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SOCIAL JUSTICE – PAGE 5



ARTISANS ENLIVEN THE GARDENS
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NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE ~ NOVEMBER '16 ~ CIRCULATION 22,000 ~ ALEXANDRIA BEACONSFIELD CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON ERSKINEVILLE EVELEIGH GLEBE KINGSCROSS NEWTOWN PADDINGTON REDFERN SURRY HILLS WATERLOO WOOLLOOMOOLOO ZETLAND

'WE CAN HANDLE THE TRUTH'

LEON BATCHELOR

WITH the redevelopment of the Waterloo Estate yet to enter the 12- to 18-month master planning stage, local residents are little closer to understanding what life will be like in Waterloo in the coming decades.

Leading the redevelopment, with the support of UrbanGrowth NSW, is the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) Communities Plus team. Preliminary community engagement over the master plan may commence as soon as November.

In a written response to questions by REDWatch the Communities Plus team emphasised the redevelopment will be staged over a 15- to 20-year period and "a great deal more consultation and planning [is] required". The master planning process will determine key aspects of the redeveloped site, such as the mix between social housing, affordable housing and private housing.

Family and Community Services (FACS) is currently preparing a "community engagement strategy" as part of the master planning process. Information gathered through community engagement, including on options for density and human services support, will form part of a brief presented to key government agencies (including UrbanGrowth NSW). The brief will consider the merit and feasibility of these options as part of a "whole of government" approach to the master plan.

In its statement to REDWatch, LAHC has said the redevelopment of the estate provides an "opportunity to better plan and provides (sic) support for the high needs of social housing residents". Tenants can expect community engagement over the master plan to look specifically at their needs as part of the planning and relocation process.

The master planning process itself is yet to be fully articulated. Some in the community are calling for more openness at an earlier stage about decisions that will affect them in the coming months and years. "We can handle the truth," says Richard Weeks of the Waterloo Public Housing Action Group (WPAHG). "We might not like it but we can handle it." The November date for community engagement to start is yet to be set.



Ronda Graham (pictured here with her dog Mitzzy) has lived in the Waterloo Estate for 30 years. Along with other estate residents, she faces an uncertain future. Photo: Bec Lewis

To date, the government has made four informal commitments to the community:

- Existing tenants, who do not relocate until instructed to by FACS and wish to return will be able to.
- There will be no loss of social housing in the redeveloped site.
- Residents will be able to move directly into new tenancies on the redeveloped site (some residents will need to be relocated temporarily).
- The redevelopment will be staged over 15 to 20 years.

Community housing providers in the mix

Community housing providers (CHPs) are a primary feature of *Future Directions in Social Housing in NSW*, the government's blueprint for reforming social and affordable housing across the state over the next decade. Roughly a third of the state's public housing will be transferred to non-government organisations in the next four years. The management of Waterloo's redeveloped social housing stock will likely be undertaken by CHPs.

Most CHPs are not-for-profit organisations which manage social housing stock owned by LAHC (or other landlords). For-profit CHPs do exist and may have a role to play in Waterloo. The UK-owned global outsourcing giant Serco, which operates Australia's onshore detention centres, was named in a *Sydney Morning Herald* article in August as having made a "secret pitch" to the Baird government to manage some of LAHC's social housing portfolio.

The difference between FACS and CHPs is important. Tom McDonald, Acting Coordinator of the Tenancy Team at the Redfern Legal Centre, points to the wide variation in policies developed by CHPs compared to the government's own provider, FACS. "FACS policies are more detailed and they're going to cover a larger range of situations," he explains. "Policies that are threadbare can leave tenants in the dark about their rights when it comes to critical issues like transfers, rental subsidies, repairs and absences," McDonald warns.

CHPs are also not subject to the scrutiny of the NSW Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is a helpful counteragent for "systemic issues," says McDonald, who witnessed one Ombudsman enquiry into the enforcement of old debts by FACS lead to positive results for FACS tenants.

With thousands of tenancies up for grabs by prospective CHPs

as part of the socially "mixed" redevelopment, tenants are concerned the new arrangement will mean diminished rights and a stressful relationship between tenants, owners and CHPs. WHPAG's Richard Weeks points to large rental bonds required by some CHPs as one issue needing to be addressed by government in the relocation process.

Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act that came into force in 2016 increase the discretion CHPs have to take disciplinary action against tenants under the "three strikes" system. FACS policy is to issue a strike notice for alleged anti-social behaviour only, whereas the law permits CHPs to issue a strike notice for any alleged breach of their tenancy.

In the statement to REDWatch LAHC has said, "the government's expectation is that public housing tenants agreements and obligations are maintained."

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Sydney says welcome at Walk Together 2016

SSH

THE exciting children's African dance troupe AfroKidz delighted the crowd at the Walk Together festival on October 22.

Close to 1,000 Sydneysiders braved the rain to march from Belmore Park in Sydney's CBD to Victoria Park in Camperdown for the family-friendly festival and to show their support for a more compassionate, inclusive and welcoming Australia.

The Sydney arm of the national diversity celebrations, hosted by Settlement Services International (SSI) and Welcome to Australia, promoted unity, respect and inclusion. Speakers included Welcome to Australia ambassador Mariam Veiszadeh, NSW Labor Party MP Jihad Dib, Greens NSW MP Mehreen Faruqi, and Racial Discrimination Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane.

SSI Chairman Kamalle Dabboussy said events such as Walk Together were an opportunity to remind the wider Australian community of the importance of having a culture of welcome – something that was an extension of the country's traditional values of mateship and a fair go.

Lawyer and former refugee Deng Thiak Adut encouraged the crowds to respond with love when faced with xenophobic and racist actions.

"If they hate you, love them back because love is more powerful. For this country and for us to move forward, we've got to love one



Afro-Kidz have backgrounds from all over Africa. The group celebrates African music, dance and culture and performed at Walk Together 2016 Photo: Stephen Webb

another. We've got to love the kids and look to their future," he said.

"I want you to ask yourself, what would my children think one day? What will we tell them when we're old? Will we say, 'I wish I could have done that'? That's the most cynical thing to say – you can't 'wish' you could have done it; do something right now. Let's welcome each other."

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Tanya Plibersek, said what really made a difference to her parents when they came to Australia in the early 1950s as migrants from Slovenia was the friendship and welcome they received.

"And that's something that every single one of us can do; every single one of us can extend the hand of

friendship and show welcome."

SSI said the day was a resounding success, as demonstrated by the diverse crowd that turned out to show Australian can be a nation known for its compassion, generosity and welcome.

See www.ssi.org.au and www.welcometoaustralia.org.au

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WITNESS TO MOTOR SCOOTER ACCIDENT

On Friday 24 June 2016 at approx 5.12pm a motor scooter was involved in an accident with a taxi on Bay St, Ultimo between West End Lane and Glebe St travelling north.

If anyone witnessed this incident please contact Ben of Personal Injury Support Australia on 0404 681 502.

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Physios Steve Velovski and Eddie Farah with dietitian Chloe McCleod Photo: Supplied

Local physios committed to the community

KRISINDA MERHI

STEVE Velovski and Eddie Farah are all community. That is why they have embarked on their latest venture – Redfern Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine. Their mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of their local community by providing best practice and elite health services.

Steve and Eddie head up the team of physiotherapists who have been leading the South Sydney Rabbitohs in the NRL for the past ten years. They have decided to take their unique skill to the wider community by setting up a brand new clinic in the heart of Redfern.

But their strong ties to their local community go well beyond their connection to the Rabbitohs. Steve Velovski resides in the heart of Redfern since purchasing an apartment in the area three years ago. Eddie was born and raised in Redfern before relocating further west with his family.

“My first memories as a child are of the red and green seats at Redfern Oval from the days when games were still played there. I will never forget the excitement and atmosphere of going along to these games with my dad and brothers,” Eddie says.

Having these strong connections to the area, and fuelled by a constant demand from friends and colleagues to rehabilitate their injuries, Steve and Eddie decided it was a great opportunity as well as ideal timing to set up their own clinic.

The boys behind the clinic have been working hard to build relationships and networks in the local community. Their aim is to partner with local groups and businesses to not only provide a standout service but help improve health in the area. They have already established strong ties with the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence by offering free services onsite and are excited to be involved in a great initiative by one.five.six gym, which is hosting a 12-hour treadmill challenge to raise money for pancreatic cancer research (see www.facebook.com/events/1096622343758459).

“We are really focussed on having a strong community involvement and to continue to be involved in initiatives such as the 12-hour treadmill run,” Eddie says.

Redfern Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine is a multidisciplinary health and injury clinic. As well as experienced physiotherapists, the

team includes a dietitian – Chloe McCleod – and a great group of sports and remedial massage therapists. If this isn't enough, Farah and Velovski have plans to expand their services to include podiatry and a sports physician in the New Year.

Both Steve and Eddie have played a huge part in the turnaround and success of the Rabbitohs over the past decade, which culminated in the 2014 grand final victory. Having come on board in 2007 after Russell Crowe took over the club, they were involved in the huge advancement towards the elite training and rehabilitation services now available at the club.

The demands and pressure of professional sport continue to grow with every single season. Sports medicine providers have to be at the cutting edge of sports science and rehabilitation. Quite often, the ability to keep the players on the field results in the difference between winning and losing. Critical to the success of the Rabbitohs is the ability of Eddie and Steve to meet these demands and excel in this environment.

“The pressure of having to get a player back on the field following an injury is a challenge that we really enjoy. It involves us not only providing regular treatment for our players but also taking them through a specific and individually tailored exercise program,” explains Steve.

“The exercise component is really the key – this ensures that not only are the players ready to get back onto the field but that they are ready to compete at the highest level and help the team to win.”

But the boys also know it's not

just about winning; elite sports and competitiveness aside, their main focus is the long-term wellbeing of their patients.

“We want to ensure that our players don't have a relapse or recurrence of their symptoms. This is one of the key determinants of the success of our rehabilitation programs,” Steve says.

This ability to assist people with their injuries and follow them on their rehabilitation journey is what makes Redfern Physiotherapy unique. The focus is fully on getting patients back to what they love most – whether it be walking, swimming, netball, tennis, playing with the kids, yoga or even their daily work and demands.

So many people suffer from chronic pain. But Redfern Physiotherapy doesn't just treat the pain, they educate you: long-term success is about constant management. In addition to prescribing a detailed home exercise and management program, the clinic has a fully equipped rehabilitation gym, which is always available to any of their patients.

As well as having advanced skills and knowledge in sports rehabilitation, the team also caters for a wide range of musculoskeletal and orthopaedic complaints, and to people of all ages.

To meet the team at Redfern Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine, or to make an appointment, phone 8068 5158, visit www.redfernphysio.com.au or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

– Krisinda Merhi is a freelance writer and media student.



Head physiotherapist Eddie Farah assisting Greg Inglis from the field following an injury Photo: Supplied

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Jacaranda to live on

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GREG ROBINSON

WE are saddened to advise that the beloved jacaranda tree, which has thrived in the University's Main Quadrangle since 1928, collapsed on October 28.

For many years our students have lived by the folklore that any undergraduate who fails to study before the tree's first bloom appears will fail their exams.

The tree has also been the backdrop for thousands of graduation and wedding photos over its 88-year lifetime.

In 2014 the University advised that the jacaranda was nearing the end of its natural life and hired a specialist jacaranda grower to take cuttings. Grafted onto the base of other jacarandas, the cuttings have produced two clones. This means that the University will be able to replace the jacaranda with genetically identical stock.

Students are reminded that the current tree had begun to bloom and we wish them all well for their final weeks of study for 2016.

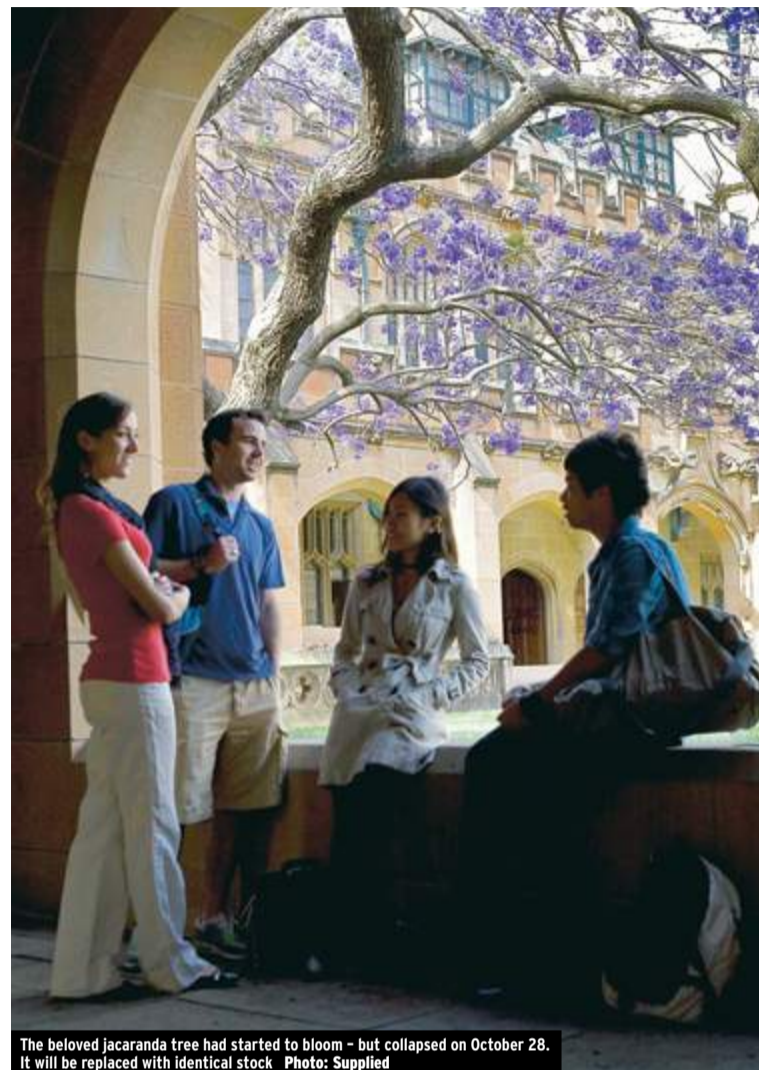
There is a great deal that continues to take place on campus outside of our teaching semesters and we invite our neighbouring community to enjoy our grounds, facilities and events.

In the Quadrangle you can visit the Nicholson Museum. Australia's oldest university museum, it is home to the largest collection of antiquities in the Southern Hemisphere. There's currently even a Lego model of Pompeii for the children to delight in.

On the opposite side of the Quadrangle, you'll find the University Art Gallery, inside the War Memorial Arch, while from there you can cross Science Road to visit the Macleay Museum, which holds the oldest natural history collection in Australia.

All of our museums are free and open to the public Monday to Friday 10am-4.30pm and the first Saturday of the month from 12-4pm and our exhibitions are constantly changing.

You can also take a guided tour of our campus. On our Heritage Tour you can learn about the architecture of the Camperdown



The beloved jacaranda tree had started to bloom - but collapsed on October 28. It will be replaced with identical stock. Photo: Supplied

campus, and on our Indigenous Tour, you can explore the ways the land that the University is built on was used by local communities before European settlement.

Wandering the campus, you can learn more about the myriad of different plants you can see by downloading the "Campus Flora" app. It provides details of more than 1,000 individual plants on campus, including botanical details and interesting facts.

Later in November, Ben & Jerry's Open Air Cinema will return to campus, on Gadigal Green. The cinema will show a variety of new releases and old favourites from November 25 to December 20. Relax beforehand with some of the best local live music, including sets from the most exciting emerging musicians.

The University's Sports and Aquatic Centre continues to provide a range of programs and facilities for everyone all year round. There are kids' camps and swimming lessons, personal training and group fitness, seniors' wellness programs, first aid courses and our 50-metre indoor pool. Our campus is open to everyone and I hope you will enjoy it over the coming days.



Greg Robinson is Director, Campus Infrastructure and Services. Authorised by Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney. Contact Details - Security & After Hours: 1800 063 487 (24/7). Enquiries: 9114 0523; local.community@sydney.edu.au



Vale Ross

It is with great sadness that last month we lost our friend and comrade Ross Smith.

There is no simple way to describe Ross that will do him justice. Ross has been at the heart of our South Sydney community for years and I'm sure there will be no shortage of reflections on his impact over the coming months.

Ross was a loyal Labor member, a fierce advocate for his community and a hard-working activist for many years. From his work with groups like REDWatch or organising his local Labor branches, to delivering the *South Sydney Herald (SSH)* each month, his passion and convictions always drove him.

Of his many passions and many years of hard work, what was perhaps most special about Ross was his consistent and unwavering advocacy for the social housing community. For years Ross argued, petitioned, campaigned and spoke up for the many different residents of South Sydney. As we look around our community today, we can see a special community connection that embraces diversity and is a testament to Ross's work.

Earlier this year, he wrote for the *SSH* that we needed to "acknowledge that housing is not a commodity for short-term speculation or a vehicle for wealth accumulation. Rather, it is the place for people to raise a family and the base from which they can be part of a community - that is, a home."

It's true, and this community was Ross's home and his family. He is sorely missed.

Tanya Plibersek

Authorised by Tanya Plibersek MP
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Justin loves to chat about the world

THE BIG ISSUE

SAMUEL CLARKE

IT has been over a year since Justin first walked into *The Big Issue* office in Redfern to sign up as a vendor. Originally selling now and then Justin has become more regular as his confidence has grown. He can be found selling the magazine outside Kings Cross station many mornings.

"I got told about *The Big Issue* through a mate of mine, Scott, who has done it for a couple of years.

"It was pretty challenging for me at first because I'm a shy person and it was hard to acknowledge people as they walked past. It got easier as I pushed myself out of my comfort zone by approaching people and saying 'hi' to them. Eventually I felt a lot more comfortable out on pitch.

"It's been pretty good and I'm in a good spot. Kings Cross has changed a bit since I first started and

I think that's to do with the lockout laws, but there are a lot of friendly people around the area, there are always people walking past.

"I have some very friendly people who come and say hello. We have a chat about the world and all that stuff. It's pretty good, very enjoyable.

"Before I joined *The Big Issue* I was a store person and forklift driver at a few companies but I was unable to continue because of my back; I've got a bulging disc which pushes on my nerves. That affects what kind of work I can do. I'm very happy selling *The Big Issue* and turning it into a full-time role though.

"I'd like to thank all my customers for their support, even those people who come up and ask me how I'm going. I really appreciate it."

If you or anyone you know could benefit from becoming a vendor for *The Big Issue*, please contact the Sydney office for more information: 125-127 Little Eveleigh St, Redfern; phone 8332 7200; email sydney@bigissue.org.au



Justin overcame his shyness and now enjoys vending. Photo: Supplied

Government must take a lead in building housing affordability

STAFFORD SAUNDERS

THE Uniting Church and its partners in the Sydney Alliance are urging the NSW Government and its Greater Sydney Commission to take a lead in setting housing affordability targets in all major new developments.

A key tool in tackling affordability, experts believe, is the adoption of Inclusionary Zoning (“IZ” or “value sharing”): setting district-wide minimum percentages of housing in major new developments whose rents are set at levels affordable to people on lower incomes.

IZ is central to a campaign by partners in the Sydney Alliance – including the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of NSW and the ACT and its social justice agency Uniting. The Alliance – including social justice, faith, church, union

and community groups – has been meeting with NSW cabinet ministers and key MPs across Sydney to urge the adoption of IZ to help address Sydney’s worsening housing affordability crisis.

Lack of accessible affordable housing in the NSW rental market, especially around the major cities, has reached crisis proportions.

Sydney Alliance Lead Organiser David Barrow says: “Thousands of people, including some of the most vulnerable in our community, can’t find or keep a stable home – undermining their ability to hold jobs, raise kids, educate or train themselves, and stay physically and mentally healthy.”

Uniting and the Alliance are calling on the government, through the Greater Sydney Commission, to establish district-wide IZ targets in partnership with local councils. They say a minimum of at least 15 per cent



NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes meeting on September 5 with Uniting Church NSW and ACT Moderator Rev. Myung Hwa Park, Helen Wood from Uniting and David Barrow of Sydney Alliance. Photo: Supplied

of rentals in major new developments should be set to be affordable for people on lower incomes; and the target could be more like 30 per cent in larger developments with major government holdings, especially in urban expansion zones.

“This can and should be done,” says David Barrow, “as it has been in at least nine countries, in cities like London, Rotterdam and Galway, in over 200 communities in the US – with no harm to housing prices or supply, and consistent with healthy developer returns.”

IZ has been endorsed by a wide range of housing, planning, social justice and equity, church and other community organisations and researchers – and by an increasing number of politicians of all persuasions.

Former NSW Liberal Premier Nick Greiner says IZ should be a key priority for the Baird Government as it offers “significant economic and social benefits which cannot be ignored”.

Sydney Alliance partners are making submissions to the Greater

Sydney Commission over the coming months as it compiles its package of recommendations to the Baird Government on best planning options for the city.

Meanwhile, Uniting’s Social Justice Forum is encouraging supporters to email their own state MP for better affordable housing policy, including IZ.

Stafford Saunders is the Campaign Director of Uniting Justice Forum.

Musos say ‘no more’ to offshore detention

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

SYDNEY-BASED composer and performer Ruth McCall released a music video on October 12 to say “no more” to the cruelty of Australia’s offshore detention of asylum seekers. One hundred and seventy musicians, and an award-winning filmmaker, donated their time and talents to help create the video. Why?

What compelled you to undertake this creative project?

I made this music video to enable us as Australians to reconnect with the heart of the offshore detention issue, which is compassion, and to add to the growing push to find a humane resolution to the worldwide refugee crisis. It was important that we as musicians used our talents to speak for us. Together.

Why did so many musicians donate their time and talents?

There was a lot of concern among my professional colleagues over the issue of offshore detention – and we all know the arts can express things in a different way to speeches. The Solidarity Choir (Erskineville), The Acca-Pony Choir (Marrickville), the St James Choir (Sydney city) and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir (Glebe) were among the choirs that joined in this protest in the hope of encouraging Australia to do better as a nation.

What’s the project in a nutshell?

I drew together Sydney musicians and choirs horrified by the atrocities perpetuated against refugees at Australia’s offshore processing centres. We recorded these musicians singing and playing an arrangement of *Speed Bonnie Boat*, the Scottish folksong. In the song, Bonnie Prince



Images of protestors (pictured) are interspersed with other footage and images in the music video to engender compassion. Photo: Martin Brady Photography

Charlie must travel through the wild seas of political and physical turmoil to a place of safety. Will this little boy make it? The additional Latin Mass text is about unity – I chose it because of the reference to one baptism (through water) and the idea of one humanity.

What about the music and filmmaking process?

Once I’d adapted the song for piano, strings and six vocal parts, I collaborated with good friend and award-winning filmmaker Denning Isles. We interspersed footage of the

musicians with other images, mostly of protestors from the Town Hall rally on August 27, representing a wide range of community groups.

The images and music work powerfully together – how have people responded?

It has been fantastic to see the response from the wider community. Australia’s treatment of asylum seekers has become somewhat bogged down in political fear. I doubt that anyone is really happy with how things are. Now is the time to be more creative and generous with our solutions.

What makes you confident that music and video can engender compassion where words and protest marches may have failed?

I don’t believe that words and protest marches have failed, but rather that Australia is at a moral crossroads at this point in history and that many voices are needed to help guide us towards a more heroic response.

What might an honourable response from Australia to the worldwide refugee crisis look like?

I remember what it felt like to participate in the gun buy-back

scheme some years back. Australia took significant steps to improve our society and to solve current and potential problems. There was a general sense of achievement and pride after the implementation of that policy, and I believe we can do it again by rising to the challenge of looking after displaced people, and that Australia will be better for it.

What would you most like people to do after they have watched the video?

Share it!
See Skyeboatsong.ozmedia.com

Frankie gets blessed

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

I'M super excited to be on a play date with Frankie. It's like he's the human and I'm the dog – skittish and yappy.

Leash in hand, I'm wrangling the most enthusiastic Jack Russell bitsa in Australia. My neighbours warn me not to take him.

"He'll probably burst into flames when he's blessed. He's so naughty!" I don't believe them.

To me, he's the purest bundle of joy. The way he jumps into the air to nuzzle my hand *each and every time he sees me* makes me wonder, "Why are humans so often restrained around the people we love?"

To be honest, I don't know what to expect as I enter the Uniting Church in South Sydney on Sunday October 2 for its service in praise of creation.

It's definitely *not* the vicar of Dibley with farm animals honking and bleating.

It definitely *is* animal friendly – and having a dog by my side makes chatting before the service begins quite relaxing.

In fact, I'm so chilled by the time it starts I forget to panic when a parishioner passes the microphone to people who've brought pets (or photos of them) so we can share our experiences. When it's my turn to speak, I say Frankie is such a blessing to me – I wanted to bring him to the service to have him blessed back.

This is my first date with my neighbours' dog and I find myself trying to guess what Frankie's thinking as the dogs Rango, Frances, Lucy, Finnegan, Jenny, Bobbie, Ebony, Sammy and Horace; the cats Carrington, Esky and Augie; the canary Jasper; and the axolotl Lotty are introduced or spoken of *in absentia* during the service.

I also wonder what Frankie makes of the preacher, Alison Clark, who says God's good news is about bringing freedom for *all* creatures: "Freedom from whatever it is that prevents us living in the fullness of what we were created to be."

Clark speaks of how the animal-loving St Francis of Assisi believed in "preaching the gospel to all creatures, using words when necessary" – and of how she had seen the power of words in her "pat and chat" sessions with her dog Jenny. "When I talk about God, and how much he cares for her and how much he loves her, her demeanour changes and she gets a completely different look in her eyes. She'll often just reach out and give me a single lick on the nose, as if to say, 'I understand what you're saying Mum – God's really good.'"

Robyn Vazey has brought her dog Sammy to South Sydney to be blessed for the last four or five years. She says Clark's words have made her think of all of the unfortunate animals in the intensive-farming system that have no freedom, and spend their whole lives just waiting to be killed.

"I think pets today are very lucky," she says. "But there are a lot of animals in the world that are very *unlucky* – and my prayers and thoughts are with them in their raw deal. If we can eat less meat, that's really the best thing we can do without words [to free animals]. Eastgardens' pet shop is now selling vegetarian dog food. So yeah: Eat less meat."

Once the animals have been blessed and we've each received a banksia-echidna and a "Thank You God" card for our pets made by the children, I'm eager to get Frankie outside. As we're leaving, I consider how all creatures



Frankie primed for his next adventure Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones



Pip Clark with dogs Jenny and Frances Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones

deserve our respect and protection and not our domination and destruction. Count the species that are disappearing each year – and I suspect you'll say amen to that.

As Frankie's nose twitches, his eyes twinkle and his stocky little body yanks me towards his next feverish adventure, my heart surges with gratitude. Not just for him but for all the world's creatures that crawl, run, swim, float and fly around us. I think of the hippopotami in Kruger, the puffins in the Faroe Islands, and the dopey Red Setter I loved but who went missing 30 years ago (and I haven't had a dog since). I think of the bees that swarmed around a friend's gumtree as we relaxed in her garden, the bat babies that the WIRES volunteer, Meg Churches, rescues from the bellies of their electrocuted mothers, and our cat Aspen who

died sweating buckets despite her cool character and snowy name.

It's hopelessly anthropomorphic of me to say this, but I think Frankie loved hanging with me and the other pooches at church – and I'm sure he'd come with me again if I asked him.

I'm still caught up in his animal enthusiasm when I return home and say I think we should get a dog.

My husband looks at me, slit-eyed, like a sleepy crocodile.

"Let's not," he says. "We want to travel again, remember."

I stick a note on the fridge that says, "Organise play date."

Yes, it's with Frankie: Such a divine little dog.

Visit <http://www.wires.org.au/donate/ways-to-help> to donate to WIRES and <http://www.wires.org.au/rescue/become-a-rescuer> to become a WIRES carer.

SSH



Jenny Leong MP

STATE MEMBER
FOR NEWTOWN

Public housing for private profit?

For more than 100 years, government funded public housing has been available to low income earners in NSW.

Government owned estates provided working class people, the elderly, new immigrants, young families, and working people on low-income, essential services the opportunity to live in our cities and regional centres, and participate in their local communities.

In recent decades we have seen a shift. Successive governments have under invested in maintaining safe, secure, affordable housing for low-income earners. Many public housing tenants suffer long-standing issues around maintenance and safety.

Public housing is now only available to those with the greatest need. And even then, it's in extremely short supply.

There are now more than 100,000 people on the waiting list for public housing in NSW, with many waiting for more than ten years for a home.

The Baird Liberal government is selling off and redeveloping public housing. They intend to shift the management of thousands of public housing properties – about a third of all public housing in NSW – to the control of the community-housing sector.

Community housing providers have traditionally been not-for-profit organisations that provide important support services for tenants and play an essential role in the provision of affordable housing in NSW.

The big concern about the recent changes is the potential risk it opens up for big corporations to enter into the "business" of supply and management of public housing.

As a way of honouring the work of the late Ross Smith, a staunch public housing advocate, I took up the concerns he raised in last month's newspaper that the British corporation Serco had "made overtures" to the NSW Government in regards to the management of public and community housing, by asking a question of the Treasurer about this.

Shamefully the Government has failed to rule it out.

Serco became infamous in Australia through their operation of detention centres. They have been criticised by the Australian Human Rights Commission and been the subject of numerous complaints by detainees in those centres. Serco have also run a number of Australian prisons.

In the UK, Serco have held contracts to deliver housing services, including settlement services for asylum seekers, as well as prisons. Many of those operations have been the subject of scandal.

Despite Serco's international reputation, the NSW Government has made it clear that the door is wide open for Serco to step in to the public housing sector in NSW.

Regards,

Jenny Leong, MP for Newtown

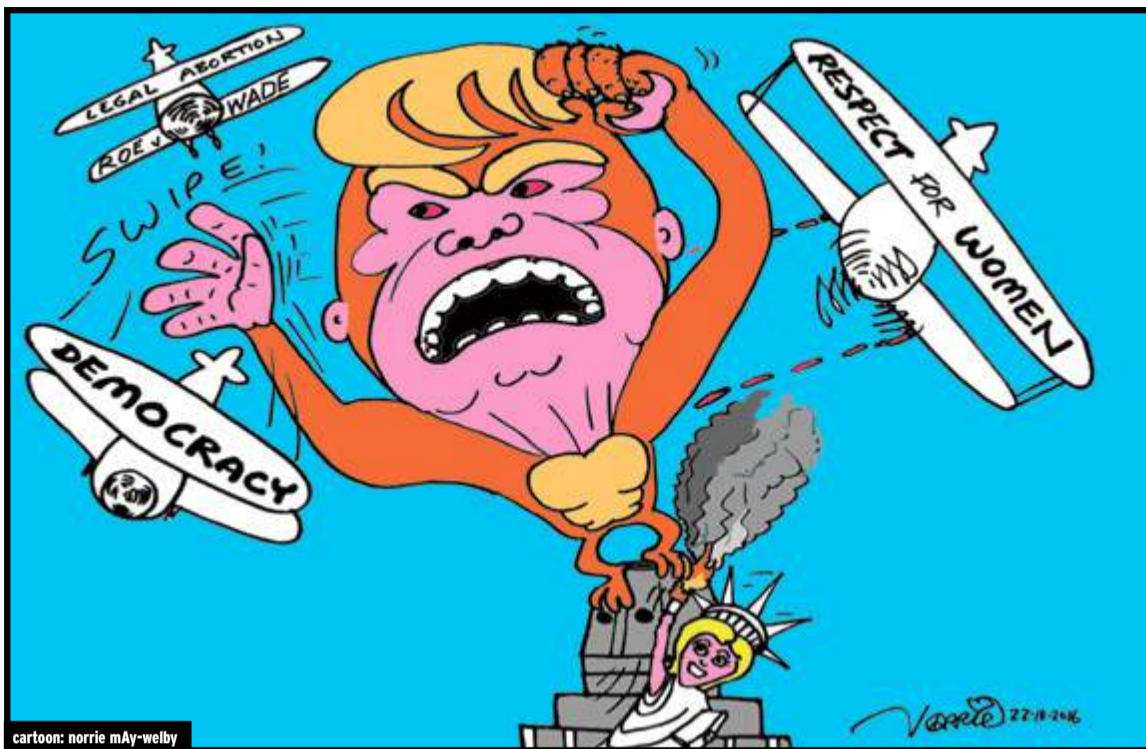
Can we help?

If you are concerned about a local issue or if our office can assist you with a specific matter, please get in touch.

Authorised by
Jenny Leong MP
State Member for Newtown

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cartoon: norrie MAy-welby

Ross Smith, *South Sydney Herald's* Volunteer Coordinator and distributor, was a prominent and loved member of South Sydney who contributed years of service to the community. Ross passed away suddenly on October 4. This was Ross's last letter to *SSH*, and is characteristic of his concerns for justice, accountability and a flourishing society. We run it as our November editorial to pay tribute to him.

Industry-speak, bureaucracy and other catastrophes

GUEST EDITORIAL

ROSS SMITH

TAKE a look at the loaded term "community participation", among other semantics, and ask: "Have you ever heard of 'government participation'?"

The relationship between the government and the community should be productive for both the community and the government, while residing within a framework of mutuality.

The participatory process engaged in by the government is commonly referred to as "community participation". This expression implies that participation is a process applicable to the community and places obligations on the community. There is no element of mutuality in the term. For the engagement process to deliver its full potential, both parties must actively desire to be in a genuine two-way relationship with an overall neutral power balance.

There also needs to be recognition that participation is not consultation.

The two have entirely different characteristics and should never be regarded as interchangeable.

NSW's Department of Housing, for example, embraced the concept of social capital in 1984 at the direction of its Minister, the late Frank Walker. The "bridging social capital" concept – overlapping of social networks – was included in the guiding principles underpinning the department's tenant participation activities.

Social capital comprises participation, trust, reciprocity, and relational networks. It's an almost intangible concept, underpinning the social fabric that holds the community together.

One description of social capital is the ideology used by governments to place responsibility for social problems in the hands of the community, that is, avoidance of government responsibility for problems caused by injustice and inequalities within society.

This has been the government's demonstrated approach to community participation – the community is responsible for identifying and then

healing the problems caused by the actions of the government.

Today the government has succeeded in denying itself the benefits of forming a functional two-way relationship with their electorate. The government has isolated itself from those it is meant to be serving and the very cause of its existence – the community of NSW.

Whether the rejection of the community arises from fear on the government's part of losing absolute control is yet to be explored.

The imposition of rigid government programs that reflect the priorities of politicians and bureaucrats – rather than those of the local communities they represent and serve – creates barriers to achieving a productive mutually beneficial relationship between the community and their government.

The government has yet to answer the question of whether they want such a functional two-way relationship. Perhaps the reason for the delay is tied up in the government's reluctance to be accountable and transparent in their dealings with the community. SSH

Social mix: mantra masking reality

COMMENT

GEOFF TURNBULL

"SOCIAL mix" is the current mantra the NSW Government uses to justify its model for redeveloping public housing.

Rather than talking about developers selling off 70 per cent of a development on the private market to build 30 per cent of the development for public housing, the government dresses up the economics and politics of public housing redevelopment in the respectable garb of social mix.

If we were really having a discussion about social mix in Sydney we would not just be

talking about it in relation to public housing renewal, we would be seriously discussing affordable housing. We would be asking how those who work in the city can also live in it. We would be asking how we can increase the amount of social housing to address the growing waiting list. We would be looking to house the homeless and provide appropriate housing, and the services they need, for people with high needs. We would not be selling off public housing in the inner city or deciding that some places like Millers Point are too good for public tenants.

If we are really concerned about social mix, where are the programs to move poor people into rich suburbs? In the USA

such projects have shown some positive outcomes. As my son put it in a recent meeting with UrbanGrowth: "What about social mix in Double Bay, mate?"

But there is no discussion about these issues. Social mix is just the latest mantra.

In fact, our social housing estates are very socially mixed with people from many backgrounds, nationalities and religions living side by side supporting one another. This social cohesion is under threat from the redevelopment proposals. If people are moved out they will lose their homes, their support networks and their community.

When public housing started it was affordable housing. You had to have a stable job to pay the rent

The plebiscite, the referendum and the church

FAITH

PETER MAHER

IT seems the plebiscite on marriage equality will not pass the Senate and therefore will not go ahead but much damage has already been done. The fallout affects not only LGBTI people, but also Indigenous people as we prepare for the referendum on Indigenous recognition in our Constitution.

What role are Christianity and other faiths playing in this? Can religious principles inform us on a way ahead that values diversity, or are religions falling into the trap of colluding in ways that exclude and discriminate?

While the risks to vulnerable LGBTI people may be lessened without a plebiscite they are certainly not gone. Damaging remarks about parenting competences will continue. We know from the tenor of the debate that it is a debate about gay and lesbian people, rather than a dialogue with them. The majority of the population are making decisions about a minority. LGBTI people and their children find this threatening and intimidating. Australia's top health professionals have noted the risks for gay and lesbian mental health, and are suggesting that the money saved by abandoning the plebiscite be redirected to LGBTI mental health.

What has all this got to do with next year's referendum for constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians? Marcia Langton and other Indigenous leaders have noted that a negative, divisive debate on marriage equality brings out the fear of change in people. Just as with the Brexit vote in the UK, a spirit of rejection of change could follow on to the referendum.

Religious bodies have by and large remained silent on marriage equality or have actively opposed it such as we have seen from the Australian Christian Lobby. This has led to some fairly dubious claims in an effort to scare people. For example, marriage equality is not going to change the parenting patterns of gay couples, nor will the marriage bill affect how sex education is taught, or anti-bullying programs are run, in schools.

How might religious bodies contribute to the discourse about

marriage equality from their principles? I am a Christian so I will offer my comments from a gospel perspective, although many religions share basic values such as love each other as you would wish to be loved.

While Christians may have certain views about marriage in their own religious contexts, the bill before the people of Australia is a civil marriage bill to preserve the rights and dignity of all Australians. Religious bodies may need to educate their adherents about the meaning of marriage in their own denominations and faiths and to explain how this differs from the Marriage Act. However, religious bodies also regularly comment on national and civic issues for the common good. How might they proceed here?

I suggest Christians begin by demanding respect for the dignity of each person irrespective of race, creed or sexual orientation. While this seems self-explanatory, we must ensure that comments are not only factual (for example it is disingenuous to cite out-of-date, academically discredited research such as the Regnerus research on gay parenting) but also respectful. This might be achieved by dialogue with LGBTI people to find language that includes and respects rather than offends and hurts. Many LGBTI Christian groups would willingly assist church leaders in this task but they mostly have been excluded, ignored or vilified by church leaders.

Gospel values of love, equality, care for the voiceless and respect for the dignity of all could support and inspire Australia's LGBTI and Indigenous people. Christian leaders might commit to a discourse of deep respect and listening to marginalised voices and indeed amplify those voices that are crying out not to be strangled by the majority.

We religious people have much to learn about how to contribute constructively to the new world emerging around us. It is about being a leaven in the communities to which we belong without compromising our uniqueness and sustainability as one voice within a multicultural, multi-faceted and multifaceted society learning to live in harmony and peace for the good of all. SSH

Fr. Peter Maher is the parish priest at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Newtown.

and you had to have your current house inspected to show you could look after a government property.

Today we have a growing concentration of people with high needs in public housing, not because of some natural phenomena, but because government policy decides to allocate this housing to people with higher and higher needs without adequate support, rather than build more housing stock to maintain the earlier system.

The concentration government says it wants to mix is entirely of its own policy-making.

Finally, government is talking tenure mix, which does not necessarily lead to social mix. In a Melbourne redevelopment the

public housing was separated by a wall from the private housing with its private green space. If one building has its own facilities and the other does not, where will the mix occur? Statistically everything will look better, but will there be a functional mixed community?

What needs to happen to create social mix from tenure mix? How do we get resources committed upfront so social mix actually results?

To do this we need a discussion about the complexities of social mix not a continual repetition of the current mantra. SSH

Delivered August 12, 2016 at University of Sydney Social Justice Learning Lab Glebe. See further literature and discussion on social mix online at [SSH](http://SSH.org.au).

My journey with epilepsy

LYN TURNBULL

I sat down today to write about epilepsy, only to discover that the language used to describe the different types of seizures I experience has changed to reflect major scientific advances in the field.

What has not changed is that many people with epilepsy still face social isolation and stigma. This is why as a former teacher I do all I can to educate and raise public awareness of the condition I've lived with for most of my life, although it wasn't formally diagnosed until I was almost 30.

According to the World Health Organisation, epilepsy is the world's most common serious brain disorder. It is more than three times as common as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and cerebral palsy.

Seizures and epilepsy are not necessarily the same. Seizures involve a disruption of the normal electrochemical activity of the brain. While about ten per cent of the population may have a seizure during their lifetime, epilepsy is only diagnosed when a person has recurring epileptic seizures. Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates over 250,000 Australians are living with epilepsy.

Seizures can be divided into three major groups: **focal**, where seizure activity starts in one area of the brain and may spread to other regions of the brain (there are three presentations); **generalised**

seizures, which result from abnormal activity in both hemispheres of the brain simultaneously and where consciousness is lost at the onset of the seizure (there are many types of generalised seizures); and **unknown**, where the origin of the seizures can't be determined.

I'm part of the about 60 per cent of people with epilepsy who have **focal seizures** (formerly known as partial seizures). These seizures can often be subtle or unusual. My childhood comments to my mother that I could taste blood were not recognised as epilepsy, although these episodes probably were **focal seizures with awareness retained** (formerly simple partial seizures). The focus, where my seizures begin, is my right temporal lobe so it is my senses that are affected.

Unlike many who grow out of epilepsy at puberty, my seizures changed, so at high school my best friend became accustomed to explaining to teachers why I was slumped unresponsively on the floor. Again no connection was made and the assumption was that "Lyn just has a tendency to faint". Possibly these were **generalised atonic seizures** as I would usually feel a bit odd, so lean against a wall that I would slide down.

A couple of years later on a road trip with friends from uni, I lost control of the car I was driving, rolling it four times. This time epilepsy came to my aid as I lost consciousness when I realised I couldn't prevent the accident. When



Jem Computer Systems' team ran in the City2Surf in support of their managing director's son who has a rare form of uncontrolled epilepsy Photo: Epilepsy Action Australia

the roof of the car crushed down I was slumped in the seat and the damage to my head was minimised.

Back in the mid-1980s the influence of hormones for women with epilepsy wasn't well recognised, and the links suggested to me by an alternative health practitioner were dismissed by neurologists I saw at the time. However, the onset of my **focal dyscognitive seizures with awareness altered** (formerly complex partial seizures) coincided with when I discontinued the contraceptive pill. This was when my epilepsy was first diagnosed.

I have been taking various antiepileptic medications (AEDs) since then, but unfortunately I'm not part of the approximately 70 per cent of people who gain full seizure control with treatment.

Hormonal changes were also involved when a couple of days after the birth of my

daughter, but fortunately before I was discharged from hospital, I had my first **focal seizure that evolved to a bilateral convulsive seizure** (formerly secondarily generalised tonic-clonic seizure).

I also had a prolonged focal dyscognitive seizure during the birth of my son, but fortunately it didn't become convulsive. My last memory is of warning my husband Geoff that I was having a "turn", not a contraction. The midwife at the birth centre at RPA who was caring for me had nursing experience at the epilepsy unit of another major teaching hospital. She reassured Geoff that no intervention was needed as long as I co-operated by following instructions and she was able to monitor that the baby's heart rate continued to be normal. A couple of hours later I regained awareness, although at that stage no sense of pain, so I had the joy of giving birth naturally with no

pain to a very healthy 4.1kg baby.

Now, the workings of hormones in the brain are better understood. It is well accepted that oestrogen is an "excitatory" hormone, which means that it makes brain cells give off more of an electrical discharge, so for some women seizures spread when oestrogen levels are high. Progesterone, on the other hand, is an "inhibitory" hormone, which means that it calms those cells down.

My journey with epilepsy has been more complicated than many, but neuroscience is making progress in its understanding, diagnosis and treatment.

In much of the world November is epilepsy awareness month. Epilepsy Action Australia has launched E-Tea so people can put on the kettle and have a cuppa with family, friends or colleagues to raise funds and to generate awareness of epilepsy. See www.epilepsy.org.au

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Threads of love for those who suffer

SSH

Determined to lead the way to survivor recovery, representatives from combined faith traditions united on Sunday October 24 at Pitt Street Uniting Church to light candles and offer prayers of hope.

Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, Baha'i and Hindu people of faith participated in a respectful ritual of lament and memorial for survivors of childhood trauma and abuse. This bold step forward in unity and collaboration featured music from several faith traditions, including a poignant opening song by Gumbaynggir-Wiradjuri musician Tim Gray and a musical interlude from the Baha'i Community Choir, as well as a reading from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse public record, a play excerpt from Alana Valentine and a remarkable testimonial about recovery by Simon Cole. The ritual closed with participants weaving blue threads through a Melissa Carey artwork to symbolise "that threads of love will be woven into the lives of all who suffer". The event was held in support of the Blue Knot Foundation.

SSH

The Review

ARTS & CULTURE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Drover's Wives



A magnificent Leah Purcell plays the wife in the recent production of *The Drover's Wife* at the Belvoir Theatre. Photo: Brett Boardman

CATHERINE SKIPPER

WHEN I heard Henry Lawson's *The Drover's Wife* being dismissed by an arts commentator as "old hat", I was surprised. First published in *The Bulletin* on July 23, 1892, the story was groundbreaking. At a time when acknowledgement of gender equality was unimaginable, Lawson's story puts forward the idea that a woman could equally represent the newly emerging Australian identity of the noble bushman.

Lawson's story begins at sunset when the drover's wife, who lives alone with her four children in an isolated, inhospitable environment, sees a snake slipping under the house. While she sees the snake as a danger at the same time she calmly sets about securing the safety of her children and prepares to spend the night awake in the company of her dog Alligator, in case the snake reappears. During her vigil she remembers other threatening situations she has faced without her husband – flood, drought, bovine pleuro, a menacing swagman – and survived.

Nevertheless this resolute woman still takes pleasure in reading the *Young Ladies Journal*.

Lawson's own contemporary Barbara Baynton reacted strongly against Lawson's perspective in her short story *The Chosen Vessel*. Her central character, a shearer's wife, lives with her child in the bush, and is alone for long periods of time. While she doesn't like the bush it is not the desolate land that presents a threat to her survival, but rather how she is perceived by the males with whom she has contact.

When the story opens she, like the drover's wife, is dreading what the night may bring. A swagman is camped not far from her home and is waiting for the dark to attack her. She thinks of going to her husband but he would only dismiss her trepidation with contempt. When her fears eventuate she flees into the night but her appeal for help from a passing horseman is ignored as the young man thinks he is having a vision of the Virgin and her child. Her femininity not only makes her vulnerable but also brings about her destruction.

Several other later stories recycle the image of the drover's wife, each one exploring the

threat posed to the female by male assumptions about a woman's role. In particular, the stories all entitled *The Drover's Wife* by Murray Bail, Barbara Jefferis and Mandy Sayer emphasise the strength and capability of woman, and the inability of the male to reconcile female needs and desires with their "standard" of womanhood.

In Bail's story, the middle-class townie narrator who has been deserted by his wife for a drover and bush life reflects on, and condemns, changes in his wife's conduct. Hazel began to do "unfeminine" things like chop wood (and sweat!) and he is completely traumatised when she kills a snake at the beach. Mandy Sayer's story gives Hazel's perspective on events. In this version, Hazel's husband leaves her after she displays an unseemly passion that does not accord with his "standards" of feminine behaviour. Jefferis's story is critical of Lawson's story, as the female narrator sees the anonymity of the wife as objectifying the woman. She wants her readers to know "about how women have a history too".

Leah Purcell's staged version of *The Drover's Wife* wants her audience to know that Aboriginal women also have a history. While Purcell's re-imagining reprises many of the details from Lawson's story – the death of a child, the gallows-faced swagman, a stray Aboriginal, the mad bullock, the protective son – they are reworked in a radically different context.

In some ways Purcell's story is closer to Baynton's version. Her drover's wife, one heavily pregnant and fearful Molly Johnson, lives alone in the outback with her eldest son, her other children away as birth is imminent. She is subjected to abuse by an array of conniving or brutal white males despite the single shot Martini Henry rifle she relies on for protection. Like Lawson's wife, Molly tries to bluff strangers into believing that her husband will be back soon, a pretense that underscores a woman's vulnerability.

However, it is later revealed that Molly has killed her husband in self-defence and buried him under the woodheap. This circumstance causes us to reconfigure Molly's fearfulness as

more than a fear of passing males but rather the fear that Joe's disappearance will be noted, and have consequences. The ever-present and ominous axe poised in the chopping block references her terrified state, which proves justified by the sexual vengeance wreaked upon her female body by Joe's mate.

Purcell's version also begins with a siege. However, the perceived threat, an injured Aboriginal man, proves to be not her enemy but her salvation. Black, as she calls him, as she shares the colonial prejudice against Aborigines, reveals to Molly that her mother was Aboriginal. At first, she slaps him but eventually his revelation brings a new understanding of herself, and of her husband's brutal treatment of both her and his children. This knowledge gives her the strength to endure the loss of children stolen by the state and faith in her ability to get them back. Leaving the white world, she takes the path described to her by Yadaka, Black's real name, and which will lead "to the cave, supplies and in the spring ... (our) people".

We might feel comforted by the vision of this woman, resurrected by the knowledge of her Aboriginality, but for the closing passage. Embracing her son in a reversal of the Lawsonian conclusion, and clutching her rifle, she says "And when ya're old enough ... I'll introduce you to Robert Parsen and John McPharlen". It seems that Molly is dedicating her son, and the future, to exacting vengeance for her rape and thereby perpetuating white masculine violence.

There are yet other versions of Lawson's story than those discussed, for instance, Anne Gambling's *The Drover's De Facto*, and another by Frank Moorhouse, and more may still lie ahead. Far from being "old hat" the drover's wife seems to be a figure upon whom Australian writers choose to inscribe socio-cultural conflict over inclusivity.

The Drover's Wife, written by Leah Purcell and directed by Laticia Caceres, was recently at the Belvoir Theatre, with a magnificent Leah Purcell taking the role of the drover's wife.

Eclectic mix draws crowds to Artisans in the Gardens

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

"IT'S my dream job," says Lucette Moore, curator of *Artisans in the Gardens* at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney – a nine-day exhibition that showcases Australian art and craft, and continues to pack in the crowds in its 16th year.

"*Artisans* is a lovely mix [of emerging and established artists] and quite eclectic. That's what's fascinating about it. Finding these amazing people. It's just terrific."

One find was Jim Hamilton who crafts agapanthus and cactus out of iron wire.

"Jim's a sheep farmer who wouldn't class himself as an artist or an artisan and, all of a sudden, he's become one overnight. He's done so well – and is absolutely pleased as punch."

In curating the exhibition, Moore volunteered time over ten months to visit galleries, trawl Instagram and negotiate with more than 45 artisans to secure their involvement. She and the volunteer committee also managed the logistics for more than 2,500 artworks to be displayed from October 15 to 23 at the Lion Gate Lodge for visitors to purchase.

Ann Robinson has volunteered for 12 of the 16 years of *Artisans* because she enjoys it. "I love coming here and seeing how clever people

are. They're so creative. Look at these scarves by Zoe Wall. So beautiful and versatile."

Robin McBride also happily gives her time to botanic garden events like *Artisans*, *Botanica* and *Treecycle*, because it's such a gentle and relaxing place. "I got married here five years ago at Lion Gate Lodge – so I have happy memories."

Ceramicist Katherine Mahoney has exhibited three times in *Artisans* and used this year's theme of nature and the garden to extend her range of hand-thrown pieces.

"My inspiration came from the local sandstone and the beautiful rocks you find with the little speckles of gold. I've introduced some new shapes and some gold into the range – so that's a big, new step for me."

Mahoney says one huge benefit of being at *Artisans* is getting feedback from customers about her tableware.

"I work in isolation – and I'm in my little workshop all day. Here I can communicate with the people who are buying the pieces or looking at them. I get some really valuable feedback as to how people look at the colours, how they like to put things together."

When Mahoney's not helping customers she's mulling over a baby-pink plate she's making for Troy Rhoades-Brown from Muse restaurant in the Hunter Valley.

"I've got to get it right for him so he



Katherine Mahoney used this year's nature theme to extend her range of hand-thrown ceramics. Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones

can serve the strawberries and the coconut cream in a cloud of liquid nitrogen – and then he's putting a blackcurrant veiling on top of that ... It's a big challenge!"

Moore is excited by the work of the many emerging artists featured this year and mentions Holly Macdonald's quirky hand-painted pottery, Kate O'Farrell's acrylic and ply bowls, Kai Wasikowski's 3D photographs, and Pamela Pudan's ceramic orbs with fine wafers.

The diverse mix of contemporary art, sculptures, ceramics, textiles, bespoke homewares and jewellery has attracted good crowds in 2016, and Moore has enjoyed watching its creators bask in the *Artisans*' oasis.

"Different artists come at different times but there's no pressure for them to be here because we have sales people on the job. So it's a lovely atmosphere for the artists.

"I don't think there's anything like it."

Proceeds from *Artisans in the Gardens* go to the artists and to assist Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens in its support of horticulture, conservation, scientific research and education programs within the gardens. – Front page banner photo of artist Jade Oakley by Carolyn Price.

Girls to the front at the Sad Grrrls Club

Live Music Review by Matthew Power

RECENTLY high profile musicians such as Spiderbait, High Tension, Luca Brasi and Camp Cope have publicly called out the abusive behaviour of men attending their shows.

Women within the Sydney music community say this behaviour is systemic of a broader issue, a patriarchal industry that can be tough to break into.

Sydney based collective the Sad Grrrls Club is working to address this gender imbalance by providing safe spaces for non-males (female, non-binary or gender-non-conforming) to participate in music as performers, professionals and spectators.

On Saturday October 8, The Sad Grrrls Club held Australia's largest female-fronted music festival at the Factory Theatre in Marrickville.

Courtney Luzmila performed solo as La Vif early in the day and later played drums with festival

headliners, Le Pie. Luzmila said attitudes towards female performers can be dismissive: "Too often women are held to a different standard than male performers."

Siobhan Poynton of Sydney punk band Scabz echoed the double standard that exists. "It's like we are expected to be twice as drunk, twice as tight, twice as funny and bring twice as many people [to a show] just to fit in with 'the boys'," Poynton said.

Even though Scabz weren't on the line up this year the band acknowledged Sad Grrrls Club events are important because they provide an environment where young bands know they will be accepted and supported.

Women starting out on a career in music may encounter obstacles that men performing the same role might never imagine says Monika Lackmann, a music writer who has been involved in the Sydney music scene since the 1980s. Women can be discouraged because of negative experiences early in their participation in the music industry.

It was early experiences of attending shows and feeling unwelcome that inspired Rachel Cox to create The Sad Grrrls Club. "While it might not have been stated explicitly, there was a sense that as a woman you needed to work harder to prove that you deserved to be there," Cox said.

Cox supports bands that call out inappropriate behaviour, saying "it will encourage others to speak out". Monika Lackmann agrees, saying it is important for bands and especially males in bands to be "pro-active in nurturing an inclusive environment at shows".

Clinical psychologist Gunter Swoboda observes that gender bias in the music community is indicative of an aggressive patriarchal system.

Swoboda runs a program called "Making Good Men Great" and says there is a "real need for men to re-think their own masculinity and how it's expressed". He said this starts with a focus on educating young males about diversity and promoting greater inclusion.

Maddie Mallis performed



Maddie Mallis believes the Sad Grrrls Festival sparks discussion about inclusivity nationally
Photo: Jane McCormack

at the Sad Grrrls Fest with her band Jackie Brown Jr.

After her performance she spoke about the importance of the Sad Grrrls Festival in bringing girls to the front. Mallis said "the fact that this festival needs to exist" is important because it sparks a discussion about festival line-ups at local and national levels becoming more inclusive.

Word plays

Ross

At morning tea he usually sat on the stairs, a tall man folded up, fitting long limbs into a narrow space.

Late evenings he often walked through Waterloo Green as my dog came down for its last micturition. 'Hello,' he'd say, 'Time you took your mother upstairs and made her a cup of tea.'

Morning, afternoon he was busy with odd jobs, scheduled meetings about bicycle paths, garden fences, decayed spouting, inconvenient trees or neighbours, street lighting, equity for walk-ups, tenants' rights, and delivering the *South Sydney Herald*; a faithful man filling a generous space.

He usually wore a polo shirt, a blue of faded intensity, and he often turned scarlet lowering his head and I could hear his anger pawing at the ground.

It is strange and painful, that someone so particularly present can suddenly not be there.

- Catherine Skipper

REVOLUTION
(For Ross Smith)

We loved him and he loved us
Many topics we liked to discuss
Identity politics, abandonment of the working class

He loved us and we loved him
The way is a state of delirium
Making our prayers to regain equilibrium

Revolution

We loved him and he loved us
Reading a book by Saint Maximus
About a time before passions, ignorance, illness

Revolution

He loved us and we loved him
The state is a site of delirium
Calling on Jesus - on every poor, renegade pilgrim

Revolution

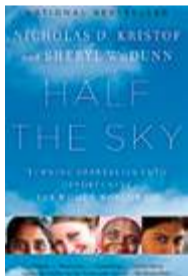
Cherries for Christmas, a coffee to the brim
A paper to deliver in the interim
Many are the things we hold in common, and we loved him

Revolution

- Andrew Collis

Turning oppression into opportunity

Book Review by Marjorie Lewis-Jones



Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide
Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
Knopf

PROMPTED by the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, I pulled this New York Times Bestseller from my mounting "must read" pile and got on with it. *Half the Sky* is not a new book but its stories about

how badly girls get treated across the globe are still (sadly) relevant.

Kristoff and WuDunn are journalists and Pulitzer Prize winners who broach the issues of sex trafficking, sexual violence, maternal mortality, inequitable access to education and gender bias head on - drawing their insights from encounters with survivors, and advocates for change. They show how girls and women have been beaten to death over dowries, gang-raped if they leave the house, endured genital mutilation from cutting, and obstetric fistula from acid attacks, or were married off or sold into brothels as children.

Like most issues in the list, early and forced marriage is still a widespread problem inhibiting girls' progress. The stats are serious - one in three girls in developing countries (except China) get married before they turn 18. Girls who are child brides don't

receive education, are more vulnerable to physical and sexual violence, and bear children before they are physically or emotionally ready to do so.

The violence begins in girlhood, and extends into womanhood and across generations.

United Nations (UN) Women is working around the world to mobilise communities against the practice. Committed individuals are also making headway. Theresa Kachindamoto, the senior chief in the Dedza District of Central Malawi, who has power over nearly 900,000 people, has annulled more than 850 child marriages in the last three years. She has also sent hundreds of women back to school and made inroads into abolishing cleansing rituals that involve girls as young as seven to go to sexual initiation camps.

Half the Sky has done much to encourage a movement of people to fight for liberation. Its website offers

games, blogs and free educational videos to help raise awareness about the oppression of women and girls and to help NGOs and others improve conditions for them.

Kristoff and WuDunn argue that ending women's oppression now is as necessary and as momentous as ending slavery was in the past. They also urge us to consider why we continue to neglect such a huge humanitarian issue.

The problems facing women and girls can seem enormous and intractable. *Half the Sky* succeeds in making them graspable and shows how simple efforts can be effective in bringing change.

UN Women says "Let girls be girls" - and it's a good call.

We'll know that girls have freedom and equality when nobody has to say that.

See www.halfttheskymovement.org

Doggy film festival is world-class in cool

SSH

ZETLAND: One of the coolest film festivals in the world is coming to Zetland this December - so don't miss your chance to get your \$10 tickets. U.S. MovieMaker magazine lists The Good Dog! International Film Festival (GDIFF) as one of its world "Top 10" in the 'Out of the Box' category. It said: "If it isn't cool enough that each movie at GDIFF screens features a dog, all of the profits are donated to Australian and International dog charities."

The annual festival, held at Joynton Park in Zetland, is an original Australian event and the longest running and largest of its



kind in the world. All films have a connection with canines and the line-up this year includes animated and live action dog films from the US, Australia, Canada, UK, Switzerland, Brazil, Estonia, Spain, Ireland, Peru, Portugal and Sweden. All profits are donated to

Australian dog charities and the proceeds of ticket sales this year will benefit the dog charity Young Diggers (www.youngdiggers.com.au/dogs) that trains ex pound dogs as service dogs for veterans with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). The festival is

seeking the public's support to sell out each night in an effort to maximise the benefit to veterans.

GDIFF festival director Anny Slater says, "The festival line-up includes a fantastic array of short and feature films to excite film fanatics, families, singles and dog lovers alike. We know Australians love films with dogs and the aim of this unique festival is to entertain, but also to raise funds for dog-related charities."

Tickets are available from Moshtix www.moshtix.com.au for screenings at Joynton Park, Zetland, which will be held from 7pm to 11pm on Friday December 2 and Saturday December 3. See the festival line-up at www.gooddogff.com

Ross never spoke to anyone about his family and while he gave much of himself to others he gave little away about himself. As yet the police have been unable to locate any relatives. Counterpoint staff team has met initially with some of Ross's known immediate friends and are proposing to have a public celebration of Ross's life in mid-November. It will be a non-religious service, however facilitated by his friends from *South Sydney Herald* and the Uniting Church in Waterloo. Confirm details with The Factory 9698 9569 or SSH website.

Counterpoint is also collecting stories of Ross, imagery, press clippings and digital media. These can be emailed to info@counterpointcs.org.au or handed in to The Factory Community Centre or South Sydney Community Aid.

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

PAT CLARKE

Vale Ross Smith

Volunteer Coordinator and SSH distributor Ross Smith collapsed at Waterloo Green last month, as he was preparing to start distributing the October issue of the paper. Sadly Ross could not be revived. He will be sorely missed by all of us here at the *South Sydney Herald* and especially by those in the many local organisations where he was an active member. Our sincere sympathies and thoughts are with his family and friends.

November is:

Asbestos Awareness Month.

Australia has one of the highest rates of asbestos-related diseases in the world. For further information, especially if renovating, visit: www.asbestosawareness.com.au.

Lung Health Awareness Month:

www.lungfoundation.com.au

E-Tea for Epilepsy Awareness Month.

See article page 8.

Newtown Festival

November 13, 9.30am-5.30pm. Camperdown Memorial Rest Park - there will be markets, music as well as the much loved and anticipated Festival Dog Show. Proceeds to the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre and to alleviating homelessness.

Good Neighbourhood BBQ

Wednesday November 16, 5-8pm. At Beaconsfield Park, 54 Queen Street, Beaconsfield. One of a series of BBQs hosted by the City of Sydney and NSW Police. This is a free event.

The Bower Re-Use and Repair Centre Annual Auction

November 19, 10am-4pm. At Hut 34, Addison Road Community

Centre, Marrickville. The Bower has set aside vintage, retro and unusual items for this fun day, with music, sausage sizzle and kids activities. They also have an on-line store so take an opportunity to check it out: www.bower.org.au.

St Jude's Spring Fair

Saturday November 12, 8am-2pm. Fun for all the family with pony rides, Kindi Farm, lucky dip, Devonshire teas, and other stalls. St Jude's Anglican Church, 106 Avoca St, Randwick.

'A Shared Passion' Exhibition

November 5 to December 8, daily 8am-8pm. Newtown artists Ruth Law and Justin Van Den Berg will donate 25 per cent of sales from their exhibition to St Vincents Hospital. Justin will also donate 10 per cent to the Peter Duncan Neurosciences Unit. Law says the paintings "exude a serenity and calmness for all to enjoy". St Vincents Hospital - Public Xavier Level 3 (ground floor) 390 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst.

Mass and Commemoration for World AIDS Day 2016

Friday December 2, 8pm. All are welcome to join in and remember by name all those lost to or affected in any way by AIDS and HIV, as well as their families and friends. Light refreshments 7.15pm. St Joseph's, Newtown (corner of Bedford and Station Streets) accessible by wheelchair and mobility scooter. Email newtownfaith@gmail.com or phone 02 9557 3197.

Until next time.

Pat Clarke



A COMMUNITY OF FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

Our Minister of the South Sydney Uniting Church, the Rev. Andrew Collis, is away for the next few months in Boston on long-service and study leave.

While he is away, our church will receive some very special pastoral and preaching ministry from Sr Anne Jordan of the Cana Communities, which cares for homeless people. Others will also bring preaching and presiding gifts. On November 6, we will have a focus on care for survivors of child abuse - Blue Knot Sunday.

The following are our guest preachers:

November 6

Rev. Dorothy McRae-McMahon (Blue Knot Sunday)

November 13

Dr Miriam Pepper - environmentalist and social scientist

November 20

Rev. Susan Pickering (Reign of Christ - Celebrating Community Sunday) - Leichhardt Uniting Church Minister

December 11

Rev. Dr Clive Pearson - public theologian and educator

December 18:

Rev. Dr. William Emilsen - retired historian and educator

For all other Sundays, the preacher is Anne Jordan. Andrew Collis will be back at the start of January 2017.

Anyone is very welcome to join us and to stay for morning tea after the service. Our services begin at 10am.

Rev. Dorothy McRae-McMahon is the Minister-in-Association of South Sydney Uniting Church

Waterloo Recycling Workshop

Workshop and market open Fridays
9am-12pm.
Turunga Flats, 1 Phillip St, Waterloo (lower car park).
Affordable furniture and household goods.
Donations gladly received (no white goods or electrical apps).
Volunteers welcome - phone Naomi on 0407 576 098

REDWatch

Meetings first Thursday of the month at The Factory Community Centre.
Phone Geoffrey Turnbull (02) 8004 1490.
Email mail@redwatch.org.au

Women's Reconciliation Network

Meeting on November 24.
10AM-12PM at the Redfern Community Centre.
Hugo Street Redfern.
10am cuppa followed by meeting till 12 noon.

BABANA ABORIGINAL MEN'S GROUP

Babana Shed open Mon-Fri
(Cnr St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave, Glebe)
Contact: Mark Spinks 0411 282 917

SATURDAY ART CLASS

South Sydney Uniting Church (56a Raglan St, Waterloo)
12-4pm November 12 & 26

All materials provided.
Previous & new participants welcome.
Gold coin donation.
More information phone 0415 415 139.

Artwork by Naomi Ward, 2016

Uniting Churches



South Sydney Uniting Church
56a Raglan St, Waterloo
Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday
Evening Prayers 5pm (2nd Sunday of the month)
Sister Anne Jordan 0499 464 002
www.southsydneyuniting.org.au

The Sacred Lounge

Cnr St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave, Glebe
Worship 7pm Sunday
'Colbourne Ave' intimate candlelit concerts 8pm Thursday
Office 9518 9413
www.sacredlounge.org.au

Leichhardt Uniting Church

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

Mustard Seed Uniting Church

Cnr Quarry St & Bulwara Rd, Ultimo
Worship 9.30am Sunday
Rev. David Gore 0449 875 065
mustardseed.unitingchurch.org.au

Newtown Mission

280 King St Newtown
Worship 9.30am & 6pm Sunday
Rev. Graeme Tutt 9519 9000
www.newtownmission.org.au

Paddington Uniting Church

395 Oxford St, Paddington
Worship 10.30am & 7.30pm Sunday
Rev. Ben Gilmour Office 9331 2646
www.paddingtonu.ca.org.au

Pitt Street Uniting Church

264 Pitt St, Sydney
Worship 10am Sunday
Rev. Dr Margaret Mayman Office 9267 3614
www.pittstreetuniting.org.au

Wayside Chapel

29 Hughes St, Potts Point
Worship 11am Sunday
Rev. Graham Long Office 9581 9100
www.thewaysidechapel.com

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Dive in to Prince Alfred Park Pool (pictured) and two other city pools free on select dates in November Photo: City of Sydney

Swim free in Sydney

SSH
SYDNEYSIDERS are invited to try some of the city's most stunning pools for free and go in the running to win four tickets to the 2016 New Year's Eve viewing area at Dawes Point.

Visitors can have a swim, try a fitness class, tour the facilities, get a special discount on the City of Sydney's 360 membership, ask questions at Meet the Manager sessions, enjoy a free barbecue and have their children's faces painted. Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the open days were a great

opportunity to enjoy some of the best aquatic centres in the country. "Our world class pools and gyms offer residents the chance to live fit and healthy lifestyles. They're supervised by professional lifeguards and fitted out with excellent fitness facilities," the Lord Mayor said. "Open day visitors who sign up for a 12-week learn to swim or water safety program will go into the running to win tickets to the Dawes Point viewing area on New Year's Eve." Visitors can also sign up to the City's 360 membership with a discounted joining fee of \$3.60. Members will have access to all

of the City's aquatic and fitness facilities and a range of additional fitness opportunities and initiatives. Each of the City's five aquatic centres boasts a 50-metre pool for lap swimming and a range of other facilities and services, including gyms, indoor courts, fitness classes, massage/physiotherapy treatments and cafes. **SSH**

The following pools will be free to the public from 10am - 3pm on their Saturday open days in November:
November 5 - Cook+Phillip Park Aquatic and Fitness Centre
November 12 - Victoria Park Pool
November 19 - Prince Alfred Park Pool



Host families help talented Indigenous soccer players fulfill their dreams Photo: Supplied

Can your family host a talented child?

SSH
THE Nangala Project, a non-profit initiative to relieve Indigenous poverty and disadvantage, is urgently looking for host families for children from remote Borroloola Northern Territory who have been selected to commence high school and play football (soccer) in Sydney.

Back home the students attend the Nangala Project's John Moriarty Football (JMF) program, which uses sport as a vehicle for positive change. Through football the children gain access to educational opportunities

and a healthier future. With the support of warm, loving host families, who have room in their hearts and their homes, these talented Indigenous children can fulfill their dreams. JMF is a football engagement program for six- to 16-year-old boys and girls and was co-founded by John Moriarty, the first Aboriginal Australian selected to play soccer for Australia, and his son, James Moriarty. JMF will pay the host family \$300 per week to cover food and board. **SSH**

See www.nangalaproject.org.au and email info@nangalaproject.org.au for more information.

\$20 for 10 DAYS
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