



RUFF SLEEPERS PETS GET SMOOTHER
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‘NAG NAG NAG’ BEATS WERE NEAT
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Artist and activist Bruce Shillingsworth with vocal supporter at the Yabun festival on January 26. Uncle Bruce spoke passionately of Indigenous strength, wisdom and connection to country. Photo: Andrew Collis

Statements from the heart

FIRST PEOPLES
WILLIAM W. EMILSEN

AT the core of the Uluru Statement from the Heart there are three key elements: a call for a First Nations voice to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution; a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement making, or treaties; and, for the Makarrata Commission to oversee a process of truth-telling for the nation. Or put simply in three words: Voice, Treaty, Truth.

The establishment of a First Nations Voice in the Constitution is the priority reform for Indigenous people. It is the key step forward. “A Voice”, writes Thomas Mayor, a Torres Strait Islander and author of *Finding the Heart of the Nation*, is “the first reform because it will start to address ... political disempowerment, setting us on the path for the future reforms of Treaty and Truth.”

Allan Murray, a Redfern man with Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta and Gamilaroi ancestry, and a proud supporter of the Redfern All Blacks, says that there is an “urgent need for a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice as an important first step for First Nations Unity”. The Statement from the Heart has five thought-provoking themes that have fascinating parallels with Jesus’ keynote proclamation about the kingdom or reign of God at the beginning of his ministry in Galilee (Matthew 4:12-26). The first is the power of place. In the Statement from the Heart, Aboriginal leaders from right across the nation gather at Uluru. In Matthew’s Gospel Jesus goes to Galilee. Uluru lies at the heart of Australia. The Sea of Galilee lies at the very heart of ancient Israel. Uluru, from time immemorial, has been a sacred place that evokes spiritual transformation. Galilee is foretold by the prophet Isaiah as the place where a great

light will shine in the darkness. Uluru symbolises the breaking down of divisions between black and white, and black and black. Galilee symbolises embracing people of all nations. Uluru expresses Indigenous people’s conviction that they are on the road to change. Galilee expresses Matthew’s conviction that Jesus’ life is unfolding according to God’s plan. Uluru is a reminder to all of us that we can find the heart of the nation. Galilee is a reminder that God’s reign of justice, righteousness and peace will finally prevail. In the Statement from the Heart there is a “spiritual notion” of sovereignty which, like the kingdom or reign of God in the Gospel, challenges Australia’s claim to sovereignty and differs from most forms of earthly rule. Also, both the notion of “ancient sovereignty” in the Uluru Statement and the reign of God envisage hope, transformation, new relationships and a new

ordering of things. The framers of the Uluru Statement express this hopeful vision with the words: “With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia’s nationhood.” Thirdly, there is an interesting parallel between the Uluru Statement’s invitation to the people of Australia to “listen” and Jesus’ call for “repentance” or turning around towards God. Both listening and repentance are doorways to change. For too long Aboriginal and Islander people have not been listened to. Professor Megan Davis compares our governments and Aboriginal and Islander people to ships passing each other in the night. There is, she says: “Only a signal and a distant voice in the darkness; / Only a look and a voice, / then darkness again and silence.” Listening is important. Good listening is an act of love. “Imaginative listening”, or “heart listening”, as Rachel Perkins calls it, is showing respect, dreaming together.

Both the framers of the Statement from the Heart and Jesus invite others to form a committed community to embrace their teaching. Aboriginal and Islander people invite all Australians to “walk with” or alongside them into “a better future” – into a new and better Australia. They invite Australians to take any action possible to move politicians and, when the time comes, to vote “yes” to the referendum question on the Voice to Parliament. Surely, this is not too much to ask. Finally, the Statement from the Heart’s three-fold program of Voice, Treaty and Truth-telling to the nation echoes Jesus’ programmatic activities of preaching, teaching and healing – Jesus’ good news of the kingdom of God. Both have the potential to heal the nation and to bring the Australian people together. It is the way forward.

On January 26, the Rev. Dr William Emilsen preached at South Sydney Uniting Church about the Uluru Statement from the Heart. He also asked those present to add their signatures to the margins of a replica of the statement.

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Climate change and inequality

URBAN DESIGN

ADAM ANTONELLI

AFTER a summer of unprecedented bushfires, many of us have directly or indirectly felt the very real effects of climate change. With the consequences of the collective failure of successive governments to address climate change more evident, it begs the question, what are the social consequences? Will climate change affect everyone equally?

Climate change disproportionately affects both poorer countries and poorer groups within countries and exacerbates inequalities. Focusing on within-country inequalities, a 2008 paper by the United Nations found that climate change worsens disadvantaged groups within a country as they are: more exposed to climate hazards; more susceptible to damage caused by climate hazards; less able to cope with and recover from damage.

While these within-country inequalities are more striking in poorer developing countries, inequalities are also exacerbated in those that are industrialised

and wealthy. A striking example of this is the recovery effort in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 which proceeded much quicker in areas inhabited by wealthier, white populations than those that were largely poor and black, despite these areas suffering the worst damage.

Although Australia enjoys a more egalitarian society than the United States, a 2019 report by the Climate Council found that without curtailing CO2 emissions and making investments in resilience and adaptation, climate change poses systemic economic risks and financial instability.

With little increase in social security and welfare such as Newstart, due to apparent budgetary constraints, the economic consequences of climate change will only increase the upward trend of social and economic inequality within Australia. Insurance premiums will become increasingly unaffordable for lower-income families living in areas exposed to current and emerging hazards such as flooding, bushfires and coastal inundation, which are more exposed to the effects of climate change. They have far less ability

to move or make other necessary adjustments to their living circumstances.

Rather than addressing the realities of the climate crisis, our political leaders are evading any real discussion of climate change, deceptively claiming that the action needed will adversely affect the economy. The truth is, a low-carbon economy provides a major opportunity to unlock thousands of clean energy jobs both low- and high-skilled, attract foreign investment and secure business confidence. The urgency to address climate change offers an opportunity to transform our economy and society to become more equal, kind and compassionate; to invest in public housing that is sustainable and energy efficient, free public transport and social security.

The government can improve the lives of people immediately by applying these principles to large public housing redevelopments such as the Waterloo estate. As one in four Australian households live in private rental or public housing, and do not have the rights to make capital improvements, the government should embrace the opportunity to

make environmentally sustainable investments with smart urban design in social housing estate renewals. These investments will decrease the financial burden of people on low incomes and reduce carbon emissions.

By mandating landlords and developers to create carbon neutral homes and to increase energy and water efficiency standards including solar and battery storage in existing housing, people on low incomes and renters will reduce energy consumption and will therefore have lower utility bills and a greater ability to cope in extreme weather. If we transferred the \$5 billion per year in subsidies going directly to the fossil fuel industry and the \$4.4 billion to make Adani commercially viable, into clean energy projects, public infrastructure and social security, the economic benefits would overturn the status quo.

As put by author and activist Naomi Klein, "if treated as a true planetary emergency" climate change could "become a galvanising force for humanity, leaving us all not just safer from extreme weather, but with societies that are safer and fairer in all kinds of other ways as well".

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This year's takings from the barbecue at the Alexandria Sunday Funday will be donated to NSW Fire Relief – supporting people and our native wildlife. Photo: Supplied

Residents band together for fun, firies and action

THE LOCALS

VANESSA KNIGHT

ALEXANDRIA: The signature event of the Alexandria Residents Action Group (ARAG) is the Alexandria Sunday Funday which is held annually at the end of March. We invite local businesses and community groups to participate in a fun day with a real village fair feel.

Each year, the event grows just a little larger and this year we are including a licensed area serving craft beer, which is a great addition. There is something for everyone – rides, jumping castles, petting zoos and face painting for the littlies, a marvellous dog event for our four-legged family members,

a fabulous food selection, a trash and treasure market, and shopping opportunities for all!

Bring a picnic blanket and invite family and friends to come along and enjoy a day in the park. There truly is something for everyone!

This year, the Alexandria Sunday Funday is being held on March 29 in Alexandria Park from 11am to 3pm. ARAG will be donating takings from the barbecue to support NSW Fire Relief – supporting people and our native wildlife.

Please save the date and come and join in the fun!

ARAG is an active group run by resident volunteers, which aims to share information on issues affecting our neighbourhood so that residents are more informed and can take collective action. The group meets on the

second Wednesday of month (excluding January) at the Alexandria Town Hall at 7pm.

The issues we cover include development, parking, traffic, transport, infrastructure and, of course, plans to improve our suburb. We invite interesting speakers and make the meeting as interactive as possible. It's great to see people's passion come alive!

There's a lot happening in and around Alexandria – some great and some not so great. Alexandria's excellent sense of community and its wonderful location means that we are a target for developers who have a strong profit motive, which is sometimes at odds with the neighbours.

We encourage residents to take a stance on issues that are important to them – including getting neighbours to band

together to collaborate on submitting objections to some of the larger developments that seem to come our way on a regular basis. There are great examples of people sharing knowledge and information to get better outcomes and, in the process, getting to know their neighbours.

We advocate for Alexandria at local, state and federal levels and try to get our politicians to work with us to get better outcomes. We work with Friends of Erskineville and REDWatch in hosting candidate forums for local, state and federal elections and this year, of course, we have the council elections for the City of Sydney which we are sure will be an interesting contest.

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For more information ARAG's website www.arag.org.au or email info@arag.org.au

How a first edition of ‘Principia’ with Newton’s notes got to Sydney

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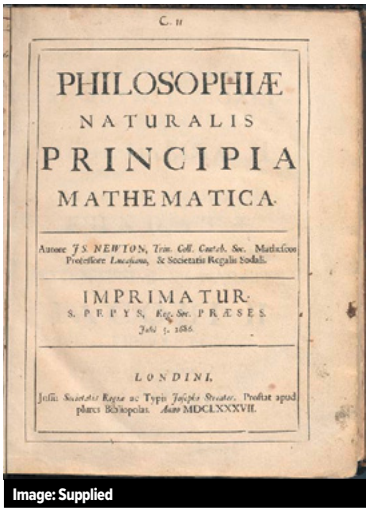
MICHAEL SPENCE

FIRST published in 1687, *Principia (Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica)* is one of the most important books on natural philosophy in which Isaac Newton establishes the modern science of dynamics and outlines his three laws of motion.

While the original print run is estimated at between 250 and 400 copies, there are only 189 surviving first editions in the world and only four with annotations by the English mathematician himself. Of these four copies, the Sydney copy of is the only one in the Southern Hemisphere and is held in the Rare Books & Special Collections at the University of Sydney library.

This extremely rare copy of the seminal text is believed to be a personal copy of Newton’s, which he and his assistant Roger Cotes sent to other mathematicians to eliminate any errors before the second edition was published.

“It clearly shows how Newton’s



ideas were received by his contemporaries”, said Julie Sommerfeldt, Manager of Rare Books & Special Collections at the University library.

Scottish mathematician John Craig is thought to have authored the corrections which feature at the front of the book along with other annotations throughout. Further corrections can be seen in this copy, written by Roger Coates and Newton himself.

“You could liken it to the 17th-century version of the

peer-review process. Handling the physical item itself is a special experience; you can see the words inked on the page and know that they came from Newton’s own hand.”

How significant is the book?

Explaining the significance of *Principia* for the field of mathematics and science in general, Professor Geordie Williamson calls the work “completely revolutionary”.

“The publication was really the first time we saw a physical law that was true everywhere. Without this work, for instance, Maxwell’s equations governing electricity or Fourier series equations on heat, would not have been possible”, said Professor Williamson, Director of the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute at the University.

“Isaac Newton totally rewrote the rule book in terms of the separation of what happens on Earth and what happens in space. Before Newton, European science considered there was a fundamental divide between ‘Heaven and Earth’.

“Through *Principia*, Newton established the fundamental fact that the same laws apply here on Earth as those in the heavens.”

Professor Williamson last year was elected as the youngest living Fellow of the Royal Society, the world’s oldest scientific academy and publisher of *Principia*. Newton was President of the Royal Society from 1703 to 1727.

How *Principia* almost didn’t go to print

As Newton was finalising his work the Royal Society was printing a book called *The History of Fishes*.

“This book is quite lavishly illustrated and unfortunately the Society didn’t have enough budget to publish *Principia*,” Ms Sommerfeldt said. “So, Edmond Halley – the English astronomer of Halley’s Comet fame and also a Clerk of the Society – stepped in to personally fund publication of the book.”

The first edition of *Principia* features a poem written in Latin by Halley, titled “To the illustrious man Isaac Newton and this his work done in

fields of the mathematics and physics, a signal distinction of our time and race”.

The future of *Principia* at Sydney

Ms Sommerfeldt described the condition of the book as excellent: “With careful handling, this copy will hopefully withstand centuries to come so that future generations can enjoy and study it.”

The University of Sydney copy of *Principia* has been digitised and is available online alongside other digital resources via the University’s digital collection.

Members of the public, students and staff can access the book at the University of Sydney Fisher Library by using the booking system at library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books.



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Story Factory sparks confidence to last a lifetime

EDUCATION

AMY GOODHEW-BANKS

REDFERN: Redfern locals have known it, and regularly peer into the bowels of its green-tinged depths from Redfern Street, trying to figure out what exactly it IS? It’s the Story Factory, a creative writing centre that works with kids from marginalised backgrounds.

From the very beginning, Story Factory has sought to create space for kids to use their imagination and discover their own voice, free from the constraints of tests and judgement. Through engaging in creative writing, the world becomes theirs to create. This is powerful for all kids – but is particularly potent for kids who struggle with English as an additional language, school attendance or tests, or may have extra challenges at home.

The recent release of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) literacy and numeracy test results painted a less than ideal picture of Australian education standards. This comes hard on the heels of a Four Corners investigation into declining writing skills; a decline many are describing as a crisis in Australian classrooms.

Senior Program Manager and Chippendale local, Matt Roden, has spent seven years at Story Factory, where he began as a volunteer – and he has seen the difference creative writing can make to a child’s experience of education.

“My initial interest was in giving value to imagination and creativity in the classroom. I grew up loving stories, and wanting to tell stories.



Supporting young people with creative writing can make a real difference to their experience of education says Matt Roden (standing) from the Story Factory. Photo: Maja Baska

Helping that happen for other young people was really exciting.”

Story Factory uses the powerful mix of volunteers, teamed with expert storytellers (read: experienced educators) and fun and engaging programming to inspire and support young people through the process of creation.

Matt explains: “For lots of kids, the moment you do anything creatively, you are wandering into the unknown – so to do that with a supporter, in a

volunteer, is very reassuring.

“We work with students for whom the school classroom has not been a place they associate with success. By supporting them with volunteers sitting with them, they have the reassurance that a place like school is a place where they can succeed.”

Volunteers can be anybody, and the 1,200 or so people who have registered as Story Factory volunteers prove that you don’t need to have a particular skill set

to help out, you just need to care.

“When I think about our best volunteers, I think about men and women of all different ages and backgrounds, but who have all shown themselves to be patient, kind, supportive and encouraging collaborators,” says Matt.

“One of the best moments in our work is when a student turns to you and realises they are the one in control of the narrative – ‘Wait a minute, I can add chocolate to peanut butter, and that’s okay!’”

“That’s when a volunteer has the chance to say, ‘It’s not only okay, it’s amazing! You’re the first person to put that together!’ And to see their faces light up, to discover that they are the author of a moment of pure creativity. That’s a beautiful moment. And the impact of that moment can go on to last a lifetime.”

Amy Goodhew-Banks is Communications Manager for Story Factory. To volunteer or donate see www.storyfactory.org.au



Jenny Leong MP

STATE MEMBER
FOR NEWTOWN

Always was. Always will be.

January 26 is not a day to celebrate. For some it is a day of mourning, for others a day to acknowledge and recognise survival.

This year, I joined over 60,000 others across the country in solidarity with Aboriginal people at the Invasion Day rally in Sydney. The struggle for justice continues – and those rallying called for meaningful action on Aboriginal deaths in custody, for an end to the removal of Aboriginal children from their families, to change the date, and for an end to the ongoing oppression and exploitation of Indigenous people in our society – including through treaties. The sense of momentum for positive change is growing – and it was powerful to be amongst so many Aboriginal elders and leaders standing strong and showing us the way.



Following the rally and the march, like thousands of others, I headed to Yabun – the largest one-day gathering and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia – which happens in our own electorate of Newtown, on Gadigal land. The Corroboree Ground, the live music, the speakers, the stalls and the community atmosphere gets better and stronger (and hotter!) each year.

Over the course of this year's activities, there was also strong and growing support for the call for people to #paytherent. I strongly support this real and practical step towards justice and recognising that this always was, and always will be Aboriginal land – and the fact that it was stolen.



I urge you to find out more about this campaign – and, if you are an ally in the struggle for Aboriginal justice, to join me in paying the rent.

Let us all acknowledge that it is Gadigal land that we live, work and play on, and pay respect to elders past, present and future.

While there is clearly so much work to do in righting the wrongs perpetrated against Aboriginal people in this country, it is clear the movement for change is growing. And we commit to doing all that we can to support it.

Jenny Leong, MP for Newtown

If you have a question or are keen to be involved, send a text to 0421 665 208 with your name, suburb and message and we'll give you a call or you can email newtown@nsw.greens.org.au

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New Darling Square Library offers plenty to explore

URBAN DESIGN

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

SYDNEY'S new Darling Square Library is now open with more than 30,000 items available to borrowers and located over two floors of the Exchange. Wrapped in over 20 kilometres of timber ribbons, this unique spiral-like building is a focal point of the new neighbourhood next to Haymarket and Darling Harbour.

As well as housing the library, the Exchange is home to a child-care centre, a rooftop restaurant and bar and, on the ground floor, an upmarket food court, the now-opened Maker's Dozen – which includes dessert and pastry creators to craft beer aficionados and fusion food specialists.

Darling Square is the last stage of the NSW government's \$3.4 billion revitalisation of Darling Harbour, rising from the space once occupied by the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

The new library officially opened on November 9 and

is four times the size of the Haymarket Library it replaced. It is open seven days a week and houses a large Asian literature collection. It also offers spaces to read, work and study, which include meeting rooms available for hire, public computers and free wifi. A dedicated children's area hosts regular bilingual rhymetime and storytime sessions.

The Ideas Lab on level 1 is a dedicated makerspace and multipurpose room to create, invent or tinker. The program of hands-on workshops features 3D design and printing, robotics and electronics to help startups and curious makers upskill, share knowledge and network.

Membership is free for NSW residents and members can enjoy borrowing up to 30 items for three weeks.

On the day I visit, the library is buzzy with children, parents and grandparents, staff helping borrowers and chatting while shelving, and teens tinkering with their creations in the makerspace room. In quieter areas people are checking emails, charging

their phones and reading Chinese newspapers. I'm tempted to borrow *So Here I Am: Speeches to Empower and Inspire* by Anna Russell, a Ben Harper CD and an illustrated book about the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. My companion borrows a Bill Bryson audio book, and is happy we've explored this urban oasis.

The Council of the City of Sydney says there are eight reasons to love Darling Square Library.

They are: the architecture; membership and borrowing are free; space to study, work, collaborate or just relax; a dedicated space and an exciting program to help startups and curious makers to upskill, share knowledge and network; classic video game consoles to borrow; and free wifi, free events and workshops for all ages.

Why not visit the library at 1 Little Pier Street, Haymarket, and see for yourself?

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For more information see

www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/explore/libraries/locations/darling-square

Grant extends care for rough sleepers and their pets

VELVET STEELE AND
MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

FACED with the choice of giving up their best friend or being accommodated in social housing where pets aren't always welcome, many homeless people will choose to remain on the street.

"Think to yourself, if you were alone and you have something beautiful like this in your life, what would you do to protect it?" asked one dog owner who is homeless in *Ruff Sleepers – A Dogumentary*.

Another owner said he'd made a makeshift dog shelter that he could see from the window of his new housing that didn't allow pets – but soon realised it was crazy to be separated.

"If you experience the bond you can have with a dog, it's one of the greatest gifts in life."

Not surprisingly, the grateful dog lover quickly returned to sleeping rough, with his furry companion by his side.

Ruff Sleepers is a Sydney-based not-for-profit charity that takes care of homeless people's pets. It offers a free and mobile pet washing service, access to flea and worm treatments, referrals to free vet clinics and information about services for homeless people with dogs.

Last September, it was awarded a \$101,000 grant by the NSW government's My Community project, to help it purchase a grooming van with warm water, which would mean it could take care of more dogs, serve more locations, and connect more volunteers to homeless people who own dogs.

Ruff Sleepers received the grant courtesy of an impressive number of votes from its community supporters. It's still



Barry stole everybody's heart when the Ruff Sleepers team washed dogs at Woolloomooloo in mid-January. Photo: Supplied

working to make the new grooming van a reality but, in the meantime, a variety of hoses, buckets and brushes are being happily employed in its work.

On Sunday January 12, despite Sydney's bushfire smoke, the Ruff Sleepers team washed dogs in Woolloomooloo on the corner of Forbes and Cathedral streets – and 2 year-old Barry stole everybody's heart.

When Coco and Mon Cherie turned up to be pampered everyone was extremely pleased to learn that Mon Cherie had fully recovered from her lifesaving emergency surgery provided by Ruff Sleepers partner Project HoPe.

The Ruff Sleepers team provides these grooming, information and support sessions on the second Sunday of each month, offering tea and biscuits to the dog owners; a pet nutrition information kit; and free dog food and other pet accessories (courtesy of Give a Dog a Bone).

Its volunteers also create a safe and discrimination-free place where homeless people and their furry friends can connect with other pets and pet lovers, and also access help.

Dr Bronwen Dalton is associate professor at the University of

Technology Sydney (UTS) Business School and Director of its Masters of Not-for-Profit and Social Enterprise Program. She founded Ruff Sleepers in early 2017 with Linda Castellazzi and Tully Rosen as a social enterprise (under the auspices of UTS) and its dedicated team has washed and groomed more than 100 dogs since then.

Dr Dalton says the team is also passionate about:

- Raising money for an emergency fund for homeless people's pets that need lifesaving surgery.
- Advocating to ensure homeless people are able to have their pets with them in their housing – some of whom depend on their pets to help them feel safe.
- Enhancing public awareness of the value of pet ownership for the mental and physical health of people doing it tough.

Linda Castellazzi says a pet is often the only source of unconditional love for a homeless person and Ruff Sleepers works to protect the important bond between a human and their furry family.

"Many people sleeping rough have told me they try to remain clean from drugs or alcohol because they have to make sure to be alert in case something bad happens to their dog. The dog makes them feel responsible and, in many cases, saves them."

As one appreciative dog owner says: "I struggle with mental health issues, but my dog actually helps me get out of bed, because I have to take her for a walk."

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Donate to Ruff Sleepers at

www.ruffsleppers.org/donate or to volunteer email ruffsleppers@gmail.com

How to be a better cat guardian

VELVET STEELE

NEWTOWN: A month or so ago, you may have been given a cat as a Christmas gift. There is a great deal of responsibility that comes with having a furry life companion, and you may find yourself unable to care for this cat. If so, I'd like to tell you about a place you can take the cat to ensure it will be safe and looked after – rather than dumping it in the dark.

The Cat Protection Society (CPS) is an organisation for cats and kittens in need. Most of the workers are volunteers, which means they aren't paid money for their work, but they are paid in the wonderful experiences they have with the cats and through the pleasure they get from opening up opportunities for cats that need support. All profits go towards the young kittens and cats, so that they can have a better life.

The CPS is located in Newtown and people are welcome to adopt a cat or kitten, or even just to go there for a look and to play with the kittens. Because the society has limited space, it asks foster carers to foster kittens until they are trained and home-ready, after which there should be space for them in the cattery where they can be adopted.

The CPS has an opportunity shop which is run by volunteers – with all money raised supporting the cats in the cattery. There is a wide selection of goods on sale, from clothing, crockery, books, shoes, jewellery, and more. Everyone is welcome,



The Cat Protection Society in Newtown cares for cats and kittens in need. Photo: Supplied

there are some good finds there! Alternatively, people can donate goods to the opportunity shop, which will be sold to customers to further help support the cats in the cattery.

Fostering can be another great way to assist cats and kittens in need and to free up space to allow new kittens to come to CPS for care. Fostering also enables kittens to learn about and grow up in a home. They get used to noises like the radio or the vacuum cleaner, which they wouldn't hear in the cattery. They also learn how to interact with other pets and humans (including children!) or how to be peaceful with one companion. Foster caring isn't easy but it's very rewarding in that you get to know sweet cats and help prepare them to go to their loving forever home – no matter how sad it is to see them go.

Louisa Dyce, assistant editor for the *South Sydney Herald*, shares her story about being a good cat guardian. "Marlene was a lovely,

serious black cat with patches of white. She was my best friend and companion, and despite her health troubles, I was pleased to help her live to 12 years of age. My mother-in-law met Marlene when she was six months old and had a fractured pelvis. The option was to put her to sleep or in a cage for her to rest. After five months, she could walk again and – being the cat she was – she escaped. Marlene was wild for a time, and then gave birth to two kittens. That was when I met her.

I'm thrilled to say that she was a very trusting mother, and would often leave the kittens in my care. She had spinal-cord damage and, as she aged, she became less able to look after herself. So, I took over the job of grooming her – and I had to shave her so that she could remain clean. As she aged, she further deteriorated and I trained her to use nappies, as she became very distressed about dirtying the house. When I introduced her to the nappies, she took to them very quickly.

Marlene was very fierce and loved playing. We knew it was the end when she didn't want to eat or play anymore. Even with all of this, I was the responsible human and I would label myself as her guardian rather than her owner. Obviously, I loved and adored her, she was my catty companion, and she followed me around the house until she couldn't walk and I had to carry her. I was lucky that I could form that bond with her; that's what every cat is really looking forward to with a human.

SSH

.....
www.catprotection.org.au

Pemulwuy – project on the up and up!

SPONSORED

AMANDA FLEMING

REDFERN: As we move into the second month of 2020 we would like to acknowledge the work carried out over the holiday season on the Pemulwuy site. Formwork construction continued throughout December and January, which resulted in more levels going up on Precinct 1 and 3.

Everyone who has stopped by the site recently to say hello to Uncle Micky has been especially happy to see the affordable housing gain ground. The 62 dwellings are a mix of apartments and townhouses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only to rent through us (the Aboriginal Housing Company).

We are also excited to see the gym and gallery spaces taking shape. The ground floor of the gym will house fitness and weight training equipment, and a boxing ring. A mezzanine level will be dedicated to floor-exercise classes and will include another boxing ring. A lift between the two floors has already been installed.

Our new Elouera Tony Mundine Gym will be a wonderful state-of-the-art facility for the whole community to enjoy.

On Precinct 1 (Affordable housing/ gym/gallery): We are up to level 6 on the apartments above the gym! The roof pour will be completed this month, along with the ground-level slab for the townhouses. Level 1 of the apartments and the gym has been stripped with the formwork taken out. Bricklaying commenced in the basement along with plumbing for stormwater drainage and fire hydrants.

On Precinct 3 (Col James Student Accommodation): Over Christmas 2019, level 2 was completed and level 3 has been poured. Level 4, parts 1 and 2, are being completed this month and 90 per cent of the screening has been installed.

SSH



Authorised by Michael Mundine, CEO,
Aboriginal Housing Company Limited



More floors added to Pemulwuy in January 2020.
Photo: Lyn Turnbull



TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

31% INCREASE IN SYDNEY GP FEES

Official new data has confirmed that health costs have reached an all-time high under the Morrison Government.

The Government's own Health Department has revealed to the Senate that **people in the federal seat of Sydney pay an average out-of-pocket fee of \$46.11 to see a GP.**

This is a 31 per cent increase in GP fees since the Liberals were elected seven years ago.

The Health Department has also contradicted the Government's claims on bulk billing, admitting that **almost 40 per cent of patients in Sydney have to pay to see a GP.**

These new figures showcase the Coalition's record of cuts and neglect in health. It was the Liberals who introduced the Medicare freeze. It was Scott Morrison himself that extended the freeze as Treasurer, leading directly to the out-of-pocket costs that people in Australia face today.

VOLUNTEER GRANTS 2020

Volunteers make an invaluable contribution to our community, but we know that volunteer based organisations are often underfunded and under resourced.

This year, **Volunteer Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to help not-for-profit community groups give more support to their volunteers**, including the purchase of small equipment items, reimbursement for volunteers' transport costs, and contributions towards the cost of training and background screening checks.

Grants are available to organisations where at least 40 per cent of staff are volunteers. The grants are also designed to support the inclusion of vulnerable people through volunteering, and increase participation in volunteering.

Unfortunately, the Liberal-National Government has limited grants to \$66,000 per electorate. This is despite 70 per cent of organisations missing out in previous rounds, even though they had worthy applications. Labor has written to the Government and requested a review of funding levels to make sure they reflect local community need.

Volunteering is part of the Australian character. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers at an organisation to benefit our community.

If you know an organisation that would like to be nominated for a grant, please ask them to email my office with their expression of interest by 14 February 2020.

MY OFFICE: HERE TO HELP

My office is always available to help with Centrelink, Veterans' Affairs, Medicare, Immigration, NBN and other federal matters (contact details below).

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

My office provides Justice of the Peace (JP) services - simply call to make an appointment. JP Services are available on:

- **Mondays** (2pm-4.30pm)
- **Wednesdays** (10am-1pm); and
- **Thursdays** (2pm- 4.30pm).

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

1A Great Buckingham St, Redfern NSW 2016

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It's time to tackle wealth inequality

ALAN WILLIAMSON

IT'S Lunar New Year, and there are around 1,000 people in the restaurant. With everyone seated, trolleys laden with a huge variety of food begin to appear, distributed by white-jacketed waitstaff. Plump dumplings, chicken wings, steaming seafood, pork buns and stir-fried vegetables are brought to tables.

After a while, some of the diners recognise that not all of them are getting the same quantities, and some of the trolleys are arriving only partly loaded. They become a little unsettled when they realise there may not be enough for them to properly celebrate the occasion, let alone take leftovers. Some tables only get a few pork buns, and they are the unhappiest of all.

In addition, for every load of food wheeled into the crowded but least attended area, where nearly 500 people are seated, another trolley goes into a small private dining room, its frosted glass windows denying view.

"This must be a massive room for so much food to be needed," thinks one of the diners, finally raising the courage to peek through the doorway. In his brief glimpse, he is astonished to see

only 10 people seated, surrounded by an ever-growing mountain of food. "Those people can never eat all that," he thinks, "not in a year of New Years."

If Australia were that restaurant, then the people in the private dining room are the top 1 per cent, and together they own more than twice as much as the 500 people in the cheap seats combined. There are 36 listed billionaires in Australia, and in the last year (2018-19) their average growth in wealth was \$667m each. Next Lunar New Year, they will need a bigger room.

The argument in favour of obscene wealth accumulation has long been that such concentration will lead to greater prosperity for all by "trickling down". This has the strongest appeal to the other 490 people in the room, those in the aspirational middle; professionals, tradies, wealthy retirees and others mostly susceptible to the dangled carrot of comfort.

Rather than directly contributing to the common wealth by enforcing appropriate marginal rates of taxation, limiting tax avoidance measures by both individuals and corporations, providing a structure to ensure reasonable increases in wages in

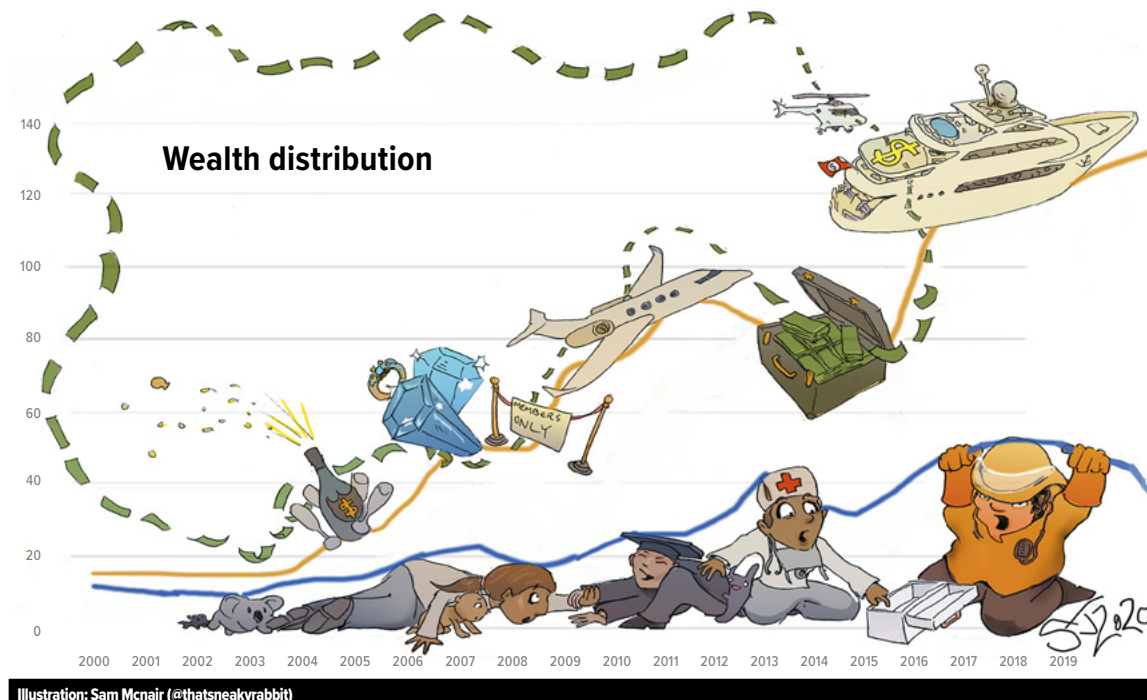


Illustration: Sam Mcnair (@thatsneakyrabbit)

line with profits, and collecting appropriate royalties on behalf of the Australian people for the sale of mineral-rich dirt, the Australian government embellishes the fairy tale with marketing rhetoric about "having a go to get a go", our version of the American Dream.

There is a storm brewing, with climate change the catalyst, which will threaten such privilege. Young people, largely deprived of the

hope of city home ownership, pay scant allegiance to the dream offered them, and will be the agents of radical change. The visceral response of (mainly) aged white men to the passion and commitment of Greta Thunberg is an indicator that their threat is real.

See the *Oxfam report on global wealth inequality* released in late January for more information,

including opportunities for action. Unlike many countries, Australia retains a reasonable well-functioning democracy, with people fairly elected to represent the citizens of a given area. The contact details of all such representatives are listed on the websites of the assemblies of all three levels of government.

www.oxfam.org.au/what-we-do/inequality

Accurate fire information and community action

ENVIRONMENT

JESSICA MORTHORPE

IN my work with Uniting Earth I've compiled a comprehensive resource on the bushfire crisis – covering ecological and social justice aspects, and including relevant references. The following is an abridged version.

Climate change

Climate change exacerbates the conditions in which bushfires happen. According to Greg Mullins, former commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW, we have been seeing: unprecedented dryness; reductions in long-term rainfall; low humidity; high temperatures; wind velocities; fire danger indices; fire spread and ferocity; instances of pyro-convective fires (fire storms – making their own weather); early starts and late finishes to bushfire seasons; an established long-term trend driven by a warming, drying climate.

It is estimated that Australia's fires have already released between 350 and 400 million metric tons of CO2 into the atmosphere. That's roughly 1 per cent of the total global carbon emissions from 2019. It is also more than the total combined annual emissions of the 116

lowest-emitting countries.

"The fires could be part of an ominous feedback loop: the more land burns, the more carbon dioxide gets released into the atmosphere, and the more trees — which act as natural carbon sinks — disappear," says Dr Richard Thornton, chief executive of the Bushfires & Natural Hazards Co-operative Research Centre. "The more CO2 gets released, the warmer our planet gets; that raises the risk of more big and deadly fires."

Perhaps more than any other wealthy nation on Earth, Australia is at risk from the dangers of climate change and our extreme vulnerability means incentive for change. According to economist Dr Ross Garnaut, we could "be the biggest economic beneficiary of effective global mitigation because we have the best renewable energy resources and the best opportunities for capturing carbon in our geological and biological landscapes".

Planned burning

A study in Tasmania has found that planned burn-offs have little impact on reducing the extent and intensity of bushfires. A 2010 study from Wollongong University also found there was only a 10 per cent chance of a fire being stopped by a planned burn. More effective

were road barriers, or cleared buffer zones around houses.

Where used as part of a suite of fire preparations, planned burning is most effective close to the buildings or houses to be protected. But planned burning in these areas is also difficult and expensive, and accompanied by the danger of fires escaping.

Arson

Only about 1 per cent of the land burnt in NSW this bushfire season can be officially attributed to arson, and even less in Victoria. Specifically, the Gospers Mountain "mega-blaze" and the Green Wattle Creek fire, which are both near Sydney, were ignited by lightning. All the major blazes in the Snowy Mountains and South Coast which have taken hold since New Year's Eve were also started by lightning.

Cultural burning

Shaun Hooper is a Wiradjuri man, a fire behaviour analyst, volunteer fire fighter, and a cultural burning practitioner currently doing his post-grad studies on cultural burning.

He says implementing an Aboriginal cultural burn does not generally look like a hazard reduction. It is not.

"An Aboriginal cultural burn is not guided by a prescription. It is guided by the close relationship



Endangered – Blue Mountains water skink Photo: Sylvain Dubey (Ecological Management & Restoration)

that the Aboriginal cultural fire practitioner has with Country and everything in it. This relationship-based approach allows for the involvement of other than human beings such as bettongs, bandicoots, lyrebirds, wombats and brush turkeys who all assist with cultural burning by turning over and reducing the leaf litter. Cultural burning is a landscape-wide approach unlike the more strategic hazard reduction approach. It provides for emergent outcomes for a range of species who contribute in various ways to the implementation."

Wildlife

It is estimated, conservatively, that 1.25 billion animals have died in the fires. This comes on top of the already serious impacts of land clearing, deforestation and climate-altered habitats. While Australian animals are

adapted to fire, they have not dealt with fires of this size and intensity before, and with over 1,000 species already threatened in Australia, these fires may push some species into extinction.

Whole ecosystems will be affected.

What we can do immediately

See the full resource for information (re donating to the Moderator's Bushfire Appeal and WIRES), spreading reliable information, providing water and food for wildlife).

To get involved with climate action

Download "I'm worried about the climate — what can I do?" (<http://bit.ly/36AJsoo>).

Sign up to our climate action groups (<http://bit.ly/38R3Y5J>) and to Uniting Earth enews (jmorthorpe@uniting.org), or follow us on FB for campaign updates. (see full resource at www.unitingearth.org.au/bushfire-crisis-info).

Uniting

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uniting.org



Public housing more than a roof overhead

EDITORIAL

SSH

AS part of the consultation process for the Waterloo redevelopment, local agencies Counterpoint Community Services (CCS) and Inner Sydney Voice, with REDWatch residents' group, pushed for an effective human services plan to accompany the built environment master plan. Back in 2017, FACS/LAHC undertook to provide such a plan.

Now, as the Department of Planning and LAHC negotiate the master plan parameters, it seems LAHC no longer wants to discuss a human services plan.

This is deeply concerning.

In a soon-to-be-published report, "Waterloo Impact Project", CCS synthesises input from

various interview and focus groups, and concludes that the human services system has been unresponsive to needs, fragmented, complex and opaque.

The report recommends: addressing accessibility deficits by extending and improving services to CALD, Aboriginal and other cohorts; improving the capabilities of residents to use technologies and funding more place-based outreach services to local community centres; improving service delivery and referral protocols, and; addressing cultural and structural issues within agencies, both government and non-government.

An effective human services plan, as REDWatch argues, must address existing challenges facing tenants and agencies, and not just select issues around relocation.

Yes, this is a state-wide issue, but it will affect Waterloo

disproportionately due to the size of the estate and because the same number of public tenants will be living with their existing problems in a redevelopment of three times the density.

If issues facing residents are not addressed in the promised human services plan, the *South Sydney Herald* will join REDWatch and others to campaign against the master plan.

Maybe it is time to think about an upper house inquiry into how human service supports for public housing tenants work or do not work. There has been a lot of work recently getting homeless people into public housing.

If the supports are not there for those who need public housing, however, are we really addressing the problem? We cannot assume that just putting a roof over someone's head addresses his or her problems or challenges.

SSH

Bushfire chiefs offer terms of reference

LETTER

*To the Hon. David Littleproud, MP
Member for Maranoa
Minister for Water Resources,
Drought, Rural Finance,
Natural Disaster and Emergency
Management*

We note the prime minister's comments of taking a royal commission to Cabinet, and we call on you, as our responsible minister and with your government, to support the creation of a royal commission into the 2019-2020 fires.

We, the elected leadership of emergency services, are available to you to consult on appropriate terms of reference, but as a starting point, the following is what we believe needs to be investigated if a royal commission is called and therefore the terms of reference should include:

- Investigate the adequacy of the allocation and budget of firefighting resources in each state and territory and their

preparedness to fulfil their roles of protection and defence of life and property generally and in an emergency, including bushfire emergencies.

- Investigate the adequacy of the allocation and budget of bushfire preparation and mitigation resources in each state and territory.
- Examine the adequacy of Commonwealth resources – including aviation and ground fleets for use in a bushfire or other major emergency.
- Investigate the issues related to power and water supplies across state and territory borders.
- Consider the impact on firefighter health and welfare – physical and mental – that comes from participation at the frontline of this crisis.
- Investigate the issues related to inter-operability of all the fire

services – training, equipment, command structures, cross agency/states and all three levels of government.

- Investigate communications on the ground – radios, compatibility, digital and mobile network, vehicle location technology.
- Conduct an audit of all other inquiries, reviews and royal commissions into bushfires and natural disasters and determine whether recommendations from those reviews have been implemented – and, if so, to what effect.

Delay could mean the loss of further life and property. We urge you to call this royal commission as soon as possible so together we can make sure Australians are protected in the future from fires like these.

Across Australia bushfires have killed 33 people and an estimated one billion native animals since

Mourning colonisation

FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

AS we approached "Australia Day" in 2019, the Uniting Church in Australia was encouraged by its national governing body, the Uniting Church Assembly, to add to its life a Day of Mourning. This was to be held on the Sunday before "Australia Day", so that we would never simply celebrate the arrival of those who took over this country from its Indigenous people without any negotiation or respect.

We non-Indigenous people may well love this country in which we live, but to celebrate this each year without acknowledging how we arrived here, and what we did to its owners, is to make that day disrespectful and dishonest.

Stuart McMillan, a senior national staff person in the Uniting Church, has given us a summary of what happened to change things and how we have responded.

"On the Sunday before Australia Day, Uniting Church congregations across the country hold worship services to reflect upon and lament the effect of the invasion and colonisation of this nation upon her First Peoples.

"The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the 15th Assembly at the request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). Rather than seeking a change to the date of Australia Day as some propose, the UAICC asked the church, in the spirit of the Covenant between us, to declare the Sunday before Australia Day as a Day of Mourning. Assembly members enthusiastically agreed.

"Sunday January 19 will be marked by the Uniting Church as the Day of Mourning for 2020. Local congregations are encouraged to honour First Peoples on this day. The Assembly wants to encourage congregations, agencies and schools to make local connections with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

and/or with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of their area.

"The Day of Mourning is not a new concept in Australia. The first such day was held on Australia Day in 1938, organised by the Aborigines Progressive Association in New South Wales. with support from the Australian Aborigines League in Victoria to coincide with sesquicentenary celebrations.

"The Uniting Church acknowledges in its constitution (nationally in 2009 and formalised by State Synods in 2011) the dispossession, violence and decimation of First Peoples and laments the fact that, as a church and as Second Peoples, we were, and remain, complicit.

"Our decision to declare a Day of Mourning annually from 2019, is a way in which we stand together in Covenantal relationships to honour, remember and acknowledge the truth of our history. For it is only through our lament and truth telling that we together, First and Second Peoples, look with hope to the future."

Stuart McMillan prays that "one day, the whole nation may, in a coming of age, fully accept this history and take a significant step towards healing for our nation".

To begin by mourning our history together, is an honest and creative way of changing our future. People of faith can lead the way, but this mourning really belongs to us all as we assume responsibility for our past and present as a nation.

One of the beautiful things about the nature of faith in parts of the Indigenous community is its God, "The Wanjinna". Images of this God indicate that the very special feature of it is that it has no mouth for judgement. Obviously, it is a loving, understanding, forgiving and kind God.

If the First and Second Peoples of our land could move into deeper, just, and more respectful relationships with each other, maybe we could learn many things together.

Let us commit ourselves, as we enter 2020 as a community, to develop new and deeper relationships.

SSH

September. About 2,500 homes have been destroyed and more than 11.7 million hectares of forestlands have been razed.

Stewart Little – Public Service Association of NSW – NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Fire + Rescue NSW, Forestry Corporation of NSW

Leighton Drury – Fire Brigade Employees' Union, Fire + Rescue NSW

Mick Holton – Volunteer Firefighters Association – Rural Fire Service NSW

John Oliver – United Firefighters Union QLD – Fire Rescue QLD

Max Adlam – United Firefighters Union SA – Metropolitan Fire Service SA

Lea Anderson – The United Professional Firefighters Union of Western Australia – Fire Rescue Service WA

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

This section is sponsored by **Café Piccolo Erko**
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Gentrification from local perspectives

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

THE Redfern-Waterloo Tour of Beauty features prominently in the *How the City Cares* exhibition at Customs House in Circular Quay. It sits proudly among a number of artist-led projects that have cared about and for Sydney's people and places – offering insights into life in our city and voice to its inhabitants – and curated by Bec Dean from UNSW into a stimulating exhibition.

In 2005, the artists' collective SquatSpace decided to organise tours of Redfern-Waterloo to talk directly with local people about the rapid gentrification of their neighbourhoods and to highlight the complexity of the issues at stake.

The initiative was prompted by the formation of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority by the NSW government – which had also granted the authority sweeping powers to redevelop the area.

At each stop on the tour visitors met with a local who spoke briefly about the place, its significance and their connection to it. They also answered questions and facilitated discussion about the transformation of the suburb; how gentrification was affecting residents; and how urban development might be done better and more compassionately.

Each tour lasted four or five hours and connected visitors with representatives from the local Indigenous Women's Centre, the Settlement Community Centre, the Aboriginal Housing Company, the REDWatch activist group, architects, designers, and the Indigenous Social Justice Association. About 15 tours were run during between 2005 and 2009.

Maps, diagrams, flyers, a poster, clipboards, and a shirt and tie comprise the archival material from the Tour of Beauty (2005 to 2016) included in *How the City Cares*.

SquatSpace also premieres its documentary of the 10-year



Lily Shearer speaks at Carriageworks as part of the Redfern-Waterloo Tour of Beauty, 2016. Photo: TextaQueen

anniversary tour conducted in 2016, which revisited many speakers and places that had changed or would soon be changed irrevocably.

The documentary is dedicated to the late Trevor Davies, Ross Smith, Chiko Monks and Ray Jackson. It's a stirring piece, and one which recognises these champions for their stellar community leadership and battles for justice.

Jenny and Lyle Munro, and Lyn and Geoff Turnbull were some of the other locals I recognised in the Tour of Beauty visuals and audio. We should be glad about this inclusion because their commitment to ensuring the Indigenous sovereignty and history of the area is

acknowledged and their dedication to building an empowered community that can work together to achieve positive change has been exemplary.

The work of SquatSpace artist and long-time Redfern resident Keg de Souza also features in *How the City Cares*. Of the Redfern School of Displacement (2016) and the Tour of Beauty she writes: "We decided the way to have the most impact would be for people to meet these residents face-to-face. Going to the different sites in the area and learning about a place while you're inside it is so powerful: you find yourself associating the various sites you've visited with the people you heard telling stories about it."

"Marginalised voices that are often displaced from mainstream dialogue are at the centre of the Redfern School of Displacement (RSD). By creating a platform for conversation and debate that explores the politics of displacement, RSD promotes learning as a useful tool to combat the forces of dispossession for the future."

"The goals of the school are to create dialogue and debate around issues relating to social justice and equality from a local perspective."

SquatSpace artist Mickie Quick wrote in the *SSH* in 2006 that the "Redfern-Waterloo Tour of Beauty was about the very particular meanings of place."

"It was not just about conflict, gentrification, government and community racism, or history. The tour was about the very particular meanings of place. It assumed that the 'experts' about any given place are the people who live there, and have a connection to it."

Mr Quick also expressed his concern on his blog last November that the City of Sydney had rejected artist Deborah Kelly's work "My Sydney Summer" (a four-metre wide print, that depicts young people protesting against inaction on climate change) for inclusion in *How the City Cares* because it was "not suitable to be viewed by children". He said the City had also censored parts of Sarah Goffman's work, "Occupy Sydney" – censure which seems to suggest that it is not only Redfern-Waterloo's future that is contested!

If you're new to South Sydney don't miss this exhibition and the chance to learn about the area and its remarkable people. If you're a long-term resident you might want to view the art to remind yourself of the courage you and your friends displayed in times past and to steel yourself for the next stoush.

Redfern-Waterloo Tour of Beauty is part of the *How the City Cares* exhibition (part of the Big Anxiety Festival) at Customs House, Sydney until March 8. See sydneycustomshouse.com.au and <http://squatSPACE.com/tour-of-beauty/>

Cornelia Parker's genius finds its perfect expression in her large-scale installation 'War Room', 2015. In this work, the prominent UK artist has suspended the remnants of the 45 million Remembrance Day poppies created each year by the Poppy Factory in Richmond. It's a potent reminder of war and lives lost to it, but also a quiet and meditative room like a chapel. The first major survey of Cornelia Parker's work in the Southern Hemisphere is at the MCA in Sydney until February 16. Don't miss it!

Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones



‘Love of the living’ shines in retro exhibition

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

WATERLOO: In 2018, when Australian environmentalist Bob Brown called for artists to visit the threatened ecosystem of the Tarkine in north-west Tasmania and to create artworks to help save Australia’s largest tract of cool temperate rainforest, Maroubra-based artist M.A. (Margaret) Vazey rose to the challenge.

Her oil painting “Tarkine Treasure Triptych” featured in an exhibition in Hobart in July 2019 as part of *Tarkine in Motion*, an initiative of the Bob Brown Foundation. As one of Australia’s largest environmental arts projects, its leaders are driving strategic action to have the Tarkine recognised as a National Park and World Heritage Area by 2020.

The Tarkine is a living example of one of the most primitive vegetation formations on Earth. It is also an area of great significance to Tasmania’s Aboriginal people.

According to Bob Brown, “*Tarkine in Motion* is more than a representation of the Tarkine’s inspiration. It is a call for us all to get involved in ending the needless mining, logging and off-road vehicle erosion of the Tarkine wilderness. May this art lead to action – and the saving of this wonderland for our own wellbeing.”

Margaret joined the campaign because she is “mad on trees” – and her triptych reflects her deep respect for them.

“Tragically, we are cutting down trees in Australia,” she says. “In Japan, they don’t cut down their trees – they just get us to cut down ours and send the pulp across to them. And we shouldn’t do it, and we never learn. But the Queen is! She’s created a project called the Queen’s Canopy and asked every country in the Commonwealth



Saturday Art Class participants, and others keen to get involved, pictured at the launch of *Retro 2019* in December. Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones

to protect standing forest – although our country is simply going to plant 20 million seedlings by 2020 instead.

“The idea of the Queen’s Canopy is you protect the ones you’ve got – and we’re not doing that, which is very sad.”

Margaret speaks about her passion for trees at *Retro 2019*, the Orchard Gallery’s final exhibition for the year in which “Tarkine Treasure Triptych” and two of her prints, “N’Dhala Gorge” and “The Swimmers”, share space with works by fellow artists from the gallery’s Saturday Art Classes.

The works exhibited are an eclectic mix of etchings, watercolours, drawings, collage, ceramics, embroidery, drawings and poetry. They demonstrate the strengths of the artists involved as well as the playful experimentation encouraged by art class tutors who bring their expertise and imaginative daring to the group on two Saturdays each month.

When Margaret tells Waterloo-based artist Rosalind Flatman she’s

distressed that people don’t seem to understand how trees “cool the land and purify the air”, Rosalind agrees.

“Why don’t they get it? When they come in to Waterloo, where I live, they come and chainsaw everything. But what about the animals? Where can they go?”

Three works by Rosalind, “Regeneration” (Acrylics), “Rainbow Lorikeets” (Water-loo-colour) and “Local Resident” (Water-loo-colour), also feature in *Retro 2019* and depict her strong connection to the area and its creatures.

Margaret’s love of living things extends to donating two-thirds of the proceeds from the sale of her Tarkine triptych to Finnegan – who needs some costly dental work to maintain his health. Finnegan is fellow artist Catherine Skipper’s poodle and a beloved regular at the art classes.

Catherine also honours Rosalind’s feline friend and companion Bernard Black in a black-and-white lino cut that appears in the exhibition. Bernard

died earlier in 2019, and the launch of *Retro 2019* on December 28 was dedicated in loving memory to him.

Carolyne May says her striking ink drawing “Battle” arose during a class where the group was meant to create wonderful creatures. “I thought, well, they’re *all* wonderful creatures, and I love dragonflies – so I decided to throw them in!”

Another fabulous creature depicted in “Battle” is equally intricate but somewhat stranger. “Part peacock, part eagle, part goat,” explains Carolyne, “all of the above!”

Carolyne’s intriguing collage, “Dog Story”, which depicts a cut-out dog chained to a fence in front of polaroid photo of a Waterloo building, stirred people at the launch to discuss what exactly the dog might be thinking about.

Catherine’s elegant etchings “Pods 1”, “Pods 2”, “Eve’s Tree” and “Collage” were also cited as favourites by artists and others who viewed them. Catherine is the Orchard

Gallery’s artist in residence and is working towards a solo show at the gallery in October 2020.

Local resident, Lorraine Byrnes, hasn’t painted for a while but says *Retro 2019* fuelled her desire to take it up again. “Look at this ballet dancer [by Carolyne May],” she says, “isn’t she beautiful? Our daughter is an artist in New York – and her work inspires me. She paints portraits and captures people’s emotions through their eyes. She also paints abstracts, which drive me to another level.

“Only painting can do this to you. It lifts your soul.”

Retro 2019 is at the Orchard Gallery, 56a Raglan Street, Waterloo, until mid-February.

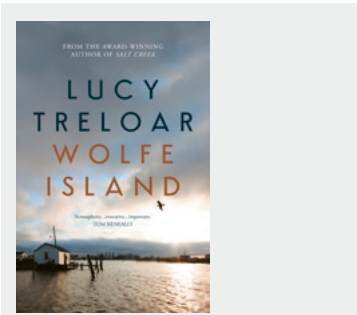
The Saturday Art Class meets at the gallery every second and fourth Saturday of the month from noon to 4pm, with gold coin donation to cover supplies. All welcome. Contact 0438 719 470 for more information.

Summer reading highlights

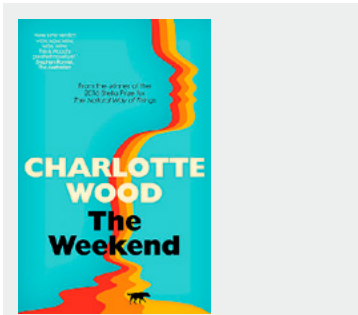
SELECTED BY MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES



Salt steps
Raynor Winn had not thought much about homelessness before it happened to her and her terminally ill husband in their 50s. With little alternative, Winn and her husband Moth decided to walk the South West Coast Path in the UK and wild-camp along the way. Winn’s Costa-nominated memoir, *The Salt Path*, shows how little money and food they had, how they scrounged hot water and shared tea bags, how Moth’s health held up, and how people backed away when they heard the couple was homeless. A warm and well-written memoir.



Shadowy wolves
I’ll read most books that feature a loner on an island, which Kitty Hawke is at the start of *Wolfe Island*. But her weird name and that of her estranged husband (Hartford Darkness) almost capsized this novel for me. Luckily, Lucy Treloar tells a gripping tale wherein the coast is being eroded by climate change and the love of kith and kin is tested by *extremis*. Kitty’s an artist who says, “Ideas came to me like wolves down shadowy creek beds in failing light. I could let them kill me or wait for them to approach.” A gripping read.



Friends together
The Weekend by Charlotte Wood tells an unflinching story of what happens when a group of four friends becomes a group of three, following a death. The ageing trio gathers at Sylvie’s beach house – tasked to clear it out for sale – and we see just how fragile their relationships have become since Sylvie’s departure. Jude, a once-famous restaurateur, Wendy, an acclaimed public intellectual, and Adele, a renowned out-of-work actress reflect on their younger selves and ageing and bear at least some of their grudges silently. Will their friendship survive the weekend?



Creatures of the cold
“Nine nippy, slippery blackfin icefish haunting the dusky depths” – is just one of the charming descriptions in Moira Court’s *Antarctica* – a children’s book for the little nippers in your life. Court’s illustrations are as gorgeous as her words, using texture, tone and simple repetitive shapes (collage, block print, woodcut art) to depict the Antarctic’s “quirky” creatures and to keep little fingers turning the pages. My favourite images are the orange flying squids. Fascinating information includes Starfish have tube feet, two stomachs, and eat anything, including seal poo! A cool read on a hot day.



Home and away
Grab Josephine Rowe’s collection *Here Until August* for “Glisk” alone and you won’t be disappointed. I return to this story often for its heartbreaking narrative, and its flawless depiction of a family wading to an island during a neap tide. Rowe is an Australian author who has built an international reputation due to the quality of her short stories. In these 10 disquieting narratives, you’ll be transported to the Snowy Mountains, the Catskills, Newfoundland and an Australian city with a taxi driver, a French émigré and a lesbian couple vexed about starting a family. Compelling.

The Reviews

Film Review
by Lindsay Cohen



1917
Director: Sam Mendes
Starring: Dean-Charles Chapman, George MacKay, Daniel Mays
Genre: World War Run

Before Mel Gibson was an American, racist, misogynistic, drunken anti-Semite, he was a young Australian actor hoping to make it big. *Mad Max* (1979) was a breakthrough but it was *Gallipoli* (1981) that proved he could act. *Gallipoli* was, and still is, a great film, one of the best Australian films ever, but also one of the best WW1 films ever. With a relatable, homely back-story, nerve-jangling suspense, perfect direction by Peter Weir and outstanding acting by a couple of budding actors, one destined for greatness and one for soap operas (Mark Lee), *Gallipoli* has stood the test of time. *1917* will not.

1917 is not a great WW1 film, but is a great piece of film-making. You probably know by now that it was all filmed in one simulated shot, using some very clever CGI, pin-point editing and some technical wizardry. And it works. *1917* successfully takes you along for the ride, along the stinking rat-infested trenches, through the claustrophobic tunnels, across wreck-strewn fields, and into the burning cities and dead-clogged rivers of France towards the end of the war.

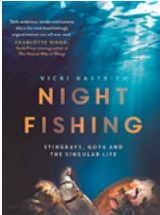
It's just a shame that the story of two young soldiers racing through trenches and across no-man's land to prevent the death of thousands

(hence the *Gallipoli* similarities) is interesting without being engaging. There's little of the drama of *Gallipoli* or the narrative to engage audiences. Instead, *1917* is a movie to look at rather than watch. And the actors are more Mark Lee than Mel Gibson, which is not necessarily a bad thing.

Rating: Three-and-a-half feet of mud.

» film@ssh.com.au

Book Review
by Marjorie Lewis-Jones



Night Fishing: Stingrays, Goya and the Singular Life
Vicki Hastrich
Allen&Unwin, 2019

In a summer of catastrophic bushfires, devastating loss of life, and relentless political slyness Vicki Hastrich's *Night Fishing: Stingrays, Goya and the Singular Life* is a book of solace.

Its 13 essays offer us the space to look more closely at nature and linger peacefully; the opportunity to celebrate the coast, water and creativity; the chance to disconnect from our online lives with their bombardment of bad news and apocalyptic images.

Hastrich was once a camera operator for the ABC and her roving eye guides us gently back to her childhood via the waterways of the Brisbane Water estuary, near Woy Woy on the NSW central coast. We dream with her, fish with her, grieve with her as she examines her life, her writing and the environment – stitching her localised reflections

seamlessly to a wider world of art and philosophical thought.

In "From the Deep it Comes" Hastrich mourns the fact that there are almost no hidden places left in the natural world to discover, "though our requirement for the wonder they furnish goes undiminished".

These private recesses help us survive and to create, she says. They are also where "present experience mixes with memory, and associations knit".

Luckily Hastrich has a bolthole, and shared its bounty with us.

» books@ssh.com.au

Theatre Review
by Catherine Skipper



The Visitors
Writer: Jane Harrison
Director: Frederick Copperwaite
Carriageworks
January 23-26, 2020

Acclaimed Murawari playwright, Jane Harrison, has re-imagined the arrival of the First Fleet in *The Visitors* – the latest game-changing production by Moogahlin Performing Arts. Presented from the perspective of seven clan leaders, who have gathered on Gadigal land to decide how they will respond to the strangers, the play resists the commonly held view that the Aboriginal people were victims of colonisation.

The lovely setting with its suggestion of tall trees amid scrub, the rhythmic sound of the sea and silent figure sitting at peace within the natural landscape, quickly establishes what is at stake. A slowly spreading ground-mist signals the arrival of the elders – performed by John Blair, Damion Hunter, Colin Kinchela, Nathan Leslie, Leroy Parsons and Glenn Shea – who

have gathered in just such a way through time immemorial. They enter in that characteristically Bangarra fashion, unobtrusively but fully present, fully grounded.

Bare-footed, the elders wear tailored suits and ties, a uniform worn by any cabinet or board of directors, visually and wittily overturning any notion of an unsophisticated, haphazard native people. They have long-established protocols for conducting such a high-level meeting and rules for making important decisions and, as they talk and "listen deeply" (an important rule), each is readily recognisable as a type of person. The group is fully rounded out by "Gramps" (Glenn Shea), a very elderly man, and the arrival of Lawrence (Kerri Simpson), a young man not yet fully initiated but nevertheless, opinionated.

At first, they are pro-resistance. However, a more philosophical elder (Leroy Parsons), interested in observing the strangers and collecting artefacts left after Cook's expedition, offers alternative interpretations of their behaviour. As they talk and share knowledge about the strangers – and make sly fun of them and their ways – they explore both their reasons for wanting to send them away and the possibility that the strangers have knowledge to offer. None has a more powerful story than the charismatic Gordon (Damion Hunter) who, from the beginning, has fiercely opposed welcoming the strangers.

By showing Aboriginal characters before colonisation Harrison has freed us from the narrative imposed upon events by the colonisers. Her insightful re-imagining offers us all a way we can move forward towards a better future based upon truth and respect. Those who see this performance will listen to the by now familiar Welcome to Country with a new understanding of how this valued Aboriginal precedent played out so tragically in our troubled history.

Congratulations to the ensemble cast whose respectful telling of their collective story made this play a deeply moving and illuminating experience.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Sydney's not just belly for Tanyeli!

SEDA STARR

TANYELI is a world-renown belly dancer from Turkey who is based in Sydney where she has an event company that organises multicultural festivals and concerts. She is also my sister.

Who have you danced for and where?
I've danced for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and for people like Madonna, Morgan Freeman, Princess Margaret and Lady Diana. I've travelled the world belly dancing, and also teaching dance workshops.

What is your life like in Sydney?
I'm so lucky to live in Sydney because it's a multicultural city and the heart of art.

I'm living with my family here. I came from overseas with my son and my husband and I have a beautiful sister [you, Seda!] and niece here. It looks like a very small family but we have many friends from different cultures that expand our family – and it's feeling very good. We are living a very social life.

What about your professional life?
Very busy! Seven days in a week isn't enough for me. I co-host a live radio show for my community, and host private events and functions.

Are you still dancing?
Only for charity and occasionally for exclusive events. I'm so happy now that I'm bringing the most famous belly dancers, singers, and celebrities from around the world to Sydney.

Do you have any events coming up soon?
Yes, I have two events coming up. One is a '90s themed party at Sydney University's Manning Bar with two famous DJs and two very famous '90s singers. I'm also really excited about an event in March. I'm proudly presenting the Sydney International Dance and Music festival and bringing two world-renown dancers, Diva Darina from Ukraine and Mr Ozgen from London to Australia to perform.

When is the festival?
I've organised the festival for International Women's Day on March 8, 2020. There will be workshops and an exhibition during the day and during the evening there will be musicians and dancers from all over the world performing. It's going to be an unforgettable event for women.

Will you be dancing at the festival?
Yes, I have a passion to present my culture by dancing at multicultural events.

How do you manage all of this?
Believe it or not my daily life starts very early in the morning. While I'm preparing breakfast for the family I become creative and plan what's next. I'm energetic towards creating these marvellous events and it keeps me going.

How can people find your events?
These days it's very easy to find me on my Facebook and Instagram accounts @tanyelislife and @diamondstageevents – so take a look!

‘Nag Nag Nag’ showcases unconventional Aussie music

SSH

TAKING place over two days at the Marrickville Bowling Club, Nag Nag Nag is an exposé of Australia's burgeoning underground music scenes.

Described as a festival for those who aren't fans of festivals, *Nag Nag Nag*, now in its sixth year, started as a means of providing a platform for artists that operate in the "DIY" music community.

The sell-out event on January 17 and 18 brought together the finest in unconventional Australian music, featuring 20 artists from NSW, Victoria and Queensland, with styles ranging from garage punk to improvisational electronica.

The venue, which operates by day for many lawn-bowling and beer-drinking enthusiasts, at night rapidly transformed into a rampant live music hub.

"It's great that the bowlo allows us to run this festival year in year out," said organiser

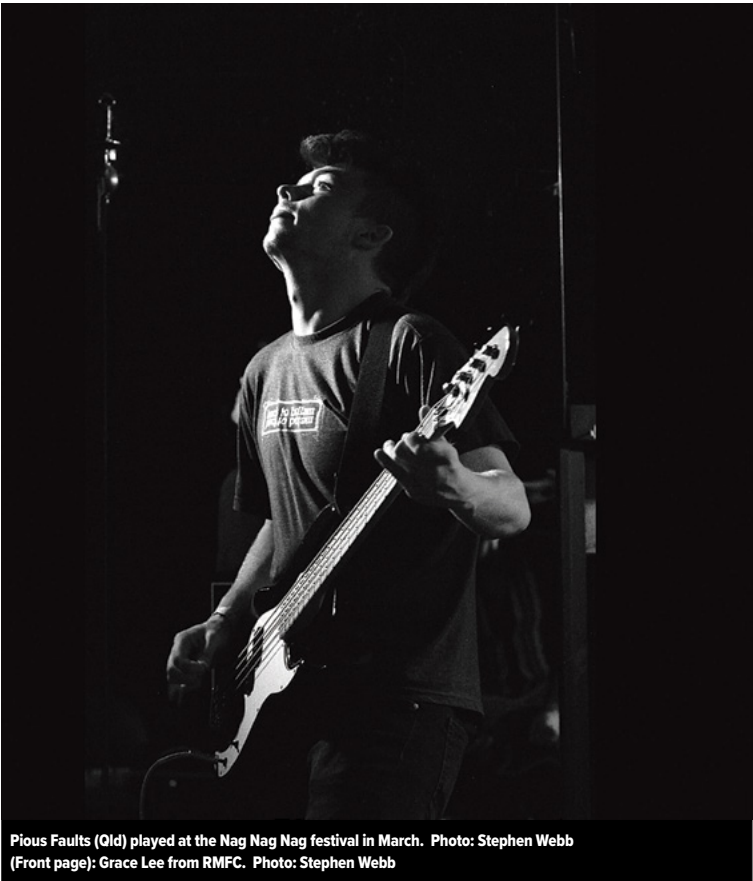
Greg Clennar. "I can't think of a better home for *Nag Nag Nag*.

"*Nag Nag Nag* gives underground bands a chance to perform in front of appreciative audiences when opportunities to play live in a welcoming and comfortable venue in this city are so few and far between."

Day 1 featured a scintillating set from Newtown-based post-punk trio Display Homes, while Day 2 saw a smattering of Victorian artists, including performances from the raucous hardcore quartet Geld and the jangly guitar pop of Primo.

While the festival has enjoyed consecutive sell-out crowds over its six installations, the future for any sustainable live music scene in Sydney is uncertain.

"Over the years, the increased police presence is certainly alarming," said Mr Clennar. "We had four police officers and a sniffer dog search the venue during one of the band's performances at around 7pm on the Saturday, only to leave with nothing. It doesn't bode well for the future of live music venues in Sydney."



Pious Faults (Old) played at the Nag Nag Nag festival in March. Photo: Stephen Webb
(Front page): Grace Lee from RMFC. Photo: Stephen Webb

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9349 8200

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS



PAT CLARKE

Best wishes for the New Year to all our volunteers and readers; and especially our heartfelt gratitude to our brave and untiring firefighters and other volunteers who are the unsung heroes of the dreadful tragedy affecting so many people.

Volunteers' Picnic December 2019

The *South Sydney Herald's* wonderful volunteers enjoyed a fun-filled picnic day at Jubilee Park, Glebe Foreshore on Sunday December 15, 2019. A special thank you gift on the day was an SSH cap. If you didn't receive one, and would like to, please contact Rev. Andrew below. Like to be a volunteer, and join our SSH family? Contact: sshanded@bigpond.com

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras 2020 – February 14 to March 1

The theme for this year's Mardi Gras is WHAT MATTERS! covering a wide range of topics including diversity, inclusivity and climate change. Plenty of activities including Fair Day at Victoria Park on Sunday February 16, and the Parade on Saturday February 29. For a full and exciting program see www.mardigras.org.au.

Belvoir Unwaged Program 2020

Always in our February issue I publish the *Belvoir Unwaged*

Program for our theatre-loving volunteers and readers for the coming year. Unwaged performances for 2020 are on Thursdays at 11.30am and to claim your ticket visit the Belvoir Box Office within two hours of show on day of performance. Pensioner, Health Care Card, Vets Card with photo ID (MEAA and Equity cards also accepted). (Sponsor Virgin Australia.)
Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam, February 20, 11.30am
Dance Nation, April 2, 11.30am
A Room of One's Own, April 30, 11.30am
Escaped Alone, June 4, 11.30am
The Jungle and the Sea, July 22, 11.30am
Miss Peony, August 20, 11.30am
My Brilliant Career, September 24, 11.30am
Cursed! November 5, 11.30am
Summerfolk, December 3, 11.30am

SSH Volunteers Meetings for 2020

SSH Volunteers Meetings will be held the first Saturday of each month at the Cauliflower hotel in Waterloo, upstairs from 2pm. All volunteers welcome.
March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5.

Until next time,
Pat Clarke
volunteers@ssh.com.au

Women's Reconciliation Network

Last Thursday of the month from February to November, 10 for 10.30am at Redfern Community Centre.

South Sydney Herald

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

BABANA ABORIGINAL MEN'S GROUP
Babana Shed open Mon-Fri (Cnr St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave, Glebe)
Contact: Mark Spinks 0411282 917

Uniting Churches



South Sydney Uniting Church

56a Raglan St, Waterloo
Worship (Eucharist)
10am Sunday
Rev. Andrew Collis
0438 719 470
www.southsydneyuniting.org.au

Leichhardt Uniting Church

3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt (near Norton St, free parking behind church)
Worship 10am & 6.30pm Sunday
Revs Radhika & Adrian Sukumar-White
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
Office 9331 2646
www.paddingtonuca.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
Pastor Jon Owen
Office 9581 9100
www.thewaysidechapel.com

St Stephen's Uniting Church

197 Macquarie St, Sydney
Worship 10am Sunday, 1pm Tuesday, 8am Wednesday
Rev. Ken Day
Office 9221 1688
www.ssms.org.au

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Australian Open highlights

STEVE TURNER

ALTHOUGH the finals will be happening as we go to print, listed are some of the highlights of this year's Australian Open:

- Nick Kyrgios' brilliant showing against Rafael Nadal.
- Serena Williams' loss, denying her a chance to equal Margaret Court's 24 grand slam victories.
- Margaret Court's relatively low-key celebration of 50 years since winning all grand slams in one calendar year.
- Ash Barty's brilliant play throughout the tournament.

Still, it was disappointing to see the Young Australian of the Year bundled out of the semi-final, going down 7-6 7-5 to American Sofia Kenin, despite holding two set points in the first set tiebreaker and serving for the second set at 5-4. During the match the air temperature rose to almost 40 degrees! Ash, we are proud of you.

Goodbye Kobe

Los Angeles Lakers guard and five-time National Basketball Association (NBA) champion Kobe Bryant was travelling in his private



Ash Barty. Photo: mamamia.com.au

helicopter with eight other people, including his 13 year-old daughter, when it crashed in Calabasas, California, about 65 kilometres north-west of Los Angeles. There were no survivors. Bryant was basketball royalty and a wonderful role model.

Doueih joins the Tigers

Wests Tigers have signed disgruntled South Sydney young gun Adam Doueih. The 21 year-old had been linked for several weeks with a move to the Tigers following Roosters star Latrell Mitchell's arrival at South Sydney. Doueih had allegedly been

promised the starting fullback position this off-season by coach Wayne Bennett. A Balmain junior, he will be an asset to his new club. The four-year deal was rubber-stamped and confirmed by the Tigers on Thursday January 30, with the contract worth around \$2.5 million.

SSH rugby league reporter John Lanzky says: "We will miss Doueih. He's a good player. We still have a strong backline though, and good young forwards coming through. I predict a top-four finish for Souths, a big year. Go Rabbitohs!"

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NEWTOPIAN Outreachers

Seeking volunteers to address homelessness in the CBD

Following a successful locally based initiative in Newtown, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) is seeking to replicate a model of volunteering that will harness goodwill and increase Sydney's capacity to more effectively assist people experiencing homelessness.

The project will involve recruiting, training, supervising and supporting a network of volunteer "Newtopian Outreachers" in the Sydney CBD, to meaningfully engage with rough sleepers and assist them in connecting with housing related services.

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre exists to create a more inclusive, resilient, vibrant and self-reliant community and provides services to those in the Inner West.

Applications for recruitment will open in February.

www.newtowncentre.org/community-homeless-outreach

For more information contact:
Carlos Robles | Project Coordinator
9564 7327 | carlosrobles@newtowncentre.org