



UNDERSTANDING EPILEPSY

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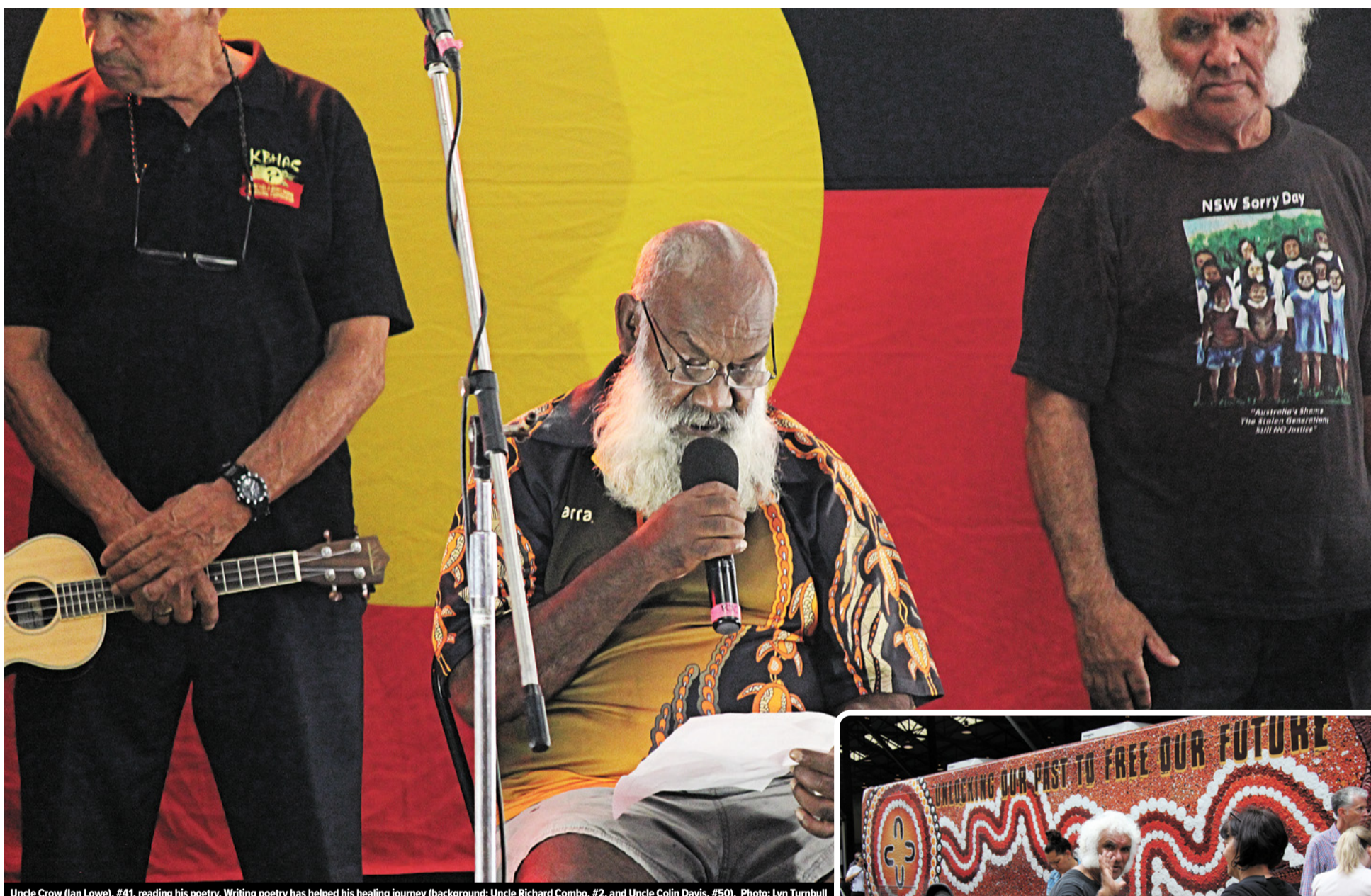
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Uncle Crow (Ian Lowe), #41, reading his poetry. Writing poetry has helped his healing journey (background: Uncle Richard Combo, #2, and Uncle Colin Davis, #50). Photo: Lyn Turnbull

On the road to healing

FIRST PEOPLES

LYN TURNBULL

IT is over 20 years since the publication of the *Bringing Them Home* report, yet many Australians are still unaware of the full impact of policies of successive state and federal governments on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children stolen from their families, and the intergenerational trauma experienced by their descendants.

At Carriageworks on February 13, the 12th anniversary of the

National Apology to the Stolen Generations, the survivors of Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) launched a modified bus to take their stories on the road. The Stolen Generations Mobile Education Centre, the first of its kind in Australia, aims to facilitate truth-telling and healing.

Boys at KBH were addressed by number, not by name. They were forbidden to speak their own languages, so the entrance to the bus has been painted in black with stark white numbers. The exterior is decorated with Aboriginal designs in ochre colours with the words: "Unlocking our past

to free our future". The back half of the bus has been converted into a cinema that shows a short, animated film collaboratively produced with the uncles.

The bus is an experiential learning centre and aims to educate children, young people and communities (Aboriginal and non-Indigenous) through three levels of engagement, drawing on a range of resources: oral testimony, archival material, animated film, visual images and timelines, as well as interactive materials including an online portal.

NSW had three main Aboriginal children's institutions. Between 1908 and 1980, the babies



Uncle Colin Davis, #50, shares his reflections about the importance of the KBHAC Mobile Education Centre and taking this to the community. Photo: Lyn Turnbull

and children under 10 were taken to Bomaderry. Aunty Christine Blakeney from Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home spoke at the launch of how when children turned 10 they were moved to either Kinchela Boys Home (1923-70) or Cootamundra Girls Home (1911-69) for "training". They were wrenched from older brothers and sisters.

Often it was only later in life that people attempted to find members of their family. Many were told to go to Redfern, as "the place to meet your mob is at the big E" (Empress Hotel).

Mark Lock from the Stolen Generations Council (NSW/ACT) spoke of the symbolism of KBHAC using a bus, and the heritage of buses in the struggle for justice with the NSW freedom rides in the 1960s. Aboriginal people were not allowed to travel on buses or had to sit at the back – even today some find "the seat next to them is the last to be sat in".

Aunty Robyn Lowe fought back tears as she spoke about the bonds between survivors of Cootamundra Girls Training Home (1912-69) and the brothers at KBH and their descendants.

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Make someone's day – it's rewarding

LOCALS

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THE Junction Neighbourhood Centre (JNC) at St Helen's Community Centre in Glebe is seeking volunteers who have some free time, and want to make a difference to older people in their neighbourhood.

"Many older people in our community feel very isolated," says Janet Green, JNC's General Manager. "The JNC's Glebe Friendly Call Service helps to reduce that sense of isolation and provide a sense of connection. It's a free service, funded through the Commonwealth Government. JNC provides services to older people who need support to continue living independently in the community."

Volunteers make regular phone calls from the JNC's Volunteer Hub at Glebe. For some older people this is a friendly call they receive between service visits, providing continuity and connection. For others, the call may be their only service and their only way to connect with the world beyond their homes.

The JNC is seeking more volunteers to ensure this service



Volunteer Deanne Chapman makes a difference to the older people she chats with by phone. Photo: Supplied

can be run for everyone who needs it.

"In our community, older people are becoming increasingly isolated as their circumstances change," Green says. "They often face mobility, health and financial issues. Their family members may have other commitments, and their friendship groups are shrinking. There are fewer opportunities to discuss their concerns about the

environment and other current affairs. The Friendly Call Service creates connections and confidence."

Green adds, "Your spot is waiting at the JNC's Glebe Volunteer Hub. We have phones and seating for two volunteers to work together."

Once volunteers have completed the required training, they work for a minimum of two hours a

fortnight at the JNC Volunteer Hub at St Helen's Community Centre. There is ongoing support for volunteers and the rewards are great.

Deanne Chapman has been making friendly phone calls as a volunteer for over a year. "Being a phone support volunteer means listening to people's stories. It's made me aware of the enormity of the problem of isolation – so many people are on their own and disconnected."

Chapman continues, "Some of the people I speak to haven't had contact with another person for days and they are so appreciative to be heard. You can hear the difference in their voice between the beginning and the end of the call."

"I like the feeling of making a difference to someone's day."

Bruce Coyte has volunteered with the JNC in Glebe for many years. For him, volunteering means, "Enjoyment in helping people, and giving back a little to society. It's rewarding."

To volunteer phone Matt, JNC's Volunteer Coordinator, on 9349 8200 email volunteer@jnc.org.au, website www.jnc.org.au, Facebook @TheJNC. The Glebe hub is at St Helen's Community Centre, 184 Glebe Point Road, Glebe.

Shades of Purple campaign highlights spectrum of epilepsy

HEALTH

SSH

THE 250,000 Australians living with epilepsy experience the condition differently and the largest provider of services for people living with epilepsy in Australia is advocating for greater recognition for epilepsy as a spectrum disorder.

On March 26, Epilepsy Action Australia is aiming to raise \$250,000 on Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness to go towards life-changing technology – a fundraising goal based on \$1 for every person diagnosed with epilepsy in Australia. For the first time the Sydney Opera House will also be lit purple.

Although epilepsy is more common than Parkinson's, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy combined, it is widely misunderstood says Carol Ireland, CEO of Epilepsy Action Australia. "That is why we are using the symbolism of 250,000 shades of purple this Purple Day to highlight that living with epilepsy is different for each of the 250,000 Australians diagnosed with the condition."

Neurologist Professor Terry O'Brien, President of the Epilepsy Society of Australia and Director of Neurology at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital, says that the growing recognition of epilepsy's complexity means that there is not one way to treat or manage the condition and different forms of epilepsy require an

array of personalised therapeutic approaches.

"Approximately 70 per cent of all patients can have their seizures controlled with anti-epileptic medication. For those who don't respond to drugs, advanced imaging techniques may allow them to benefit from surgery," says Professor O'Brien. "Yet epilepsy still has no cure – for many, it is a lifelong, chronic disorder."

Ms Ireland says epilepsy occurs on a spectrum, with seizures varying in severity and frequency from person to person. She also says technology can be a life-changer for many people with epilepsy – giving people more control while living with what can be a very out of control condition.

"For this reason, Epilepsy Action is committed to being at the forefront of cutting-edge solutions for managing epilepsy and putting the power at the fingertips of those living with the condition. We are in the advanced stages of exploring a range of apps to assist with seizure management, telehealth and better clinical consultations with GPs and specialists.

"What we desperately need is funds to go towards getting incredible resources off the ground and working to improve the lives of those living with epilepsy. We encourage the Australian public to get behind us in any way possible this Purple Day on March 26 to reach our \$250,000 goal."

See www.epilepsy.org.au and www.purpleday.org



Epilepsy Action Australia is aiming to raise \$250,000 on Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness on March 26. Photo: Supplied

'We must fight for the planet and our future'

ENVIRONMENT

GARRETT SWEARINGEN

WHAT would you do if you knew we had ten years to drastically overhaul the way the world operates or face ecological collapse? My name is Garrett Swearingen and I live in Cairns, Far North Queensland. I was one of the 300,000 young Australians who walked out of school in September 20 last year to demand our leaders act with integrity on climate change.

For as long as I can remember I've had a concern for our natural world and have done what I could to protect it. I remember when I was still quite young, I organised clean-ups of my local park and always made a point of telling my friends not to litter. I knew very little about the state of the wider world but assumed that our leaders would be taking care of it. However, as I grew up, I started to understand the reality we faced. I then lived in Sydney and remember being shocked by the fact that the Opera House was expected to be swallowed by rising seas. However, no matter how much I tried I could never seem to get my friends to care much and I felt quite helpless as well as isolated. I frequently suffered poor mental health in school, and I think this was in part due to these feelings of helplessness and isolation. The first climate strike was



Garrett Swearingen (second from right) at the Cairns November 29 Bushfire #ClimateStrike last year. Photo: Supplied

such a contrast to this that I was immediately filled with a feeling of belonging and power. Finally, here were other young people standing united, to fight for the planet and our future. I enthusiastically dove into all sorts of climate causes, including organising the September 20 climate strike and co-founding a branch of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition.

I spent, and still spend, hours per week involved in climate campaigning. Although I'd rather spend this time on other activities, it often feels like this movement is my only hope to create a

thriving, prosperous future for young people.

If our leaders don't step up their efforts to reduce carbon pollution then the future looks very bleak for my generation, and especially for those most vulnerable, such as those in less industrialised countries, First Nations peoples and fossil fuel workers. Regional areas also are especially vulnerable. For example, Cairns' livelihood depends on the tourism industry, which requires a healthy reef and a healthy rainforest to continue to thrive. However, at current levels of heating, the health of these

natural wonders is in serious peril. Other parts of Queensland, such as Mackay, which relies heavily on coalmining, also face terrifyingly uncertain futures. With the global transition away from coal underway, those currently employed in the industry need the government to support them in transitioning to new industries. The sooner this transition occurs the greater the benefits to these communities and everyone. However, our current government would rather prop up coal magnates to allow them to profit for as long as possible, with no regard for their workers or the

future generations who will suffer from the coal burned.

We already know what we need to do to create a prosperous and just Australia for all. This is reflected in our three demands:

1. No new coal, oil and gas projects, including the Adani mine,
2. 100 per cent renewable energy generation and exports by 2030, and
3. Fund a just transition and job creation for all fossil fuel workers and communities.

However, with our greedy and self-serving leaders refusing to serve their people, we need to unite like never before and we need to use our collective power to make our vision a reality. To be successful we need everyone, so organise your community – arrange a meeting with an MP or help coordinate a boycott. Do whatever you feel comfortable with and that your strengths align with but do something. Most importantly, make sure to get along to the next climate strike on May 15 and bring your friends, your families and your colleagues with you so that together we can make this the largest demonstration ever!

We stand at a pivotal point in history. My generation is the first to experience the effects of climate change and the last to be able to take action to avoid the worst effects. We won't ever be giving up, so stand with us and fight for a prosperous and just Australia for all of us.

SSH

'Show some leadership' 18 senior religious leaders urge PM to step up climate policy

ENVIRONMENT

SSH

FOLLOWING the unprecedented devastation Australia has witnessed this summer, 18 senior religious leaders from the Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish and Hindu communities, which together have more than 10 million members in Australia, have issued an open letter to the Prime Minister, appealing to him as a "fellow person of faith", and calling for stronger climate leadership and an urgent shift away from coal and gas.

Catholic, Buddhist, Muslim and Quaker signatories and representatives of ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change) launched the letter at Paddington Uniting Church on February 20.

The letter reads, in part: "This land now called Australia is very vulnerable to climate impacts. Aboriginal communities in arid areas are at great risk, as are the Torres Strait Islanders from increasingly hostile oceans. Farmers face more extreme droughts and floods. Our concern is also for the tens of millions around the world who are already

being displaced annually by other climate-related disasters. There is even worse to come.

"The insight of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait leaders, that all things are connected, is affirmed by the overwhelming scientific consensus. There is much to learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have survived and thrived on their lands for over 2,000 generations.

"Scientists and former emergency services chiefs have been very clear that the fires have been made much worse by human-induced climate change. The warmer temperatures and prolonged drought have made the land progressively drier.

"You have said that you recognise this. Yet you have also insisted that your climate policies will not change. This, despite global views that Australia's climate policies are amongst the worst in the world.

"As Parliament continues to convene on the land of the Ngunnawal people, we are asking you and your colleagues in the Coalition to unite behind the science. As it says in the Book of Proverbs 'Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counsellors there is safety'.

"Almost all peer-reviewed articles by climate scientists



Bhante Sujato (Buddhist monk), Thea Ormerod (Chair, ARRCC), Wies Schuiringa (Vice President, NSW Ecumenical Council & Co-Clerk, Quakers NSW), Ghaith Krayem (CEO, Muslims Australia) at Paddington Uniting Church. Photo: Andrew Collis

agree on the main points: climate change is real and it is caused by human activity, primarily the burning of coal, oil and gas, together with animal agriculture

and land clearing. Human ingenuity has developed viable alternatives for each of these destructive practices. What is needed is strong and visionary

leadership to support their urgent adoption."

SSH

Read the full letter at www.arrcc.org.au/letter

Sydney graduates launch face mask to protect against air pollution

SPONSORED

MICHAEL SPENCE

WITH public concern about the health impacts of air pollution rising in Australia and around the globe, University of Sydney graduates have launched an innovative face mask that protects users from harmful pollutants.

Brothers Elias and Isaac Honor co-founded their company AusAir with childhood friend Jack Graham in 2017 while studying at the University of Sydney Business School and launched presales of the masks via Kickstarter earlier this month.

The reusable masks, which feature a washable skin and botanical filters, passed preliminary P2 and KN95 testing and block over 97 per cent of PM2.5 – a measure of fine particle matter often included in air quality reports.

“The market is dominated by products that focus on pure utility, but we want to allow people to express themselves while wearing a mask that’s comfortable and extremely breathable,” said Elias Honor.

How AusAir started

The idea for the startup was sparked after the founders travelled to Shenzhen in China, experiencing the effects of air pollution firsthand.

“We were really shocked, particularly when we started investigating the research into the health impacts of air pollution,” said Jack Graham.



Isaac Honor, Elias Honor and Jack Graham from AusAir have launched a mask that has proven to protect people from harmful pollutants in the air. Photo: Supplied

“With the terrible bushfires, we’ve seen air pollution in parts of Sydney reach levels which have the equivalent health impacts as smoking over a pack of cigarettes every day.”

Australians aren’t alone in their concerns about air pollution, with the World Health Organization warning air pollution is a top threat to global health in 2020.

The founders were aware that properly fitted face masks can be challenging to source, so developed the masks in multiple sizes.

Startup journey boosted by Sydney funding

A year after founding the anti-pollution startup, Isaac Honor joined the University of Sydney’s flagship Genesis Startup Program, winning the Most Scalable Business in South East Asia award.

“By including specialists in topics ranging from validation, segmentation, product roadmapping and business models, the program does a fantastic job in bridging the gap between theory and pragmatism,” said Isaac Honor.

The company went from strength to strength and later that year won the \$10,000 Student Innovation Challenge Award during Innovation Week.

“We are thrilled to see AusAir’s success propel since participating in Sydney Genesis. The program plays a key role in the startup community in Sydney, having supported more than 1,000 alumni, student and staff accelerate their startup ideas,” said Professor Leanne Cutcher from the Business School, which facilitates Sydney Genesis.

“Isaac and the AusAir team are testament to our students’ outstanding potential to help solve real-world problems.”



Authorised by Dr 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

‘Do what’s most meaningful,’ says Dr Demartini

HEALTH

SEDA STAR

IT was exciting to interview international motivational speaker Dr John Demartini, who was a contributor to the bestselling book *The Secret* and has been my mentor.

How many years have you been travelling?

I’ve been teaching for 47 years and travelling since I was a child. I’ve been to 154 countries so far.

I went to your Breakthrough Seminar 15 years ago and you have mentored me since and changed my life.

It’s important that we take control of our life. If we don’t, someone else does.

You’ve led seminars in Australia for around 25 years. Who were you married to?

I was married to an Australian, Athena Starwoman. But she passed away 15-plus years ago. Many people know her from her work.

What do you do to reduce stress?

If you’re doing something you really love doing it really reduces



Dr John Demartini says, ‘If you’re doing something you really love doing it really reduces your stress and the ageing process.’. Photo: Supplied

perceptions or we can give ourselves permission to go after what we really love. I tell people to give themselves permission to go and do something really extraordinary. You love dancing and inspiring, and I love educating and researching, so I do that every day.

What happens when we live by our highest priorities?

Every time we do high-priority things we grow in self-worth and the blood goes into the highest levels of our brain, the cortical centre where we can govern ourselves, be more objective and prepared, and have resilience to whatever happens in our life. We are also clearer and inner directed.

What can you suggest to help people?

There are things you can do to give people power instead of medicating or treating people; like teaching them how to ask new questions, to become conscious of what was unconscious – to become aware of unrealistic expectations. When they do this, their life flourishes.

@seda.star



TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

METRO STOP AT GREEN SQUARE

The New South Wales Minister for Transport and Roads recently revealed a \$200 million change to the Sydney Metro project as a direct result of an unsolicited proposal from Macquarie Bank.

However, during the planning stages of the Chatswood to Sydenham Sydney Metro, the same Minister advised us that an additional station at Green Square was unnecessary because of limited commuter and economic benefit.

Yet the NSW Government’s own modelling shows this area is set to become Australia’s most densely populated precinct- and denser than London or New York.

I have written to the Minister on multiple occasions arguing that it would be foolish not to include a Metro stop positioned between Waterloo and Sydenham stations, particularly when the track is being built already.

Given that changes to the Metro project are clearly still possible, I have strongly urged the NSW Transport Minister to reconsider his position and plan for a Green Square metro station.

THE GOVERNMENT’S LATEST RORT

This time Scott Morrison has taken his rorts to the streets, pouring more than 83 percent of the \$3 billion Urban Congestion Fund into 144 projects located in Coalition and marginal seats. Scott Morrison made promises in every single urban Coalition seat that was marginal or under threat.

But the electorate of Sydney did not receive one cent from this fund. Does Scott Morrison really think traffic congestion stops when cars move onto streets in Sydney?

Labor has written to the Auditor-General requesting an audit into the design, management and politicisation of the Urban Congestion Fund.



With Drew from *The Big Issue*

GIVE BIG TO THE BIG ISSUE

Each year I love catching up with Drew to help him sell *The Big Issue*. Next time you see Drew (or any of the 800 vendors), stop to say hi and buy a copy. It helps people turning their lives around and it’s a great read!

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

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Build-to-rent rezoning proposal to Council



Sketch plan for the Redfern build-to-rent proposal, which allows for a new mixed community of around 400 homes subject to Development Application (DA) approval. Image: Supplied

the consultation plans was on the corner of Walker and Kettle Streets, which was to be 15-19 storeys. There is no indication of the maximum height proposed on the site.

The brochure states: "LAHC is working with the PCYC to support its relocation to a new site within the local neighbourhood." There is no indication that LAHC has acted on the request for a community centre on the site to service the Redfern public housing estate.

LAHC has already short-listed three consortia to do the development. It will choose the successful developer while the planning process is underway. The three are:

- John Laing-led consortium including Compass Housing Services,
- Frasers Property and Hume Community Housing Association, and
- Capella Capital, Lendlease Building and Evolve Housing.

Initial planning work for the site was under the state government rules. CoS will now determine the rezoning in conjunction with the Central Sydney Planning Committee (CSPC) and the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE). Public exhibition will follow approval from CoS, CSPC and DPIE and the aim is for development to be completed in 2025.

SSH

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

REDFERN: Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) submitted its rezoning proposal for the PCYC site and adjoining land at 600-660 Elizabeth Street to City of Sydney Council (CoS) on February 28.

The site is the first government-backed mixed tenure build-to-rent residential development in Australia. Mick Cassel, the LAHC Executive Officer, said, "This model is a new initiative for the NSW Government and allows us to

retain ownership of the land and leverage the private and not-for-profit sectors to help deliver new housing and open space for the community."

The media release states: "About 400 new homes will be constructed, subject to development approval." The number of homes proposed has been reduced significantly from the "around 500 new homes" proposed during the Redfern community consultation in mid-October 2019.

The majority of the site will be seven storeys or less. During the consultation over 90 per cent of the site was nine storeys or less. The tallest building in

Pemulwuy – concrete structure of apartments completed

SPONSORED

AMANDA FLEMING

REDFERN: From smoke-filled skies to crazy storms, work on the Pemulwuy site has pushed ahead over the last month. Luckily, only a couple of days have been lost due to adverse weather.

Progress on the apartment structure can be seen in the middle of the site. It has been great for us to watch the brickwork going up internally throughout the lower levels of the apartments. There will be 26 apartments in total.

The townhouses will rise up from the concrete slab which has been poured, and there will be 36 townhouses in total. All 62 dwellings are being built for affordable and social housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only to rent from the Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC).

On reflection, this time last year we were still waiting on our final approval for Precinct 3. Now our energy is being channelled into having everything in place ready for when the doors open for our tenants

On Precinct 1 (Affordable housing/gym/gallery): 100 per cent of the concrete structure of the



Progress on apartment structure. Photo: Supplied

apartments has been completed, which includes the roof which is on the sixth level. Brickwork has been completed on Levels 1, 2 and 3 and gyprock has commenced on Levels 1 and 2.

The basement slab of the townhouses Level 1 (ground level) is nearly finished and Level 2 (first floor) has started. Rendering and painting has commenced on the outside, and waterproofing and tiling will commence shortly.

On Precinct 3 (Col James Student Accommodation): The student accommodation has reached Level 6, and Level 7 is forming

with the pour for the railway end of Level 7 completed at the end of February. Drainage services have commenced on the ground and lower ground levels, along with the blockwork for those levels. External panelling is being prepared.

SSH



Authorised by Michael Mundine, CEO, Aboriginal Housing Company Limited



International Women's Day – Sunday March 8

Each year on International Women's Day we celebrate everything we have managed to achieve in our struggle for gender equality and shine a light on the barriers that still remain.

It still feels incredible that this year we are finally able to reflect on and celebrate the enormous win for abortion law reform we achieved at the end of last year. After a decades-long struggle for fair access to abortion, a strong community campaign finally achieved these much-needed reforms. It was an honour to be one of the Members of the NSW Parliament who co-sponsored this piece of legislation, and so empowering to work alongside the incredible activists and campaigners at the NSW Pro-Choice Alliance to finally get this done.

While it is important to take time to reflect on these achievements, recent events in Queensland are a stark reminder of the work that still needs to be done. On average, one woman in Australia is murdered by her current or former partner every single week. One in three women have experienced physical violence and one in five has experienced sexual violence.

These statistics are horrifying but are still not garnering the type of outrage and swift action from government that we saw in response to the two "one-punch" deaths in Kings Cross for example. In fact, as recently as this year the Liberal government has slashed funding to several key domestic violence organisations. This is what gender inequality looks like in practice, and why it is so important that we join together in striving for change.

One thing is clear – our laws, courts, structures and funding models are failing women in domestic violence situations. We need long-term planning to address the problems that domestic violence organisations have already identified. We need laws that recognise coercive control as a form of abuse and police and courts that are willing to act on them. We need adequate and long-term funding for front-line domestic violence services to assist those escaping bad situations to do so safely. We need police to be trained and resourced to appropriately act to prevent domestic violence and keep women safe, and we need our state and federal governments to take this matter seriously.

Most of all, we need the community to stand up and demand action on this domestic violence epidemic. **Join us on Saturday March 7 at Hyde Park from 11am for the International Women's Day Rally to add your voice to the call.**

Jenny Leong

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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SAVE THE DATE

Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees, April 5

DEE DAVIDIAN

PALM Sunday is one of the most relevant dates on the Christian calendar. As Jesus rode into a bursting Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, people were so moved they laid down palm branches and clothes to honour him. Back then, palm branches symbolised triumph and victory, and created the atmosphere of a modern-day ticker-tape parade.

Imagine the possible scene: Governor Pilate enters Jerusalem on a war horse from one gate, and Jesus enters from the other side on a donkey. He doesn't travel with an armed entourage but with ordinary fishing folk. The Romans wish for nobody to notice Jesus entering. He's a nobody from nowhere. But many palm fronds reserved for Pilate are instead laid before Jesus, whose donkey is an ancient symbol of peace – appropriate, since he proposed an alternative to injustice and oppression.

Faced by injustice, we have the choice to stand by or stand up – and to choose which parade to attend. One of our most pressing challenges today is how to ensure refugees and people seeking asylum are treated with the dignity and respect any person deserves.

Late last year, seven Catholic representatives from Australia visited asylum seekers and refugees living in Papua New Guinea. The delegation saw young men with promising lives shackled by unfair and unnecessary offshore detention policies that continue to haunt them after seven long years of institutionalised emotional torture.

The men had been in Bomana, the \$24m centre funded and built by the Australian Home Affairs Department, where they had no access to daylight, no pillows, no



Graphic: Supplied

visitors, no legal advice. Many reported conditions amounting to physical and psychological torture, and the future for some of these men is deeply uncertain. They have very recently been moved to hotels, but some are so ill they can't eat. They face constant pressure to sign papers agreeing to return to countries where they face death or serious harm.

We're entering a new decade, where current refugees from war and political oppression will be joined by many more fleeing increasing climate-triggered disasters. Whatever justice we can establish for people seeking asylum today will help lay the foundations of a just climate transition – which must involve protecting the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations within and across countries.

Please join us for the 2020 Palm Sunday Peace Rally for Refugees

This is a time when people of goodwill can march together – with the common purpose of compassion for others and passion for justice. Please bring friends, family, or members of your church, school or workplace to this year's Rally. We're in this together.

Palm Sunday April 5, 2-4pm.

Where: Belmore Park – next to Central station

You can sign up online for the Sydney rally here:

mailchi.mp/8bf16c6cc51b/unitingpalmsunday2020

Contact Dee Davidian at ddavidian@uniting.org for more information about the issue and our involvement.

Assisting tenants to build a stronger community

LOCALS

CLAIRE TROJKOVIC

ENGAGEMENT and awareness are two key elements that can strengthen a community. This forms the basis of South Sydney's Tenant Participation and Community Engagement (TPCE) program that is facilitated by Mission Australia and funded by Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

The focus for Mission Australia through the TPCE program is to work alongside residents to ensure they have a platform to be heard and are actively involved in decisions that affect their homes and neighbourhood. It also means they can play a key part in creating a stronger community.

This is done through activities and initiatives that strengthen community ties for residents, link residents with support services, and provide feedback to DCJ and other agencies on potential community improvements.

So, how and where can improvements be discussed, concerns raised and information shared? At the Neighbourhood Advisory Board (NAB) meetings. Each estate has its own NAB meeting where tenants, community organisations and government services meet to discuss and address local issues.

The NAB meeting aims to hear and respond to community concerns, maintenance issues and safety problems, as well as lobby for resources and provide information. These meetings involve a range of stakeholders including tenants, Police, NSW Health, Land and Housing Corporation and local agencies such as Counterpoint, Inner Sydney



Mission Australia's Claire Trojkovic with the Waterloo Chinese Dance Group. Photo: Supplied

Voice and City of Sydney. Tenants are encouraged to join NAB meetings to either represent their precinct and drive change, or get in touch with their precinct representative who can raise ideas or concerns at the next NAB meeting.

In late 2018, the TPCE program was rolled out in Glebe, Waterloo, Redfern, Woolloomooloo and Surry Hills. In 2020, tenants will be able to participate in a range of free workshops and training courses offered through the TPCE program. This includes Mental Wellbeing, Mental Health First Aid (this will also be offered in different languages), Anti-Social Behaviour, Hoarding and Squalor, Tenant Rights and Responsibilities as well as conflict resolution and learning to manage neighbourhood disputes, financial literacy and many more.

To find how to get involved in your local Neighbourhood Advisory Board (NAB) please call 1800 717 517 or email tenantparticipationCE@missionaustralia.com.au. Claire Trojkovic is a facilitator with Mission Australia's Tenancy Participation and Community Engagement.

Pound the pavement to keep kids safe from family violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SSH

IN mid-February, many Australians were shocked to learn that Hannah Clarke and her children Laianah, 4, Aaliyah, 6, and Trey, 3, had been doused in petrol and set on fire in a car by the children's father, Rowan Baxter.

Most people we spoke with said the former NRL player's violence against his wife and family was "incomprehensible" – and yet, Hannah Clarke was the eighth woman to be killed violently this year.

Following Baxter's brutal murders, Rose Batty (whose 11-year-old son Luke was murdered by his father in 2014) issued a statement. It said: violence against women and children "is the most pressing issue of terrorism our society faces".

In 2019, Monash University researchers also revealed the shocking statistic that one child was killed by their parent almost every fortnight in our nation.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and disempowered by Australia's domestic and family violence (DFV) epidemic and the damage it inflicts on individuals – but one Redfern-based support service is offering people a tangible way to help.

Walk for Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre is a 5- or 10-kilometre walk that raises funds to support kids who are escaping DFV and homelessness.

The May 7 Walk starts and finishes in Redfern Park winding through Sydney's CBD and including a halfway point for refreshment at Barangaroo Reserve.

Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC) is a non-government, not-for-profit charitable organisation that offers a range of crisis and early

intervention accommodation and support services to women, children and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and/or DFV.

DFV is the leading cause of homelessness among women and children in Australia. Each night WAGEC accommodates 200 women and children who need a safe space away from violence.

WAGEC's goal is to raise \$100,000 from this year's walk so that kids living in accommodation get what they need to grow and thrive.

CEO, Helen Silvia, says: "We know from 43 years of experience and research evidence the profound, long-term effects of early experiences of violence have on children's wellbeing. This is why we created SEED, to support the Social, Emotional and Educational Development of the children and young people who come to WAGEC.

"SEED relies on funding and generosity from those in the community. That's why we are asking you to help us raise funds and walk five or ten kilometres so that kids and their mums can walk away from violence this Mothers Day."

Register for the May 7 Walk at wagec.org.au

04

Women dead from domestic violence in February 2020

09

Women dead from domestic violence in Australia in 2020 so far

09*

Children dead from violence in 2020 so far

Credit to Destroy the Joint researchers and The RED HEART Campaign who do this heartbreaking and difficult work.

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT?

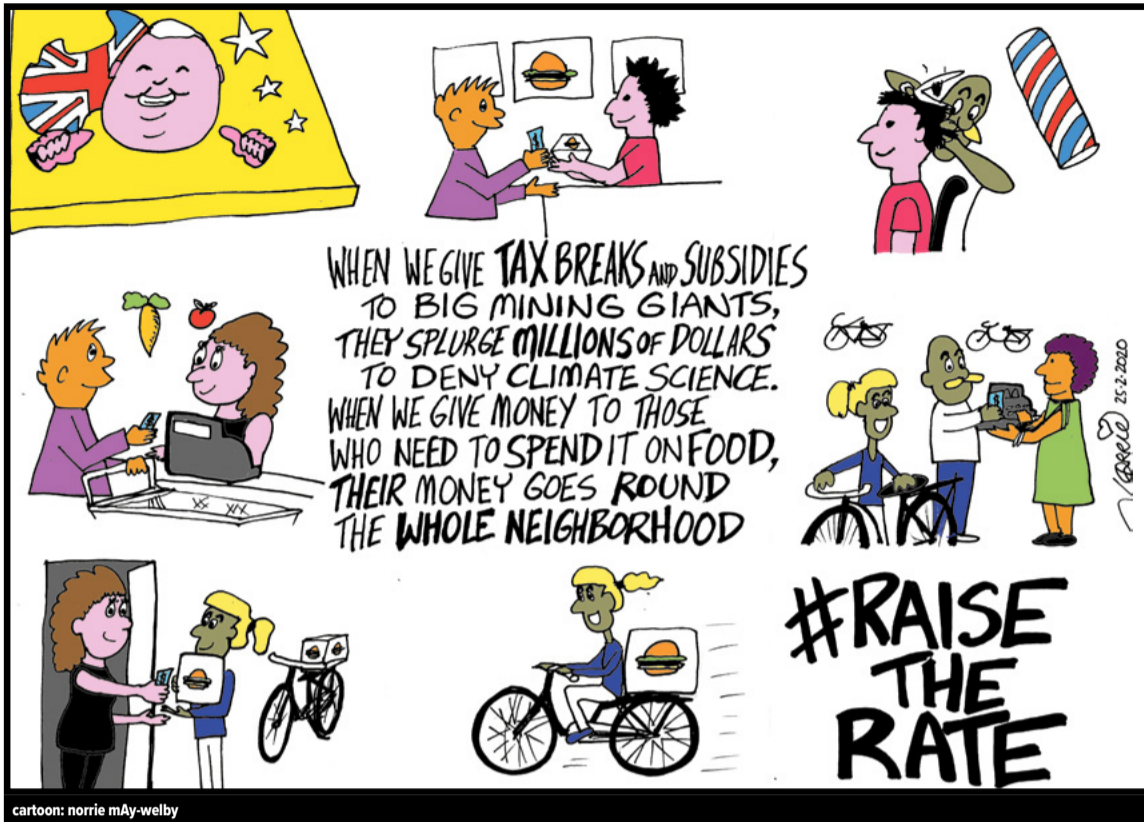
- If you feel you need to find somewhere safe, Jan from the Moving Forward organisation can be contacted on 9599 3217 or email at manager@movingforward.org.au.
- If you or somebody you know is in immediate danger, call 000 now.
- 1800 RESPECT is a 24-hour hotline for any Australian who has experienced, or is at risk of, family and domestic violence. Call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or visit www.1800respect.org.au
- Lifeline provides all Australians with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services. Call 13 11 14 or visit www.lifeline.org.au
- Relationships Australia provides support services for individuals, families and communities. Call 1300 364 277 or visit www.relationshipsnsw.org.au

Uniting

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uniting.org



Waterloo lacks human services plan

EDITORIAL

SSH

SOUTH Sydney Herald is concerned that Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) and the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ formally FACS) have not confirmed their commitment to the delivery of a Waterloo human services plan in parallel with the master plan.

Representatives of Groundswell met with LAHC and DCJ staff in late February and had constructive discussions but did not get a definitive response as to whether LAHC and FACS still had a commitment to deliver the previously agreed Waterloo human services plan.

Counterpoint, Inner Sydney Voice and the broader Groundswell agencies (Redfern Legal Service, Fact Tree Youth Service, Tenants Union NSW, Shelter NSW and REDWatch) are hence seeking formal clarity that the previous undertakings to produce a human services plan in parallel with the Waterloo master plan will be honoured.

The human services plan has

been on the agenda since August 2017 when REDWatch formally requested such a plan from FACS Executive members. The request said, "For REDWatch, however, time is of the essence as we could not support a master plan for Waterloo without a comprehensive human services plan accompanying it."

Since then there have been a number of workshops with agencies to develop such a plan as well as discussions and presentations to Waterloo Redevelopment Group.

It becomes increasingly difficult for tenants and those advocating for them to have confidence in the government when these quotes from LAHC to tenants or service providers have been so often repeated.

LAHC Response to Groundswell

November 2017: The SS [Social Sustainability] study including the human services plan will adopt the NSW Human Services Outcomes Framework which will be used to guide the provision of social and community infrastructure and services associated with the redevelopment.

Waterloo Human Services Plan Consultations with Residents and Human Services – Connect

Consulting July 2018: "In order to support the health, safety, economic, social and wellbeing outcomes of Waterloo residents prior to and throughout the redevelopment, FACS committed, in 2017, to developing and implementing a Waterloo human services framework."

Waterloo redevelopment options brochure September 2018:

"Human services plan is also being developed to support residents' health, safety and wellbeing."

Waterloo masterplan brochure:

In 2019 FACS will focus on:

- developing a human services plan to support resident health, safety and wellbeing and to meet their changing needs before, during and after redevelopment.
- developing a community facilities plan to identify the appropriate allocation of community facilities ensuring operational arrangements are sustainable over time.

There is also still no certainty about whether the tenancies in the rebuilt public housing at Waterloo will be managed by the state government or whether a Community Housing Provider will be appointed.

SSH



A community to believe in

FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

SOME time ago, those of us who organise the articles in this paper decided that its faith column should be "interfaith". Although the SSH is published by a Christian congregation, we felt it was important to encourage respect for people of various faith and wisdom traditions, not least that we might learn from each other.

Those of us who had travelled the world through different countries realised that religious identity it as much a product of history and culture as it is a matter of choice. If we explored the beliefs of the people of a particular country, even in a relatively simple way, we often noticed things which that faith had in common with our own – particularly beliefs about the nature of God.

None of this meant we should not feel free to hold onto our own faith, but rather that we could be open to learn more widely what it meant to us and what we could receive from others. We could see that the nature of faith often invites in believers a strong commitment to particular perceptions regarding the nature of God and how that God calls us to live. Those commitments have often been made central to our faith by a divine representative, such as Jesus of Nazareth for Christians, Abraham for Jews or Mohammad for Muslims.

Members of each faith who are known as "fundamentalists" are not normally open to even hearing what other faiths believe or why they act. In fact, they are likely to strongly condemn people within their own tradition

who disagree with them. This, of course, makes them refuse to learn anything from more radical people within their own tradition, let alone members of other traditions, and really puts limiting boundaries on what they believe.

If, on the other hand, we recognise that the faith to which we belong is most often that which is predominant within our home country, we must ask ourselves how that can mean that our particular faith is superior and more true than that of people who live in other countries.

Why would our God simply choose a particular country in which to live and to convert its inhabitants? Why would that particular God decide to relate to people who had been part of various empires over the centuries – for example, the countries who had been conquered or discovered by Anglo-Celtic people?

Why would the Christian God and the way we non-Indigenous people in Australia understand that God mean that we have nothing to learn from the Indigenous people here, whose spirituality and religious practices have developed over 60,000 years?

None of this is to suggest we should be converted into another faith if we move into a new place or country. However, it may invite the idea that we can often gain some new depths or creativity in our understanding of reality if we relate respectfully to people of another faith, and they may do the same if they relate to us. We may also understand that it is well worth exploring more deeply who people of other faiths are and why they take particular stands as we form our community together. It could even become a richer form of community for us all.

We may even open doors of love and care – and new belief.

SSH

'You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet' probes future for home support

OPINION

TIM HORTON

HOW do most people receive aged care? In a nursing home? If you said yes, you'd have to guess again. The largest aged care program in Australia is the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). It helps more than 850,000 older people to remain in their own homes as they age, staying connected with family, friends, community and culture.

On March 10, Eastern Sydney will see people from across the state and around Australia coming together to share, celebrate, and

explore what Commonwealth Home Support means now and into the future at the *You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet* 2020 CHSP Futures Conference. The keynote address will be delivered by Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck, Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians. Researchers, workers, volunteers and home support consumers will be presenting innovative and practical ways to support older Australians, and looking at how support may change to respond to the changing nature of ageing in Australia.

"We're excited about home support, and we're excited that it helps so many older people to live their lives the way they

want," said Tim Horton, CHSP Sector Support and Development Officer with Inner Sydney Voice. "I'm always amazed at how much older people love what home support gives them."

There is a wide diversity of CHSP services, helping people through meals on wheels, community transport, community nursing, allied health, and home maintenance and modifications. With the help of home support, hundreds of thousands of older people get out and about, going to the shops, meeting friends and making new ones, and visiting galleries, parks and other attractions. They can also receive help with cleaning, personal care, shopping, or just having a chat.

"We believe the CHSP needs to be celebrated for the success it is," Mr Horton said. "The conference will provide us with a valuable opportunity to share good practice and what's working well in the aged care sector, including reflections and insights that positively impact our community. Innovations in how we provide service and how research translates into practice will be a key feature of our presentations."

Addressing the themes of connection, the future, and quality, speakers will include researchers and service providers from Eastern Sydney and beyond, including the UNSW Ageing Futures Institute, and Randwick Waverley Community Transport.

Conference goers will also hear from consumers and volunteers, who will share their stories of the impact of home support. "Home support doesn't just help older people, it also enriches the lives of the tens of thousands of staff and volunteers who support older people to stay well at home and access their community."

The conference is a cross regional collaborative partnership of NSW Sector Support and Development Officers and will be held at the NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre on March 10.

More information and bookings at www.youaintseennothin yet2020.chspfuturesconference.com.au

SSH



Bruce Shillingsworth at Redfern Park. Photo: Andrew Collis

Water warrior takes it to the next level

FIRST PEOPLES

ANDREW COLLIS

BRUCE Shillingsworth is a Murawari-Budjiti artist, cultural educator and rivers-restoration activist. Recent rains have lifted his spirits and he is excited about a number of interrelated projects in 2020.

I sat down with Uncle Bruce for a cup of tea and conversation about a new documentary film, fundraising for rainwater tanks in far west NSW, a concert and arts-and-music event. Bruce shared plans for an expedition in support of the Barka (Darling River), an exhibition of oil paintings, and his ongoing work with the Yurungai Learning Centre in Waterloo.

When the River Runs Dry is a 52-minute documentary film about the degradation of the Barka. Directed by Rory McLeod, the film premiered in Melbourne on February 22. "There are several messages," Bruce says. "Water is precious and positive social outcomes outweigh economic values. Aboriginal people should be directly involved in water management decisions on their rivers, and a river system must be managed as a whole, for the good of all."

The film draws attention to an ecological and social disaster and to dubious political processes that have enabled mismanagement and alleged corruption. It calls for a federal Royal Commission



'When the River Runs Dry' documentary film poster.

into the management of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Bruce invites community groups to contact him with requests to host screenings. "We can organise a screening with you and a Q&A session to follow."

A concert at the Sydney Opera House in June and a three-day arts-and-music event at Sydney Town Hall in NAIDOC Week are planned in support of communities enduring drought and hardship. "We are organising these events in partnership with the Greens," Bruce says. "It's about raising funds for much-needed rainwater tanks and filters for communities in Brewarrina, Walgett, Bourke, Wilcannia and Menindee."

"It's about helping people, and it's about respect for Kamilaroi



Bruce Shillingsworth, 'Long-neck turtles', acrylic on canvas, 2019.

people, Ngemba people, Wailwan, Murawari and Barkindji people."

A love for the river-lands and cultures of north-western NSW has long inspired Bruce's art. He is currently working on a new collection to be shown at the Mosman Art Gallery later in the year. "These will be oil paintings, some I have started already, some based on photographs and stories collected on country," Bruce says. "My wife Trish will contribute some works, and also my daughter Rikka and granddaughter Kymeasha."

In what is sure to be an exhilarating year, Bruce will again help lead a cultural expedition to towns from Walgett to Menindee. The Corroboree festival – a convoy and cultural learning experience – will be held in late September,

early October. In 2019, 300 vehicles took part, with more than a thousand people over five days on the banks of the Barka. "The Corroboree will be bigger and better this year," Bruce says. "It will present ideas from Aboriginal people, stories from the region, and connect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities together."

The Corroboree raises deep issues of a philosophical and political nature.

"We need to remember that there are more than 500 sovereign nations throughout Australia, and each has a right to determine its own way," Bruce says. "With respect to the Uluru Statement, I support each nation's right to engage with it, to make its own decisions.

"Indigenous peoples should

have a voice, yes. But it's very important we get this process right. We need to consult with sovereign nations and not rely on a small representative or advisory body. Once we have heard from all nations, then we can be guided by that as we move towards a referendum [regarding a voice to federal parliament]. There's a lot of work to do at the local level."

The Yurungai Learning Centre is based at the Factory (Counterpoint Community Services) in Waterloo. A special project of Barnardos, Yurungai offers after-school care to local children from kindergarten to year six. Bruce is involved in all activities, from picking up children from local schools (driving the community bus), to helping prepare meals and educational material.

"We are open every weekday, from 3 to 6pm," Bruce explains. "And we assist kids with their homework, as well as offering our own literacy and numeracy tuition. There's also arts and crafts, lessons in culture and history, community service activities too. In everything we do, we encourage respect and kindness, good values for life."

The *SSH*, I suggest, would love to include some of the young people's work, perhaps a regular feature in coming months. "That would be great," Bruce says. "Let's do it!"

Contact Bruce Shillingsworth via email: mundagutta@outlook.com or visit mundagutta.com

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

This section is sponsored by **Sako's Café**
 9 Botany Rd, Waterloo 2017
7am - 7pm, 7 days a week.
Armenian & Mediterranean
dishes and kebabs.
Great coffee!

Please note that Sako's Café has no editorial influence on the content of this section.



Art casts light on human connection

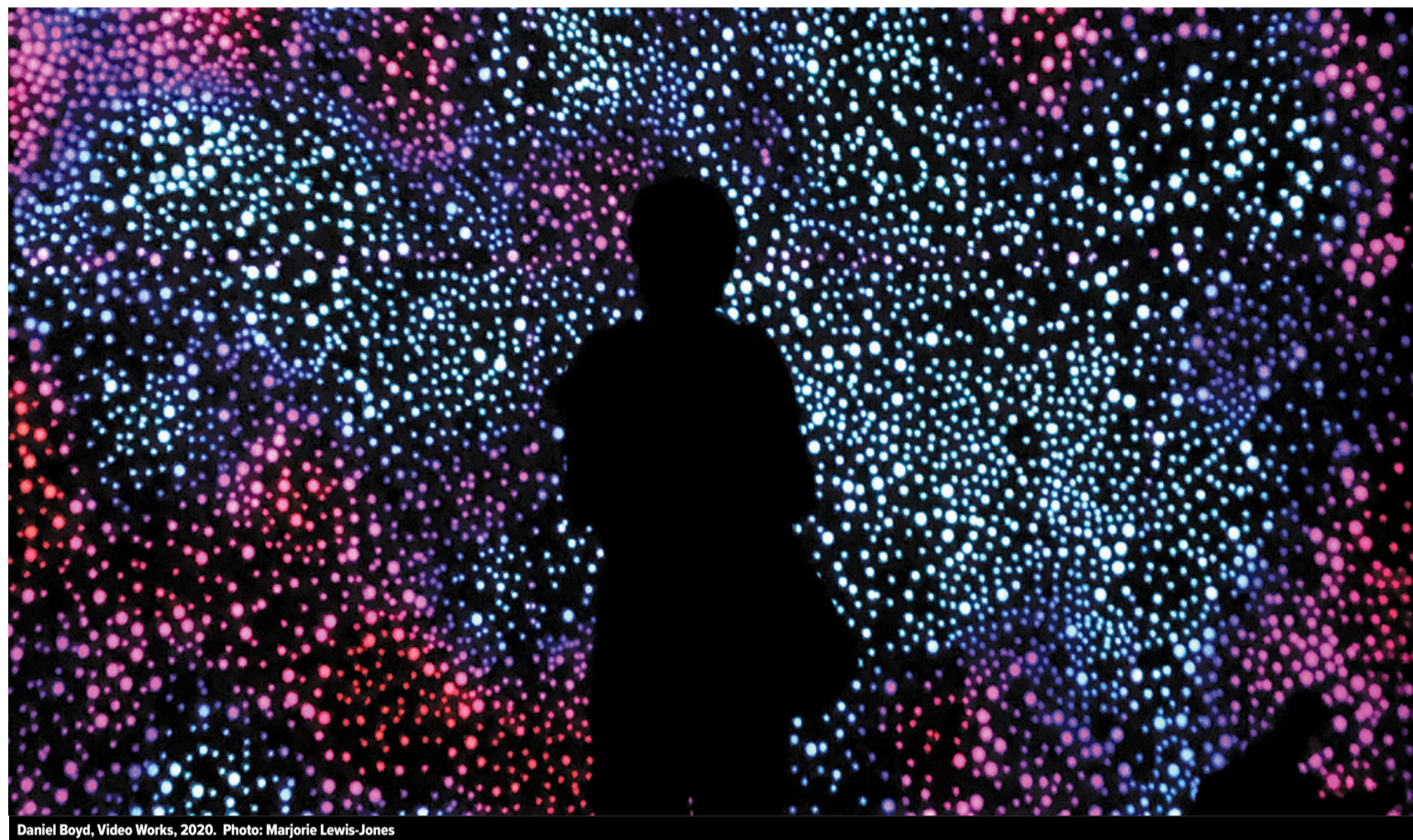
MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

EVELEIGH: Carriageworks feels very different from my previous visits thanks to the colourful hues of Rebecca Baumann's "Radiant Flux" shifting across the walls and floors in response to sunlight. Dichroic film on the building's surfaces creates this effect and ensures the installation is never encountered the same way twice.

Baumann's work is one of four large-scale works created by leading Australian contemporary artists, which focus on light's influence on human connection, exhibited free at Carriageworks from January 8.

Reko Rennie is a Kamilaroi man who lives and works in an urban context. He made "Remember Me" as a modern-day memorial, in the form of a neon sign. The artwork recognises the survival of the original sovereigns of Australia since Captain James Cook landed on the east coast of Australia 250 years ago, and despite the invasion that robbed them of their land and the massacres that sought to eradicate them.

Slaughterer, pig farmer, mushroom picker, firefighter, electroplater, detective, blacksmith, apparel cutter and aquaculture farmer are just some of the job title place-holders artist Kate Mitchell will substitute over time with the auras she captures through an "electromagnetic field imaging camera" invented in the 1970s. "All Auras Touch" has been



Daniel Boyd, Video Works, 2020. Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones

described as "an empathetic imagining of the workforce" – with its use of colour a great occupational equaliser.

I was mesmerised by Daniel Boyd's "Video Works" by Sydney-based Kudjala/Gangalu artist Daniel Boyd, which shapeshifts seamlessly as its light-rendered dot paintings swarm and swirl on the walls of a darkened room (eclipsing Vivid's lightshow

for depth and beauty). The imagery (I saw reptile skins, bubbles in flux, Rorschach inkblots, asteroids, and the spread of ink in water) is augmented by the sinewy riffs and throbbing drums of the soundtrack by Western Australian duo Canyons.

Carriageworks Director and CEO, Blair French said that, through their use of natural, projected,

photographic and LED light, these works by Baumann, Boyd, Mitchell and Rennie illuminate the history and architecture of the Carriageworks site and demonstrate its commitment to social and cultural diversity.

I visited during the Sydney Festival and saw plenty of parents and grandparents with children engrossed in the artworks and

genuinely enjoying themselves.

"Radiant Flux" by Rebecca Baumann features until June 14 and "Remember Me" by Reko Rennie features until January 2021. "All Auras Touch" and "Video Works" finished on March 1.

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 See carriageworks.com.au for more information.

Five questions answered ...

SELECTED BY MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES



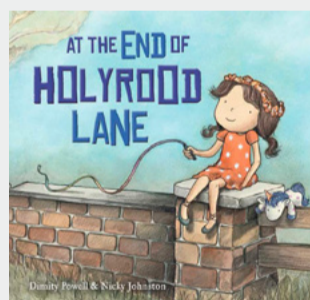
Can walking make us wiser?

After the loss of his younger brother, Jono Lineen, trekked 2700 kilometres across the Himalayas. He felt revitalised. Why? *Perfect Motion: How Walking makes us Wiser* probes evolutionary research, psychology, neuroscience, anatomy and philosophy to get to the nub of how pounding the pavement boosts our sagacity and creativity. Lineen writes, "Just about every major thinker has understood, consciously or unconsciously, that our most basic movement is a key to unlocking hidden powers. Jesus, Buddha and Muhammad wandering in the wilderness. Virginia Woolf marching Bloomsbury's streets." Sneakers on!



How do polar bears stay warm and cool?

In *Arctic Dreams* Barry Lopez says that on land a polar bear is protected by a thick underlayer of dense wool and a layer of guard hairs about six inches long that are so hard and shiny they appear synthetic. They are also hollow, which means that the bear's fur stays erect and doesn't mat when it is wet. Because of the open spacing and smoothness of its guard hairs, a bear can easily shake free of water before it freezes. A layer of blubber keeps it warm in icy waters. Polar bears get rid of excess body heat through their claws and footpads



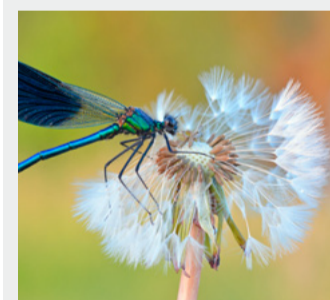
What book can help kids discuss domestic violence?

Crystal Kite Award winning picture book, *At the End of Holyrood Lane* (by author Dimity Powell and illustrator Nicky Johnston) uses an allegorical story of an anxious young girl called Frick and her fear of storms to provide a safe space for discussion about domestic and family violence. For ages 3 to 8, the illustrations are gentle, plus there's a teacher's guide. As the blurb says: "Few picture books available today address this volatile and woefully prevalent aspect of society without overt explicitness or didactic overtones." This book is an exception.



Where can I learn about the effects of intergenerational trauma on Indigenous Australians?

National Apology Day is commemorated annually on February 13 and encourages remembrance of – and apology to – Australia's Stolen Generations and those whose lives have been affected by past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation. The Healing Foundation's excellent animation helps us envisage the cycle of Intergenerational trauma that predominantly affects the children, grandchildren and future generations of the Stolen Generations. The foundation's website also offers free resources to promote understanding and foster healing.



What's some good news about nature?

This magical photo by Sven Damerow shows a banded demoiselle hovering near a dandelion's seed-head and was awarded first prize in the recent international Wiki Loves Earth photography competition. Wiki Loves Earth focuses on "protected" areas, like nature reserves, landscape conservation areas, national parks, that make up a large proportion of the world's natural heritage. The contest asks photographers to contribute their work to Wikimedia Commons, a media repository which holds many of the photos used on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia ecosystem.

The Reviews

Book Review by Marjorie Lewis-Jones



Counting Our Country
Jill Daniels
Magabala Books, 2020

Bakarra (long-necked turtles), jinma (bull sharks), and gundhurru (olive pythons) are three of the ten animals children will love counting as they turn the pages of this delightful, bilingual board book.

Artist Jill Daniels is a Ritharrnu and Madarrpa woman from South East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. In *Counting Our Country* she uses each double-page spread to offer her stylised painting of a particular animal along with its name in Ritharrnu (her traditional language) and in English.

Daniels' lives in Ngukurr, a remote community nestled on the banks of the Roper River. All the animals depicted can be found on her country and each set of creatures she offers is both colourful and distinctive – with ten djatja (kangaroos) being one of my favourites.

The book's benefit to a young mind includes numerical education, language development, cultural literacy, learning about the natural world, and cultivating an appreciation of art and colour.

I also loved the guide to pronouncing Ritharrnu animal names which makes this a good reference book for use both in and beyond early childhood.

The whole package is so marvellous, I'm itching to see

if Magabala will provide an interactive module online where parents and teachers can check their Ritharrnu pronunciation. #magabalabooks, #countingourcountry, #ritharrnu

» books@ssh.com.au

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



The Campaign
Writer: **Campion Decent**
Director: **Kim Hardwick**
Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre
February 11-28, 2020

The award-winning play *The Campaign* brings the courageous and determined struggle by Tasmania's LGBTIQI activists to repeal their state's harsh and archaic anti-gay legislation to the mainland.

Part of the 2020 Mardi Gras Festival, *The Campaign*, based on interviews and to a large extent verbatim in form, is a testimony to the way in which communities can undergo a fundamental shift from angry and fearful rejection of difference to acceptance and inclusion.

The play takes up the story at a crisis moment in 1988 at the Salamanca Market, Hobart. When the Tasmanian Gay Law

Reform Group defies a ban on a stall displaying petitions for the decriminalisation of sexual activity between consenting male adults in private, some 130 activists are arrested in the following months.

In an amusing choreographed sequence, the ensemble of actors – Simon Croker, Matthew Lee, Madeleine MacRea, Tim McGarry and Jane Phegan – show the folly of such a ban as they challenge the Yellow Line, a strategy intended by the Hobart City Council to prevent support of the stall.

Council action served only to ignite an almost 20-year-long campaign. The small ensemble voice the perspectives of various participants from Rodney Croomes's mother (Jane Phegan) to a rather devious former Justice of the High Court Michael Kirby (Tim McGarry) as they take us through vitriolic public meetings, parliamentary debates, the groundbreaking submissions made to the United Nation Human Rights Committee (1994), preliminary hearings of the High Court of Australia (1996) and repeal by the Tasmanian Parliament (1997).

Among the assemblage of detail, several individual acts of individual bravery are highlighted with a few economical strokes. Bravely, Croome and Nick Toonen (Simon Crocker) hand themselves into the police after making statutory declarations of their then illegal sexual activities. By focusing on the detective's interrogation of the two men, the seriousness of the crime – at that time punishable by a 21-year prison term – is made apparent while at the same time showing the law's approach to be totally absurd.

Heroic also is the sweetly idealistic young lesbian mother (Madeline MacRae) who has decided to give her support to the gay cause. Her role, while offering a moment of comical tenderness as she packs her bag with baby supplies before she sets off, also illustrates the inhumanity of the law as she is arrested along with her baby and shut up in an unventilated police van. Again, a G&S indebted number (McGarry and ensemble) brings to mind the courage of the

Stonewall drag queens who fronted the New York police in the late '60s.

While honest chronicling is interwoven with some breezy and funny musical chants, and the message that radical change is always possible given commitment and courage is uplifting, there is some loss of dramatic energy after the three-quarter mark. However, the glitzy ending is fully justified by the remarkable achievement the performance so faithfully records.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



The Dutch House
Ann Patchett
Bloomsbury, 2019

A deep sense of loss permeates the first part of *The Dutch House*; the rest of the novel details how the ensuing grief shapes the lives of protagonist Danny, and his older sister Maeve.

The Dutch House is the eighth and latest novel by the acclaimed Ann Patchett, whose 2002 *Bel Canto* won her the Orange Prize for Fiction and a PEN/Faulkner Award.

The book opens with Maeve and Danny's father Cyril bringing a woman, Andrea, to the Dutch House. (Years earlier, we learn through flashbacks, Maeve and Danny's mother walked out on the family, and Maeve, age 10, suffers a life-threatening illness.) Cyril marries Andrea; Maeve and Danny

accept her two young daughters with surprising equanimity. Cyril dies of a heart attack, and one day Andrea abruptly banishes Danny and Maeve. The siblings subsequently discover that she has disinherited them.

The Dutch House – so named not for its architecture but for its previous owners, a Dutch family whose portraits adorn its walls – becomes an obsession for them. The house is stunning, but its significance far surpasses its architecture. Maeve and Danny cannot let it go; even when Danny moves away, when he visits Maeve they drive to their old home and park nearby, catching glimpses of Andrea, never making their presence known.

"We pretended that what we had lost was the house, not our mother, not our father," says Danny, and *The Dutch House* is, of course, more than the story of the house they lost.

Deprived of parents, Maeve and Danny become a family unto themselves; she is as much a mother to him as an older sister.

The siblings discover one source of funds Andrea cannot commandeer – an educational trust set up by their father, available on a first come, first serve basis. Maeve considers it their right – perhaps their duty – to drain it before Andrea's children can. She sends Danny to an expensive boarding school, university and medical school despite his having no desire to practice medicine.

There are several mysteries in *The Dutch House*, only some of which are resolved. Why did their mother leave? Why did their father, distant but not unkind, marry someone who so clearly disliked his children? Why does Andrea banish them? Was Fluffy, their long serving housekeeper who is dismissed after cracking Danny's head with a spoon, abuser or victim? Can they ever let go of the Dutch House and the shadow it casts over them?

Beautifully written, sometimes heartbreaking and occasionally redemptive, *The Dutch House* raises questions of belonging, the importance of place, the possibility of forgiveness and the need for letting go.

» books@ssh.com.au



Cummings: 'I can still do it'

Last month at the Camelot Lounge, Marrickville, the legendary Australian singer-songwriter Stephen Cummings with guitarist Sam Lemann took their audience on a "wonderful spiritual journey" they'd never forget.

From 1976 to 1981 Cummings was the lead singer of iconic rock band The Sports, following which he has pursued a fruitful and critically-acclaimed solo career – with records described as timeless, moving, funny and utterly unique.

One song, "Hot Dog", performed with The Sports and which appears on his retrospective album *Good Bones*, was played twice at Camelot Lounge, including an encore. Cummings said he played "Hot Dog" with The Sports at the Settlement in Darlington many years before.

"The Settlement was where a friend, Paul Worstead, who lived in a factory in the area, worked as a social worker at an Indigenous youth centre. Paul did lots of artwork

associated with the Tin Sheds up at Sydney University and did most of the posters and artwork for Mental as Anything."

"The Sports played at the Settlement monthly dance as did many of the alternative groups from Sydney."

Cummings had a farewell tour last year. But he's cancelled his retirement. "I found retirement a bit anticlimactic. I started feeling guilty reading so many books and watching so many movies!"

Cummings has written, "Whatever comes next is better than what went before. Nostalgia is death."

After last month's show he said, "I'm old but I can still do it". Apparently there is to be a new album of self-penned country blues later this year. Until then, enjoy last year's *Prisoner of Love* or the anthology *A Life Is a Life*.

Photo: Stephen Webb

Wordplay

Waterloo Sunset

Red-gold glint in a hundred window panes,
agitation of sulphur-crested cockatoos
circle in the smoke haze and screech their uncertainty,
vermilion sun-ball glows through tree-shadowed sky,
all is uneasy beauty in the city
as the camouflage of darkness hides the reality
close by.

— Rosalind Flatman

Wordplay group meets on the first Saturday of the month, 12-2pm, at the Cauliflower Hotel, Waterloo. New members welcome.

JOHNSTON ST. JAZZ
WOMEN'S JAZZ TRIBUTE

12 MARCH, 8PM
81 JOHNSTON ST, ANNANDALE

\$20 Entry
\$10 CONCESSION

8 live bands
LEONIE COHEN WITH NICKY CRAYSON
MAREE STEINWAY • DOGMA • JO FABRO
SUSAN GAI DOWLING • CHRISTA HUGHES
RAIN PATTERNS • TBC

Fundraiser
20% OF PROCEEDS GO TO 'THE GIRLS REFUGE' FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.
GIRLSREFUGE.ORG.AU

Pop up art gallery
NAOMI DOWNIE
HANNAH ROBERTSON
KIKI TSE

Garden Shelter Volunteers Needed

Cana Communities is seeking volunteers to help provide a safe and welcoming space for men experiencing homelessness. Wednesday and Thursday evenings at South Sydney Uniting Church (56a Raglan St, Waterloo). info@cana.org.au

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

PAT CLARKE

AUTUMN is nearly upon us, and aren't we grateful that the bushfires are now out. We just need more rain to combat the drought still affecting our western districts.

March is shaping up to be a huge arts month for Sydney, so plenty to see and do.

Art Month Sydney March 6-29
Art Month is in its 11th year, and a host of offerings for this annual event in the City and suburbs, include Art at Night (various venues) exhibitions, panel discussions, workshops and live music performances. Catch up with all the events at www.artmonthsydney.com.au

22nd Biennale of Sydney – NIRIN 2020 from March 14 to June 8
Art Director for NIRIN 2020 is Brook Andrew, and NIRIN means EDGE, and is a word of Brook's mother nation, the Wiradjuri people of western NSW. As usual, the main exhibition space for this international event is Cockatoo Island, with five other main sites. Although an artist- and First Nations-led endeavour, artists come from Australia and around the world. The Biennale website has lots of information on the exhibiting artists, locations and events. Contact: www.biennaleofsydney.art/. Watch forthcoming SSH issues for reviews from our arts editors and contributors.

International Women's Day – March 8
Theme for this year's IWD is "I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights".

Sydney's IWD March and Rally will be Saturday March 7, starting at 11am in Hyde Park, and marching to Belmore Park where there will also be entertainment and food trucks. Finishing time is 2pm.

Earth Hour in Australia is Saturday March 28, between 8.30 and 9.30pm Eastern Australian Time (EAT) to switch off lights in support of the environment. You can sign up on www.earthhour.org.au.

Thank you
The following volunteers have stepped down from active roles in 2020. A big thank you to David Pocklington (distribution), Brittany Johnson (Human Affairs) and Shale Preston (Books).

Welcome
The following volunteers have taken on new roles in 2020: Adrian Spry (Locals editor), Catherine De Mayo (Books), Anna North (Arts and Festivals), Maidie Wood (Legal and Food). Welcome all!

Volunteers' March Meeting Saturday March 7, 2pm
Marjorie Lewis-Jones, SSH managing editor, will be at this meeting upstairs at the Cauliflower Hotel, and is looking forward to seeing you there.

Volunteers' April Meeting Saturday April 4, 2pm
Reminder that the April meeting will be Saturday 4th, upstairs at the Cauliflower Hotel at 2pm. Hope you can find time to attend.

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.

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

South Sydney Herald

Advertise with the SSH! Affordable & effective
Email: adverts@ssh.com.au

REDWatch
First Thursday of the month at The Factory Community Centre. Phone Geoffrey Turnbull (02) 8004 1490. Email redwatch@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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TAFE and NCIE partnership boosts student employment

STEVE TURNER

TAFE NSW and the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) is celebrating the success of a thriving partnership that equips Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to gain employment in the fitness industry.

Over the next three years it is estimated an additional 1,460 people will be employed as fitness instructors in NSW, something TAFE NSW graduate Eden Mashman-Woods is taking advantage of.

Eden, who completed the Certificate III and IV in Fitness as part of the NCIE Job Ready program, was previously working at NCIE as a casual swimming instructor, duty manager, and lifeguard. Eden said the program, customised by TAFE NSW to meet the training needs of NCIE, provided her with the hands-on skills and support she needed to transition into a personal trainer position.

"I really enjoyed the course and the support I received from teachers; my classmates and NCIE are fantastic. I learnt so much and TAFE NSW was very flexible with both of the courses, meaning I was able to study and work at the same time, which

was really important to me."

TAFE Enterprise customises flexible training options for businesses. For more information visit www.tafensw.edu.au or phone 131 601.

Jets launch into 2020

The Newtown Jets are preparing for another successful season after becoming the Canterbury Cup premiers of 2019. They also celebrated their 112th birthday in January.

The Jets have been through an exacting pre-season training program, accompanied by searing summer temperatures and high humidity. We wish them well.

Rabbitohs appoint new captain

Congratulations to Redfern local Adam Reynolds who has been appointed South Sydney captain for season 2020. Adam grew up across the road from Redfern Oval and has always dreamed of leading the mighty Rabbitohs.

Countdown to Tokyo Olympics

The race is on for our athletes to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. Over 11,000 athletes from around the globe will assemble from July 24 to August 9 for the Olympics, with 339 events to be held across 33 different sports.

Olympic gold medal-winning sailor Mathew Belcher is one of the



Eden Mashman-Woods. Photo: Supplied

first Australian athletes officially named on the Tokyo team for 2020. Belcher will be shooting for a third straight Olympic medal when he teams with Will Ryan in the 470 class while Matt Wearn has been nominated as Australia's representative in the Laser category. Edward Fernon and Marina Carrier have qualified for the Modern Pentathlon.

The men's table tennis team will comprise of David Powell and Chris Yan and the women's table tennis representatives are Michelle Bromley and Stephanie Sang.

The national swimming trials will be held at the South Australian Aquatic Centre from July 14-19. The national athletics championships commence on June 29.

Australian basketball legend Andrew Bogut has stated that the depth of basketball talent will make it very difficult for selectors to choose a national team.

The Paralympics will follow the Olympics and will be held from August 25 to September 6. Approximately 4,400 athletes from 160 nations will compete.



TWILIGHT BLAK MARKETS
ABORIGINAL ART, CULTURE, GIFTS & FOOD

FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2020 5-8pm

National Centre of Indigenous Excellence
180 George St Redfern



NATIONAL CENTRE OF
INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE



SUPPORTED BY
CITY OF SYDNEY



wheeeasy

Mapping March!

Join us at one of our fun events across Sydney in March!

Do you want to help make our city more inclusive for everyone?

Join us with your friends and family at one of our fun-filled events, learn about what access really means & help us put accessible places onto the WheelEasy website map.

Your help means more people who need accessibility information will be able to get out and about in our wonderful city

- Delicious afternoon snacks
- Coffee, tea and softdrinks for all ages
- Supporting your community and people with mobility impairments
- Lucky door prizes and giveaways
- Plus the chance to win the Mapping March Grand Prize!

Erskineville - Sunday March 1st

Ultimo - Saturday March 7th

Woolloomooloo - Saturday March 14th

The Rocks - Sunday March 15th

Surry Hills - Saturday March 21st

Redfern - Saturday March 28th

Find out more:

www.wheeeasy.org

facebook.com/wheeeasy

events@wheeeasy.org

