the faces that inhabit Kay's artworks – a sense of ghostly expressiveness, particularly around the eyes. When prompted to talk about her method of painting, it is as if Kay is in conversation with the face she paints. By Kay's account, the face seems to emerge from her brushwork of its own accord with a pre-existing identity in its own right, just waiting to be discovered by the artist.

"There are about seven billion people on earth," Kay says. "We are all human but completely different. I like to exploit that difference in my approach to painting a face."

But for Kay, none of us has a single face; rather we each wear a multiplicity of faces in the course of our lives. This is perhaps best demonstrated through her artwork, "Becoming Fragmented, I Pull Myself Together" which was purchased by the NSW Mental Health Commission. The artwork consists of a number of faces spread across 15 wooden blocks – multiple faces to represent a single lived experience.

Kay's own journey is one defined by reinvention. As a child, Kay spent nine months living at Matraville Migrant Hostel. Growing up under the shadow of the South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club, Kay worked for a gemologist-cum-radio and television repairman.

Although her style of painting is deeply intuitive, Kay came to painting comparatively late in life. Sixteen years ago, while watching her daughter learn to draw, it first occurred to Kay to explore whether she could draw and write with her left hand. "It really was an equalizer between us," she says. "We created some marvelous chaotic explorations of colour together."

What began as an experiment became an act of self-discovery. "My work is a form of meditation and self-reflection: how to make sense of a world I don't understand."

Kay first exhibited her work at

Sydney's Wayside Chapel during an annual art exhibition organised by the NSW Consumer Advisory Group – a statewide non-government peak body that represents the interests of people who use the state's mental health services.

It was through the work of the Consumer Advisory Group that Kay first recognised the important therapeutic role that art can play in the treatment of mental health disorders. She argues passionately for a paradigm shift in the way that NSW health services operate – in particular by embracing holistic therapeutic services.

She has also developed a particular interest in Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA) – the leading national organisation advancing the needs and interests of the estimated four to five million adult survivors of childhood trauma in Australia. This interest in mental health continues to play an important role in Kay's work as an artist.

In anticipation of Blue Knot Day last year – an initiative coordinated by ASCA – Kay set about creating an artwork that has become known as the "Mood Order Board". Over the course of three months, Kay took apart a child's educational toy she bought at a St Vincent de Paul Society shop and transformed it into an artwork designed to reflect the experience of an adult survivor of child abuse.

"The distressing and scarring of the original numeric and alphabetical toy by sanding and scraping across concrete presents the trauma of childhood adversity," she says. "The repainting, layers and layers of colour to create 72 separate faces, is an example of post-traumatic growth in the adult survivor."

The "Mood Order Board" also has a therapeutic impact on people who interact with it; it helps people focus on their brain and increases their understanding of their moods. The 72 faces have either red or blue brains – the blue to represent calm and the red to represent passion. On one side the faces are upside down; on the other the faces are the right way up.

"It's the topsy-turvy of survival but I have made something hopeful and positive and fun," she says. "After all, we make our lives out of Chaos and Hope and Love." The faces that appear in Kay's artworks exist somewhere between those three forces.

Inner worlds embroidered

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"WE ALL have an inner core that we don't reveal, even to those we are most intimate with. Little secrets that we keep to ourselves. Mental landscapes inaccessible to others. This work is very much about being alone with yourself. Finding peace in the quiet. A time to process life" (Patricia Casey, 2013).

Little Secrets develops Patricia Casey's interest in interior worlds, private spaces, memory and dreams. Her subjects are caught in a moment of private reverie, veiled by elements of the natural world. The mundane is manipulated and transformed into a surreal tableau in which the viewer is invited into a state of internal reflection.

The photographic montages,

printed on archival cotton fabric, are delicately hand embroidered by the artist – individual works taking anywhere between 10-40 hours. Using glittering thread and coloured cotton, the artist follows the contours of branches, leaf patterns and blossoms with tiny backstitch and French knots – mimicking the circulatory system and nerve pathways hidden within the human body.

There are layers of complexity in Casey's works. Beauty is contrasted with unease and we are uncertain as to whether the subject's gaze is inward or outward; are they the watched or the watching; hidden or revealed?

Casey's work makes reference to the historical tradition of *memento mori* in which a lock of human hair, embroidery, fabric or ribbon is used to decorate the frame or surface area

around a treasured photograph.

Patricia Casey was the Winner of the Head On Photographic Portrait Prize in 2006 and has been a finalist almost every year since. Since beginning her exhibiting career in 1999, Casey has been a multiple-prize finalist in numerous national competitions. She is internationally recognized, having had countless solo exhibitions locally and abroad. Her works are held in significant public and private collections.

Little Secrets

Patricia Casey
March 4-22, 2014
NG Art Gallery
Upstairs at 3 Little Queen St,
Chippendale
Phone 9318 2992
www.ngart.com.au
www.patriciacasey.com.au

Video Set kick-start sophomore effort



Liz Hughes and Julia Jacklin of Video Set
Photo: Tom Capell

ANDREW COLLIS

SYDNEY BAND Video Set (formerly Salta) will record an EP of new material in coming months. Their live shows of late – acoustic and electric guitars, bass, drums, two- and three-part harmonies and short video projections – have attracted increasing interest and praise. Liz Hughes talks about plans for 2014.

Video Set has played a number of gigs already this year. Where have you been playing, and can you describe the show?

This year we have performed at Oxford Art Factory supporting Gordi and at Brighton Up Bar supporting Achool! Bless You. We regularly perform at open mic nights and backyard gigs and fundraisers. We

always try to fit new songs into our set-list to keep things fresh but we continue to play songs from our first EP, often re-working them to give them a new sound.

How does the music inspire the videos? Do the videos inspire the music?

The music definitely inspires the videos. Usually we draw on a theme or idea expressed in the song and then gather footage that aligns with or emphasises that theme. Sometimes we use vintage footage we find on the internet, for example, Julia [bandmate Julia Jacklin] used assembly line factory footage from the industrial revolution for her song "Assembly Line". The videos don't tend to inspire the music so much; we are first and foremost songwriters and the video is created to embellish the song.

Could you say something about the crowd funding campaign you are launching this month?

We are launching the campaign on March 5 and it will run for 30 days. We are asking for \$4,500 to help us to fund the production of our second EP. The money will also help to fund a video clip for our single release. We recorded our debut EP at home in the Blue Mountains on a very tight budget and we were really proud of the results. However, this time we would like to produce something of higher quality

that our listeners will appreciate and feel proud to have supported. We will be working with some really talented producers, engineers and musicians and we are looking forward to getting into the studio again.

What recordings have you recently made with Video Set? Where did you record? With whom?

The last recording we did as Video Set was for our debut video clip, "Blood". We recorded it at Defwolf Studios in Alexandria with Ryan Brennan who engineered, mixed and mastered the track.

Is there a date for the EP release? A goal? Any other comments or stories to share?

We are aiming to have the EP released in June and we will be touring in early July. We are hoping to do shows in the Blue Mountains, Sydney and Melbourne. We are also hoping to gain a few support slots for some of our favourite American artists, as we are travelling there in November this year.

You can find our campaign on kickstarter.com under "Video Set EP" from March 5. We will also be doing a house show in Sydney to promote the campaign; like us on Facebook at facebook.com/videosetmusic for updates.

www.facebook.com/videosetmusic
www/videosetmusic.bandcamp.com

Markets promote collaboration and community

SSH

GREEN SQUARE Markets (GSM) are now open for business every Saturday at Joynton Park, Zetland. From 9am to 2pm you can explore fantastic local foods, organic produce, delicious cakes and pastries, and a variety of other inviting products.

GSM are run by the Rotary Club of South Sydney (RCSS) to promote collaboration and community. The "profit with purpose" orientation enables the markets to return the profits to the community through underwriting and supporting local initiatives, including non-profit organisations, scholarships and school-based projects.

Green Square is the fastest-growing redevelopment hub in the City's local area – new families are moving in

every day, while residents in long-established suburbs like Rosebery have lived there for generations. Sharing their love of food and other interests, community members of all ages are now connecting with each other at the markets.

Green Square residents, workers and visitors can learn more about the area's history, people and culture by going to the markets. The GSM are helping to foster a more liveable and accessible city with a strong sense of community.

The markets may be managed by the RCSS, but they are also supported by the City of Sydney Council and the South Sydney Business Chamber.

Redeveloping Green Square into a vibrant and sustainable precinct is encouraging many architects, businesses and retailers to innovate, and local communities to be more creative and engaged.



The Green Square Markets in full swing Photo: Supplied

"We want to assure collaborative spaces are established within the Markets and provide the community with opportunity and enjoyment as well as delicious fresh food and artisan products," said Rodney Yannakis,

President of the RCSS. Creating these markets is about promoting diversity, inclusiveness and local enterprise.

Joynton Park, near Gadigal Avenue, Zetland in the Green Square Precinct Saturday between 9am-2pm.

For more information, please visit www.greensquaremarkets.org.au
For enquiries about booking a stall, please email: stalls@greensquaremarkets.org.au

Wordplays...

I could reach you
with a thought
an abstraction made
by the troubles of my mind
chained by anxiety
no philosophy has force
enough to break
but, of course, love
and death
have real power.
- Adrian Spry

Transcendental
is the way to travel
seeing nothing
and everything
at once.
- Catherine Wood

Mind The Love
Love is here
Each day
A kiss from the sun
At dawn
A purr from your cat
As she lies on the mat
A lick from that dog
At play in the park
A hug from a pal
Who has come to tea
A cool mist on a hot day
A soft word at chez nous
Feet that will step, jump
Spin, skip and leap
To an airy beat
Love just is, each day.
- Yvonne Hocothee

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Scenes from this year's Mardi Gras Parade on March 1 Photos: Claire Mahjoub



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 of creation.

Glebe Cafe Church
 Cnr St Johns Rd
 & Colbourne Ave Glebe
 Worship Sun 7pm
 'Colbourne Ave' intimate
 candlelit concerts Thu 8pm
 Allison Forrest 9518 9413

Leichhardt University Church
 3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt
 (near Norton St)
 Worship 10am & 6.30pm Sunday
 Rev. Dr John Hirt 0408 238 117
 www.leichhardtuniting.org.au

Newtown Mission
 280 King St Newtown
 Worship 9.30am & 6pm Sunday
 Rev Ps Doug Clements
 9519 9000

Paddington Uniting Church
 Rev Ben Gilmour
 395 Oxford St Paddington
 Church Open 10am-2pm
 1st and 3rd Saturdays
 Worship Sunday 7.30pm
 Office 9331 2646

Pitt Street Uniting Church
 Rev Margaret Mayman
 264 Pitt St, Sydney
 Worship 10 am Sunday
 & 6 pm (2nd and 4th Sundays)
 Office 9267 3614

Wayside Chapel
 29 Hughes St Potts Point
 Worship 10am
 Rev Graham Long 9358 6996

Parents as Careers Transition Support (PACTS) Information Session

A COMMUNITY information session concerning the national PACTS program (Parents as Career Transition Support) will be held on March 10 at Marist College Pagewood (now called Champagnat Catholic College), 35 Donovan Ave Maroubra, from 9.30-10.30am.

The free PACTS program provides parents, guardians, grandparents and carers with up-to-date information about educational

pathways to better support their children through key transitional points. The session will provide an overview of the program and explain how you can become a trained PACTS workshop facilitator.

Contact Adrian Rhodes to register your interest in attending the information session.
 Tel: 91919821 e: adrian@sydneybep.com.au

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

PAT CLARKE & ROSS SMITH

GREETINGS, AND welcome to another action-packed month in Sydney.

Seniors Week March 15-23
 Programs are available from your local Library. A fun event will be a Comedy Debate on Friday March 21 at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place at 1pm. This is free but bookings are essential - phone 8256 2222.

Harmony Day March 21
 This year's message us Everyone Belongs. This is a day to celebrate our diversity and cultural respect. You may be interested to know that Harmony Day is an Australian

Government program and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Contact www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au for details of events in your area.

The 19th Biennale of Sydney March 21 - June 9
 This is the biannual arts festival and there are events and happenings all around the city, with plenty of activities to engage all the family. Venues include Cockatoo Island (my favourite), Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Contemporary Art and Carriageworks. Check www.biennaleofsydney.com.au.

Fundraisers
 Alas, these are what keep the

SSH going all year, so they are essential, as well as being good fun. We held a BBQ at Mitre 10 in Matraville on February 15. It was a wet morning and our chefs and helpers deserve special mention and thanks: Simon, Lyn, Ross - and thanks to Vanessa Watson for organising this one! We are currently planning another dinner-fundraiser for this year - details next month!

Daylight Saving ends April 6
 Daylight Saving ends at 3am on the first Sunday in April - don't forget to put your clocks back one hour.

Until next time
 Pat Clarke & Ross Smith
 distro@ssh.com.au

Redfern ANZAC Day March & Commemorative Service - FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2014
 HONOURING OUR UNKNOWN SOLDIERS - COMMENCING AT 1.45PM

1.45pm: Wreath Laying
2pm: March from Redfern Park to The Block
2.30pm: Remembrance ceremony at the Redfern Community Centre
4pm: Light entertainment and refreshments

"Last year, we honoured those of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diggers who were taken as Prisoners of War in foreign lands. In continuing that theme, this year we will honour those of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Diggers who fought bravely alongside their mates but are now buried in foreign soil... We shall remember them."
 - Babana Aboriginal Men's Group, Redfern; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Veterans & Services Association.

LOVE TO SING?
 Come & be one of

THE Darling TONES

Always wanted to sing out loud but not on your own? We are an a cappella choir based in Darlinghurst. Sopranos, alto, tenor & bass singers wanted! Join in the song and have some fun. Be a part of our community and bring some harmony in to your life.

For all enquiries email: TheDarlingTones@yahoo.com.au or call 9698 3642

Sydney's newest a cappella choir

FREE BUS

VILLAGE 2 VILLAGE

Woolloomooloo to Redfern
Redfern to Broadway

The Village to Village bus is a free hop-on, hop-off service which enables residents of the City of Sydney to access local businesses, hospitals, shopping centres, restaurants and universities.

These **FREE** buses operate every **Thursday and Friday**.

For more information please call: **8241 8000**
 or visit our website: www.villagetovillage.com.au

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YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS



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The Ravens meet each Sunday at 5pm at Redfern Oval (Cnr Phillip & Chalmers Sts in Redfern). New members (and beginners) welcome! Phone Adrian on 9690 1427.

RAVENS RUNNING GROUP



Season 66 for famous cerise and blue

PERRY JOHNSTONE

ALL SUMMER we have enjoyed the Aussie cricket team dominate the old country. Now our thoughts turn to rugby league and the Alexandria Rovers are strapping in for our 66th season of footy, fun, health and fitness for the kids and bigger kids of the inner city.

Season 2013 was a great success both on and off the field, with registration numbers and memberships continuing to grow. Fifteen teams wore the famous cerise and blue in 2013 and we are hoping to increase those numbers in 2014.

Training has started every Wednesday and Friday at Erskineville

Oval, with the kids starting at 4.30pm and the older teams from 5.30pm onwards. We welcome back all players, team officials and sponsors, and look forward to welcoming new players, team officials, volunteers and sponsors.

The club provides free registration, jumpers, shorts and socks plus free courses for anyone looking to become a coach or a trainer in 2014.

For more information check out the club's official website -www.alexandriarovers.com.au - your one-stop shop for all the news and views on the Alexandria Rovers Football Club.

Perry Johnstone is Club Secretary, Alexandria Rovers JRLFC Inc.

Beauty, brains and brawn – fighting depression

PERRY JOHNSTONE

LOCAL SOUTH Sydney resident Kira-Lea Dargin is making her boxing debut in the corporate black-tie boxing arena. Kira-Lea is a single mum, runs her own Aboriginal modelling agency and works in PR (she is also the Advertising Sales Manager with the SSH).

I sat down with this go-getter to discuss the upcoming boxing event.

Why take up boxing?

It's something I've always been interested in. I also find it very therapeutic and really enjoy the fitness side of getting into it.

Who inspires you?

I draw inspiration from life. I'm really lucky to know such a large network of amazing people and to be surrounded by positive energy on a daily basis is a huge help. It's very much about making the most of what you have and I think that's the key to my inspiration.

What's harder – fighting in the ring or in the corporate world?

They both have their challenges, physically boxing is one hell of a sport, I honestly take my hat off to the athletes who compete regularly. It's extremely gruelling on the body and a lot more of a challenge than I expected.

Beauty, brains and brawn – what's next for you?

The world! Haha, seriously,



Kira-Lea takes a break from heavy training Photo: Supplied

I go with the flow and just enjoy life. I'm in a good place mentally, so who really knows where it could lead – anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

Kira-Lea will take part in the Black-tie Gala Corporate Fight Night on April 4 at the Sofitel Wentworth. She is also fundraising for *beyondblue*.

beyondblue is working to reduce the impact of depression and anxiety in the community by raising awareness and understanding, empowering people to seek help, and supporting recovery, management and resilience.

You can support Kira-Lea by getting involved as a sponsor - details at www.blacktieboxing.com.au

Season preview – waiting for the great leap forward

MICHAEL PAGE

THEY SAY the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

Top four finishes two years in a row would appear to be a good result but failing to make the great leap forward to a grand final has overshadowed much of Souths' advances in recent years.

In particular, Souths' capitulation to a Manly team, who appeared to all to be hobbling their way through the semis, left many wondering whether Souths really have the killer instinct to make a grand final let alone win one. That loss cut deep for the many Souths fans who shuffled sadly out of the stadium and pubs in Redfern and surrounds. Their reactions were understandable given the hope and hype of the season.

Many of these fans deleted their game tapes straight away and have been unable to say more than one or two words about the loss since. But for coach Michael Maguire a review of the game tape was unavoidable. As successful as his approach has been in terms of wins and losses, his team's

predictability and lack of conviction against the well-coached final four has made him think long and hard in the off-season.

On the recruitment front there has been little to get excited about. The wallet for a gun centre was put away when both potential options, Will Hopoate and the errant Blake Ferguson, became unviable for different reasons. The recruitment of journeyman centre-winger Joel Reddy and an ageing Lote Tuqiri has hardly had pundits jumping up and down with excitement.

Nonetheless, Maguire has bitten the bullet and made some significant changes. The world's biggest five-eighth John Sutton has finally been relocated to his true home amongst the company of other big men within Souths' forward pack.

Maguire has hatched a significantly revised plan elevating the smart, talkative and quick Luke Keary to take on the pivot role. Keary's injury in the Auckland Nines, which will keep him off the field for at least the first half of the season, was no doubt a huge disappointment. Thankfully,

Maguire will still be able to keep his transformation plans in place by using the talented Dylan Walker as an option. Although Walker has been impressive at centre in first grade, all his junior football was at five-eighth where he displayed silky passing skills and an ability to set up the plays.

The other notable matter in the off-season focussed on the progression from rumour to reality of Sam Burgess' exodus to English rugby union in 2015. Disappointing though it will be to lose the talented forward, having this settled before the season starts is a good thing, and fans are hoping Sam now stays out of the media and away from disciplinary hearings and puts in a huge effort in his final year at Souths.

In an impressive display in the Charity Shield, Burgess and indeed the rest of the team looked sharp and polished as they took apart a wilting Dragons team to win 38-20.

So can Souths take a leap forward in 2014? SSH's response is a resounding "Yes!"

Our brave prediction – two great leaps in 2014. Souths in the grand final ... and winning it.



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The South Sydney Herald is YOUR community paper. We rely on volunteer writers, photographers and distributors to maintain our commitment to independent and quality news service, raising the profile of community groups and their good works, acknowledging the creativity of local arts professionals and aspiring artists, mentoring tertiary students in journalism and community work, and celebrating the possibility of social and ecological justice.

If you'd like to be involved as a volunteer in 2014 we'd love to hear from you! Contact the SSH: editor@ssh.com.au.

Please share your story ideas with us – news, features, arts, sports – by emailing news@ssh.com.au or phoning Lyn on 0400 008 338.

www.southsydneyherald.com.au