



LOCKDOWN IN CEBU CITY

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As borders snapped shut due to Covid-19 Adam Sébire got stranded in a lighthouse keeper's cottage on Utsira Island about 120 kilometres from Bergen in Norway. 'The lighthouse's blinks have become kind of a metronomic constant for me,' he says. Photo: Adam Sébire (drone 360°)

Isolation enlightenment

HEALTH

ADAM SÉBIRE

AS the world juddered to a halt due to Covid-19 Adam Sébire got stranded in a lighthouse keeper's cottage on Utsira Island about 120 kilometres from Bergen in Norway. Here's his story.

I was travelling for filming just over eight weeks ago when the borders suddenly snapped shut ahead of me in Greenland and behind me in Svalbard. I found myself marooned, midway, on a tiny windswept island in the Norwegian North Sea called Utsira.

In my PhD research I'm looking at visual representation of climate change. I left Sydney last year for some months in the Arctic – a region which is

seen as the canary in the coal mine for climate change.

At the beginning of March, I finished my work in Svalbard, opened my exhibition about climate change at the world's northernmost art museum, Galleri Svalbard, and was slowly heading towards Greenland to document the annual sea-ice breakup there in spring. I'd been there in 2018 and the work I made, which ends with me floating into oblivion atop a piece of sea ice, was just starting to get interest from all around the world – big name museums

– when Covid-19 struck. It's a bit frustrating just as my work was gaining momentum, but I know that many other arts workers are faring much worse. My sister, for example, is a professional symphony orchestra musician.

On route to Greenland via Norway and Denmark I wanted to give myself some days to recover in plus temperatures and a friend had suggested I take the ferry to Utsira island. It was arranged that I would stay in the lighthouse keeper's cottage on the western side of the island. I arrived just as

Norway imposed social distancing measures, so I went into two weeks self-isolation to make sure I didn't bring the virus to the island. I've been here eight weeks now and Utsira, thankfully, remains coronavirus free.

Besides the lighthouse (dating from 1844) there are 50 sheep, which keep getting into the garden somehow, and a weather station. All look after themselves though – so I'm the only person living up here on Utsira's peak. There are 215 people, largely fishermen and many retired, living on the other side of the island.

Utsira is a tiny rocky island of six square kilometres. The only way to get here is by

boat. Just as the boat has two harbours to choose from when it's really windy, the lighthouse has two doors for entry for the same reason. It's incredibly windy here. The weather station here measured 133 kilometres per hour the other day. It's pretty inhospitable but it's been occupied since the Stone Age and the Internet is way faster than Australia's domestic NBN – 100Mbps is the minimum standard, even up here in the lighthouse.

The Utsira community is very friendly and happy to say hello, but there's an odd kind of shadow over my arrival now with social distancing, it's like pushing "pause" on the process of getting to know them. Locals ask me if I'm okay and not too lonely up on the mountain. I tell them I'm loving it. They arranged for a bicycle and gumboots so I'm set!

With Australia closing its borders, I really felt like an exile. My parents live in *Continued on page 2*



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Digital inclusion challenge for public housing

URBAN DESIGN

MICHAEL SHREENAN

WATERLOO: Digital inclusion is not a new challenge for public housing communities. For those whose core work is to provide face-to-face services and build resilient communities, Covid-19 has forced us to work differently, compelling many to deliver services online. This will only be possible, however, if the accessibility gap regarding

equipment and the capacity deficit for our most marginalised are addressed.

In the 2016 Census, local public-housing-only statistical areas reported only 35 per cent of households had internet. Many tenants rely on mobile phone plans, primarily for phone calls, with low mobile data allowances. In some buildings like Dobell it is difficult to get mobile signals.

Tenants need access to free wi-fi; equipment such as tablets, laptops

and smart phones; personal monitoring and medical assistance equipment; duress alarms and free access to training so they can embrace the opportunities technology can offer. For this to happen we need urgent investment from both government and the private sector. It will also require services to adapt quickly.

REDWatch and Counterpoint have approached our local technology hub at South Eveleigh to work with government to pilot potential solutions. Counterpoint

is now a collection point for the Reconnect Project, which provides reconditioned mobile phones, tablets and laptops to people in need. It has pursued grants to provide families with computers, get data packs and, with REDWatch, is lobbying for free wi-fi in public housing.

If you would like to know more about the campaign contact Geoff Turnbull mail@redwatch.org.au, or to recycle technology you no longer need contact Bill Yan byan@counterpointcs.org.au

Quarantine routine – Emma

HEALTH

ANNA NORTH

I realised Covid-19 had entered my consciousness on a brilliant sunny Sydney morning in early February. As I walked past a luxury liner docked at Circular Quay it occurred to me that maybe, just maybe I might buy some hand sanitiser. I headed for the chemist but they'd sold out. And so it began ...

Then came the obsessive hand washing, followed by compulsive 24/7 monitoring of TV, computer and mobile phone screens. Boredom, bizarre dreams, middle-of-the-night jitters. The long phone calls and the hints of panic jumping up out of nowhere.

Living in a time when the primary goal is to stay safe by dodging an invisible enemy is surreal.

This month I spoke with Emma Giunti about living well

despite the strangeness of our new normal.

Emma

"The virus has forced us to rethink the way we live our lives. There have been some very heartwarming stories of people supporting each other locally and around the world.

"I have two young children so I am definitely not at a loss for what to do!

"I am an ambassador for MS Research Australia's The May50K campaign. It's a virtual fitness and fundraising challenge which is highly interactive. Anyone can register online and walk, run (or any form of activity they like!) 50K over the whole month of May. People can participate in the comfort of their own home, backyard or local park.

"It's important that we stay fit and healthy during this time and the May 50K is a great way to combine the two! It is also great to be able to achieve



Emma Giunti. Photo: Supplied

something special during this time when things seem to be out of our control.

"I am keeping my routine as normal. However, I am adding in my daily walk to get my kilometres up for the May 50K.

"I think my main theme is connecting with people. I miss my yoga class, I miss having a coffee at one of the local cafes and looking out at the Redfern community walking by. We are a strong city community. Participating in the

May 50K and helping the lives of people with MS keeps me focused and gives me a wonderful sense of purpose.

"My 6-year-old daughter, Aggie, would like to add the following: 'I don't like the coronavirus. I miss playing in the park with my friends and we don't get to do fun things outside. I wash my hands very good.'"

Anyone can register for MS Research Australia's The May50K at themay50k.org

Isolation enlightenment

Continued from page 1

Australia's Snowy Mountains, in the middle of the bush, so they're already socially distancing by dint of geography, although of course I worry about not being able to rush back to see them if they became ill (nigh impossible now).

While I've been overdosing on news media, it could just as well be a work of fiction to me. There's no sense of any of what I read about, manifesting here in my daily life, other than a table with disinfectant at the local supermarket, and ever fewer transatlantic contrails overhead.

If the pandemic has spread in record time it's because we place such emphasis on travelling at breakneck speed. New York today, Shanghai tomorrow, Sydney next week. We need to slow down. Especially me.

My own form of slowing down has occurred while I'm here, and I'm grateful for this chance to immerse myself in a place that felt quite alien to me. I've started to get a sense of the seasonal changes here, the people's relationship to a harsh landscape, the migration of birds, while the lighthouse's blinks have become kind of a metronomic constant for me. I can stare at it for hours

and always see new qualities in this sparkling diamond encased in its glass vitrine.

I'm beginning meditation for which I sit in the lantern room or indeed occasionally inside the enormous first-order lighthouse lens itself. The light-sensor mechanism has occasionally activated when storm clouds unexpectedly darkened the sky, but otherwise it's quite a nice spot for meditation, just listening to the howl of the wind against the tower exterior.

I really hope this collective global crisis can move us from being a society where wealth and profit are ends in themselves to one where the wellbeing of people and the environment is returned to centre-stage. Because it's a once in a lifetime disruption, in hindsight we may see 2020 as the turning point where the world did or didn't put itself on the path to avoid catastrophic climate change, which promises far worse outcomes in terms of lives and livelihoods lost. It may be that the best chance we have to change tack is now, as we emerge from our near standstill. It could prove to be a brilliant example of a crisis containing the seeds of opportunity.



The world inverted through the first-order fresnel lens made in Paris in 1890. Adam Sébire says, 'It's funny seeing the landscape upside down when I'm in there; it's like a strange metaphor for what's going on in the world at present.' Photo: Adam Sébire

Adam Sébire is an Australian PhD student and former resident of the Rocks area in Sydney.

Mining continues in Sydney's water catchments

ENVIRONMENT

SUGANTHI SINGARAYAR

WHEN it comes to coal mining there is ongoing tension between environmental and economic needs. Recent approval of extraction plans for Metropolitan Mine's longwall panels 305-307, as well as Dendrobium's application to extend mining, have brought that into focus.

On March 16, the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) approved Metropolitan's extraction plans for longwalls 305-307.

These longwalls will extract coal from under the Eastern Tributary and the Waratah Rivulet, which feed into the Woronora Dam southwest of Sydney and provide the total water supply for Helensburgh, Engadine and Lucas Heights.

The entire Woronora catchment (75 square kilometres) is designated "Special Area - No Entry" in order to protect the quality of the drinking water, the water supply infrastructure, and the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The maximum penalty for entering this area is \$44,000.

According to the Special Area Strategic Plan 2015, over the last 100 years protective management of the area has ensured a very high level of biodiversity, the protection of a large number of threatened and endangered ecological communities, diverse natural landscapes including wilderness areas and significant geological features, and positive benefits for water quality.

There is continued concern that longwall mining in the catchment and particularly under the reservoir will affect water levels and water quality given that previous mining has seen cracking in water courses; loss of water in aquifers and pools, including a section of the Waratah Rivulet; and the drying up of swamps.



Woronora Dam - there is continued concern that coal mining under the reservoir will affect water levels and water quality. Photo: Protect Our Water Alliance

On February 25, the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre presented a petition with over 10,690 signatures to the NSW Parliament asking that the Legislative Assembly "stop further threats to our water supply and rescind the development consents that permit mining in this area". It was slated to be debated on March 26 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Greenpeace spokesperson Jonathan Moylan said: "The Department's decision to allow coal mining under the Woronora Reservoir poses a direct threat to the drinking water of millions of Sydneysiders. The roof of the mine could collapse if it is abandoned, which means the threat of contamination will linger over Sydney's water supply indefinitely."

"The community is justifiably concerned ... The Department has pushed through with this process before giving parliament the chance to examine the proposal. Coal mining in catchments can undermine water quality for decades so it is critical that no

further decisions are made while democracy is not functioning normally."

A spokesperson for the DPIE said that the "proposed mining under Woronora Reservoir was approved in 2009".

She continued: "The DPIE approved the Extraction Plan for longwalls 305-307 with strict conditions, including comprehensive monitoring and adaptive management, after comprehensively assessing the plan over six months. This approval relates to an extraction plan, not a new development application. The assessment included consultation with WaterNSW, the Dams Safety Committee, and the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment (IEP). The department adopted all of the expert recommendations in the conditions imposed on the proposed mining. The monitoring data will be regularly reviewed ... to ensure compliance."

In his letter to Metropolitan Mine dated March 16, Mike Young,

Executive Director, Energy, Resources and Compliance at the DPIE, commented on the socio-economic benefits of the mine. This includes 415 direct jobs in a regional area and metallurgical coal that supplies Port Kembla steelworks and is transported by rail to the Port Kembla Coal Terminal (120 jobs). In the 2018-19 financial year the mine contributed \$12.5 million in royalties to the state government and \$122 million in wages and business to the local economy.

Mr Moylan is also concerned about Dendrobium Mine's application for a new development consent to mine additional areas within its coal lease area. Dendrobium Mine, a subsidiary of South32, is located in the Metropolitan Special Area between Lake Cordeaux and Lake Avon, which flow into the Nepean River.

In its submission to the IEP (2019), WaterNSW expressed concerns that the impacts and consequences of mining in Sydney's catchment area are greater than was predicted when

mining was approved at both Metropolitan and Dendrobium mines. This reduces confidence in the ability of mining companies to predict the likely impacts of their mining activities, which is of particular concern given the sensitive nature of the Special Areas.

WaterNSW states that "further mining in the Special Areas should not be approved on the basis that potential impacts could be remediated at some point in the future" because there is no guarantee they can be.

Dendrobium is currently at assessment stage. There were 572 submissions from the public for the extension of the mine on economic grounds, compared to 134 submissions against the mine on environmental grounds.

Greenpeace has started a petition asking the government to ban mining in catchment areas, not to make decisions during the pandemic that favour mining companies, and to ensure that mining companies pay bonds to cover the total amount of critical failures: act.greenpeace.org.au/nswmining

Meet Allison Forrest, diaconal student

HUMAN AFFAIRS

PAT CLARKE

THIS week I interviewed Allison Forrest, the South Sydney Herald's new distribution coordinator (with a focus on caring for volunteers). Allison will take on the role this month, as part of a student ministry placement with South Sydney Uniting Church, but of course physical distancing means she will mostly work from home.

Allison is a Sydney person, born at Manly Hospital on the northern beaches, and grew up in the northern suburbs. Sadly, this wonderful community facility has now had its doors closed for good.

Allison has been a Uniting Church member since her teens and is in training for the ministry

at United Theological College in North Parramatta. She is in her second year, and as part of her study is required to complete a one-year placement for each year before graduation. She will graduate next year, as a Deacon.

Deacons are ordained ministers who focus on the community around the church rather than on Sunday worship, Allison explained to me. Diaconal ministry is about helping the church to care in a practical way for people and communities.

She was really pleased to have been offered the South Sydney parish placement, as she loves the inner city and wanted to be connected with a congregation here.

Early childhood teaching for a short time, and various administrative positions, including studying for an arts

degree, were Allison's roles before deciding to train for the ministry.

Allison will be in South Sydney one day per week (in person or via web conferencing) and is looking forward to getting to know our South Sydney Herald distributors, contributors and readers. She says she's quite excited about being part of the vibrant inner-city life and providing a support for our extraordinary volunteer base.

It was a pleasure to talk to someone who has enthusiasm for the placement ahead, and with a commitment to being part of the community.

Welcome Allison! Your support will be a big help to our volunteers, and we all look forward to meeting you as soon as possible.

Allison may be contacted by email: distribution@ssh.com.au



Allison Forrest on campus at United Theological College. Photo: Allison Forrest

COVID-19 UPDATE

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

ANZAC DAY

This year Anzac Day was a very different day from what we're used to. Normally I would have been commemorating Anzac Day at the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

Instead, I started the day with outside my house with a candle, along with my neighbours in their driveways, taking part in the RSL's *Light up the Dawn*. I had the National Memorial Service held in Canberra playing quietly so as to observe a minute's silence and was able to watch the excellent ABC coverage of different ceremonies in different parts of Australia and even New Zealand. It was a truly beautiful event and a testament to all those involved; Australians were still able to reflect and pay respect to our service personnel, past and present, even during these difficult times.

Our *Coloured Digger* march and ceremony was very different this year too. While we couldn't march or gather in Redfern Park or the Block this year, we could still come together. The board of Babana hosted an online service, beautifully lead by Pastor Ray Minnecombe. Thank you to all those involved.

JOBKEEPER

The JobKeeper wage subsidy is a welcome announcement from the Government. The payment will mean that around 6 million workers will receive a fortnightly income of \$1,500 through their employer.

However, the JobKeeper scheme does not go far enough in providing desperately needed support for Australia's workers and businesses trying to stay afloat in this crisis. The restrictive eligibility rules exclude millions of workers, in particular short-term casuals and temporary visa holders. These workers are vital to our economy and communities, and they face severe financial struggles due to job losses and business closures.

The Treasurer has extraordinary powers to extend JobKeeper payments to those workers who are being left behind - casuals, freelancers, temporary migrants, NDIS workers, local government employees, charity workers, teachers, university staff, and childcare workers.

The only thing needed to help these workers is the Treasurer's signature. I will keep up the pressure to make sure no one is left behind at this time.

COVID-19 APP

My family and I downloaded the COVIDSafe app the morning it became available. I want to know quickly if we've been in contact with someone who has the virus.

I encourage everyone to download it so that it is as effective as it can be. Anything that helps us get life back to something a bit more like normal is a good thing.

We will closely monitor the privacy implications of the app, and holding the Government to account. The app doesn't track where you go. It acts like a call and response feature so you know if you've been in contact or near someone who has Covid-19, for more than 15 minutes.

We've got a national health emergency. I want things to get back to something like normal, and having the ability to contact trace if there is a localised outbreak is vital to reopening schools and workplaces. Australians have been so great during these difficult times. Let's do one more thing for each other.

ELECTORATE OFFICE

My electorate office continues to provide support with Centrelink, Veterans' Affairs, Medicare, Immigration, NBN and other federal matters - please contact us anytime for assistance.

Tanya

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Sydney transforms Master of Commerce to prepare students for future of work

SPONSORED

MICHAEL SPENCE

THE University of Sydney Business School has transformed the Master of Commerce, with a greater focus on core skills that will be in-demand in future workplaces.

Commencing in semester one 2021, the new program gives students access to eight specialisations to build their skills in areas such as global logistics, data analytics and digital transformation.

As part of the program redesign, the university conducted a survey of over 300 industry practitioners, including those who work at some of the world's biggest brands, to identify what skills they value in graduates entering the workforce.

Program Director of the Master of Commerce, Associate Professor Teresa Davis, said: "It was clear that employers need graduates to not only have the technical know-how, but also the creative and innovative agility needed for solving complex problems in rapidly shifting contexts."

While the program review was conducted last year, Associate Professor Davis said the coronavirus outbreak and its devastating impact highlights the importance of learning core skills to navigate industry-wide disruption.

"In an increasingly volatile world, graduates will need to be adaptable and dynamic across many aspects of business. It's these core skills that will help cushion our graduates against major market shocks," she explained.



Students at the University of Sydney Business School, Abercrombie Street. Image: Supplied

Students enrolled in the new 18-month Master of Commerce will choose one specialisation while those studying the two-year Master of Commerce (Extension) can choose two from eight different specialisations.

Both postgraduate courses allow eligible applicants to complete an industry placement program. The new program will also offer several in-kind fast-tracked short work/industry placement opportunities to select students with key industry partners.

With digital ways of working set to be critical in a post-coronavirus environment, students participating in work-integrated learning units will develop highly valued skills through wholly online placements and industry-linked group-based business practicums.

Director of the Work-Integrated Learning Hub, Associate Professor Rachael Hains-Wesson, said: "Our bespoke work-integrated learning units, which are a key part of the new Master of Commerce, are designed to develop and master key employability skills for our graduates along with the work experience they'll need to thrive for

their career pathways."

Professor Greg Whitwell, Dean of the Business School, said the program redesign demonstrates the School's commitment to equipping students with real-world industry experiences underpinned by an excellent academic offering.

"Our aim is always to deliver a truly transformational education. We are proud of the way our world-class teachers and researchers bring exceptionally designed courses to life, embedding creative and analytics skills in our responsible business graduates as they enter the workforce," said Professor Whitwell.

This year the QS Graduate Employability Rankings named University of Sydney graduates the most employable in Australia. SSH



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Zoom in as Australia's Biggest Morning Tea goes virtual

SSH

THIS year Australia's Biggest Morning Tea will be held virtually in people's homes via video chat with a free digital kit sent to hosts containing everything they need to make their morning tea a success.

In 2020, the official date is Thursday May 28 but people can host any time during May or June that works for them and their colleagues, families and friends.

The NSW Cancer Council's Community Relations Coordinator, Leanne Langdon, says hosting a virtual *Australia's Biggest Morning Tea* event is a great way to raise funds to assist people affected by cancer. It is also a wonderful opportunity to stay connected with those you may not have seen for a while, during times of social distancing and self-isolation.

"We know that it can be tough working from home without your colleagues around, so hosting a workplace virtual morning tea will help you reconnect, keep your team culture strong and morale high. Have a virtual team bake off with the ingredients in



your store cupboard, share photos and donate what you usually would to an office morning tea."

Ms Langdon says for friends, families and neighbours, a cuppa over video chat is the perfect way to stay in touch and support each other. You can also share your best home-cooked recipes in return for a donation to your biggest morning tea fundraising.

"Every dollar you raise will help fund Cancer Council's life-saving research, prevention, support programs and information."

"We'll be with you every step of the way and in the lead up to hosting a *Biggest Morning Tea*. We'll provide tips, ideas and anything you need to help make your morning tea a success!"

The first step is to register to host a Morning Tea at biggestmorningtea.com.au.

Once you've done that, the Cancer Council says:

- Spread the word about your event (using social media, blogs, and the local paper and other media).

- Challenge your friends and colleagues to a bake off.

- Use Skype, Zoom, Facetime or Messenger to host your morning tea online.

- Get everyone involved, by playing some virtual games at your event.

Ms Langdon says all donations are welcome and can be as small as donating the cost of a morning coffee or daily commute because every little bit helps.

"By supporting the cause, you will be making a difference in the lives of almost 48,000 people in NSW diagnosed with cancer each year." SSH

See biggestmorningtea.com.au



Tovy and Bun at PT Crown Bakery. Photo: Andrew Collis

Arkoun, Tovy and Bun!

LOCALS

ANDREW COLLIS

REDFERN: PT Crown Bakery on George Street, close to Redfern Station, serves fresh bread daily – loaves sliced and unsliced, delicious flat rolls, long rolls, white, wholemeal, with sesame seeds – and a whole lot more.

Bun arrived in Australia in 1988. A refugee from Cambodia, he had been living in Thailand. Tovy arrived a short time later, and the couple have been happily married for 30 years. They have worked together at the bakery since 2005.

PT Crown Bakery is open Monday to Saturday, 7.30am to

5.30pm. Bun starts preparing each day at 3am. All the bread is baked onsite, with fresh ingredients and no preservatives. Tovy makes many of the pastries and cakes too – lamingtons, custard tarts, chocolate eclairs – as well as making sandwiches, and PT Crown's famous pork rolls.

"These are the best salad sandwiches in South Sydney," says one happy regular, "and such good value too. Tovy is very generous with the fillings – and the chilli is just right."

Supplies come through every day – fresh milk, fruit juice, tomatoes and veggies. "We do our main shop on Sundays," Tovy explains.

Aside from shopping, the couple make the most of their day off. "I like to sleep in on Sundays," Bun says. Tovy enjoys cooking

and "spending time with the kids outdoors". They also find time for "strolling around the neighbourhood" and eating out.

Some of their favourite things about Redfern are "the friendly locals, including other business owners", the "convenience of living close to the railway station and city", a "strong sense of community", and "the growing diversity of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds".

Bun says: "To all our local customers, thank you (arkoun) for supporting us – without you, we wouldn't be here."

Tovy says: "If you haven't tried our offerings, pop by when you get the chance – we bake our bread daily – get it in the morning while it's still warm. And, as always, stay safe and positive." SSH

Interactive live stream to build a better future

ENVIRONMENT

SSH

AUSTRALIA and the world are in massive upheaval due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the same time, the crises presented by climate change, biodiversity loss and social inequality have not receded.

Covid-19 has thrown into stark relief the vulnerability of those who face housing insecurity and the failings of an inadequate welfare system. The critical contributions of key workers in our community, many of whom, such as cleaners, aged care and childcare workers, are poorly paid. The importance of cooperation, compassion and the local economy. The ways that ecosystems may recover if given space to do so.

How can we emerge from this pandemic in ways that build justice and fairness, take pressure off the environment and strengthen our economy? What values do we want to see enacted in our community life?

School Strike 4 Climate, the students behind last September's massive climate strikes, invite us to join with them for an online



Bleached coral on the Great Barrier Reef. When all the coral is white and the wildlife is gone, it's absurd to continue to ignore the devastating impacts of climate change (@schoolstrikeforclimate). Photo: Brett Monroe Garner/Greenpeace

broadcast on May 15 to build a vision for a better future.

"We just lived through the worst bushfire season in our history and now we are in the grips of a deadly pandemic," state the students on their website.

"While the government rushes to respond, they are leaving behind millions of people and protecting mining companies and fossil fuel projects which threaten our future."

"In these times of crisis, we need to come together to build hope and a vision for a better, fairer future and show leadership."

"On May 15 we will hear from those impacted by the climate

crisis and the Covid pandemic, and collectively create a vision for the future we need, one that leaves no one behind. Then we will make sure our politicians hear our message loud and clear.

"On May 15, everyone is welcome and everyone is needed. Because when lives and livelihoods are on the line, it's time to step up and change everything." SSH

Join the May 15 national broadcast from 4pm, and look out for other supporting events and ways you can participate:
www.schoolstrike4climate.com/may15
www.uniteearth.org.au/uniting-supports-the-may-15th-climate-strike/



Jenny Leong MP
 STATE MEMBER
 FOR NEWTOWN

FALLEN THROUGH THE CRACKS?

Find out what help is available during the pandemic.

**NSW Government
 COVID-19 hotline
 13 77 88**

Our Newtown electorate office doors are shut, but we are still working and able to help our local community.

Call 9517 2800, leave a message and we will call you back.

Remember: if you are not safe in your home due to domestic violence, call 1800 65 64 63

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

Authorised by
Jenny Leong MP
 State Member for Newtown

383 King St, Newtown, NSW 2042
 T: 02 9517 2800 F: 02 9230 3352
Newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au



Uniting seeks social justice in the pandemic

HUMAN AFFAIRS

DOM SCHUSTER

THE world is moving very quickly around all of us. For Uniting to be able to continue to support the people who rely on us, we need to be able to respond quickly too.

Covid-19 has been particularly challenging with our Ageing operations, whose difficult industry climate has been heightened by the cost pressures imposed by our virus responses. The very viability of our Early Learning services is at stake from the dramatic change in attendance and restrictions on availability of the government's JobKeeper package. Our Medically Supervised Injecting Centre sees homeless people every day who can't self-isolate and are increasingly unable to find a bed in a shelter or a free meal.

Working with industry bodies, Uniting Care Australia, and directly with state and federal government, the Advocacy team is making sure Uniting NSW. ACT has a strong, evidence-based voice, supporting prompt and effective responses to the current crisis and ensuring we emerge from it in a position to continue our mission.

The Advocacy team is also exploring ways its campaigns can engage people online while isolating, enhance people's activism skills, and continue to pressure decision makers to support change consistent with our campaign goals and the common good.

We're finding new ways for events to proceed – for example Palm Sunday on April 5 took place online. People made signs and joined the live event. The Climate Strike and the Climate and



Pastoral Care Conference will also happen online. And we've taken a major role in building support for inclusion of temporary migrants in the government's safety nets.

We're working with our partners in the Sydney Alliance on campaigns for Covid-related social justice priorities. This includes advocacy for some of the most vulnerable in our society – including those who rent their homes and may face eviction through hardship, or who face disconnection by energy providers.

Our campaigns have already borne fruit, with the federal government responding to a flood of public support and, on March 29, calling on state and territory governments to impose a moratorium on evictions due to "financial distress". We're now urging the NSW and ACT governments to impose this moratorium widely, as Tasmania has done. See our Social Justice Facebook page for details and updates.

Uniting is also active with the Sydney Alliance in partnerships to seek relief from power disconnections, and to strengthen the backbone of local communities to ensure that social connection can continue to build in the face of necessary physical distancing. Drawn together by the Alliance, Local Backbone teams are forming across Sydney to bring civil society organisations together to pool

resources and respond to local needs. "Like" our Social Justice Facebook page to keep informed about how you can get involved.

Our Fair Treatment campaign for drug reform has also shifted tack, with its poignant documentary *Half a Million Steps* now available in full on YouTube to avoid the necessity of physical presence at screenings. Why not set aside a night to watch the documentary online? Better still get your friends to watch online from their homes at the same time and have a discussion afterwards.

Uniting is also working to extend awareness of pharmaceutical treatments available to people using drugs who need these treatments.

And our Advocacy Team is working to integrate new features into our Facebook pages including campaign updates and online training to allow staff, members of congregations, independent living residents and others to get up to speed on our advocacy priorities and how they can get involved.

So, as we physically isolate, let's all work together to maintain our social connections and our passion to make a better world. We look forward to connecting with you in person in the spring. Until then, see you online. SSH

For more information about any of our campaigns, you can contact Uniting Advocacy team at advocacy@uniting.org

Hopes new Aboriginal coalition will help close the gap

CATHERINE DEMAYO

THE famed New York Yankees baseball player Yogi Berra was known for his eccentric turns of phrase ("Yogi-isms") as well as his achievements on the baseball diamond. "It's like déjà vu all over again" was one such Yogi-ism.

This idiosyncratic expression comes to mind when reading the latest report on Australia's attempts to "close the gap" between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people's health and wellbeing.

Launched in 2007 by COAG, Closing the Gap focused on six target areas (a seventh was added subsequently): child mortality; year 12 retention; life expectancy; school attendance; early childhood education; literacy and numeracy; and employment.

It committed states and territories to specific, measurable targets, so its progress could easily be assessed.

Sadly, on most measures in most jurisdictions, we haven't closed the gap. In some, such as child mortality, it has widened.

Take the example of life expectancy. The Closing the Gap 2020 Summary reports:

"In 2015-2017, life expectancy at birth was 71.6 years for Indigenous males (8.6 years less than non-Indigenous males) and 75.6 years for Indigenous females (7.8 years less than non-Indigenous females).

"... there was an improvement of almost 10 per cent in Indigenous age-standardised mortality rates. However, non-Indigenous mortality rates improved at a similar rate, so the gap has not narrowed."

Even after these improvements, Aboriginal life expectancy is about on a par with Thailand and Sri Lanka.

The 2020 report cites some success in just two measures, Year 12 completion and early childhood education.

So, what can be different in the 2020s? Will anything change, or are we likely to face another decade of "déjà vu all over again?"

Last year, COAG and a coalition of Aboriginal organisations signed a formal partnership designed to give the latter the power to develop, implement, monitor and review

Closing the Gap policies for the next decade. Many Indigenous activists and leaders have welcomed this, stressing that Closing the Gap will be doomed to continued failure without meaningful Aboriginal involvement.

Patricia Turner AM, CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) wrote last February:

"We cannot continue to approach Closing the Gap in the same old ways. The top-down approach has reaped disappointing results ...

"The time has come for our voices to be heard and for us to lead the way on Closing the Gap."

These are still early days as the partnership is still in its infancy. How much say the new members of this partnership will have, and how deeply we are willing to dig into the causes of disadvantage remains to be seen. Let's hope that a decade from now, we won't again be realising we've seen and heard it all before. SSH

See ctgreport.niaa.gov.au



DV danger can intensify with Covid-19

JANE MATTS

YESTERDAY, being legally constrained by the danger of Covid-19, my gardening To Do list was being addressed. I live in a quiet street on large block with a two-bedroom granny flat at the rear of the property which two couples rent. Miss 19, the youngest of the four, is a receptionist. We share pet stories from time to time, as their household has gathered a much-loved menagerie.

Miss 19 is in a rocky relationship characterised by some physical and verbal abuse. I've had to call the police on a couple of occasions and they've responded quickly, referred services and set clear boundaries about behaviour to the perpetrator.

Yesterday, as she walked down my driveway to get to the road she said she was "breaking the tension". Currently, she can't go to a park and sit. Or get support at a friend's house. On her third "walk" her partner followed her, demanding she stay. He grabbed her arm and was insistent she come back now!

He also seemed to be deliberately looking for me to support his demands and to silently acknowledge she was being unreasonable. I asked her if she was alright. It broke the ice and changed the intensity. Jolting her hand away from his she broke free to continue her walk. I knew him and felt okay to gently say, "Don't mate. Just let her walk. She needs some space." He was resigned to not press it further and

went back to the flat.

While this eased the tension for now, what do we do in this current climate to help those who experience violence in Covid-19 times? When I had to break the tension with my former husband I had a car and McDonald's playland for my children. Friends, cinemas, and beaches. Now the options are almost nothing.

This is a recipe for tragedy. Already women have died. This fact is overshadowed by the urgency of the government's daily Covid-19 updates and recommendations to stay alive. Yet more women were killed last year by their intimate partner than Covid-19 has claimed to date. What a terrible juxtaposition. We are told to stay home (in this instance with the perpetrator) and

there is little in the way of respite.

We may want to flatten the curve of Covid-19 but, conversely, we need to heighten the support of those at risk of abuse and communicate safe options. This is not just for domestic violence support services but also the responses of police, housing suppliers including Real Estates, hospitals, GPs and schools.

With our current restrictions, abuse has a greater chance of being deadly. If you are affected by abuse and feeling threatened, I want you to know you are important and believed. There are services you can talk to who can provide advice and guidance. What you do will always be your choice.

I didn't realise how much danger I was in until I left. SSH

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



cartoon: norrie may-welby

EDITORIAL

SSH

THE global health crisis continues to have a devastating impact on people living on the streets and in places where they are not safe.

Many people turning to services for help already have pre-existing health conditions and do not have a home or shelter to self-isolate to, or support networks to fall back on. In this climate of fear and uncertainty (and falling temperatures), people who are already struggling are most at risk – people who are isolated, the elderly, those living with a mental illness, facing domestic violence or experiencing homelessness.

Frontline community workers in South Sydney, including representatives from Counterpoint Community Services, SDN Children's Services, Barnardos and the Story Factory, have been meeting fortnightly to share observations and develop support strategies.

Coordinated by Inner Sydney Voice, recent meetings have acknowledged the good work of OzHarvest (providing 6,500 meals per week) and Colombo Social (providing food and mobile food vans in the city), as well as the role being played by the City of Sydney.

The City is part of the Sydney Rough Sleeping Covid-19 Taskforce, which brings together the Department of Communities and Justice, health services and the homelessness sector.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore says: "Our homelessness unit is continuing to operate seven days a week, providing daily support to people sleeping rough and linking them with essential support services.

"The City and the homelessness sector remain focused on ensuring people sleeping rough are able to access accommodation, and those experiencing food insecurity have nutritious food. The City's \$1 million donation to OzHarvest is helping with this."

Since April 1, more than 1,000 rough sleepers have been helped into accommodation across NSW. About half of them are in metropolitan Sydney.

On March 27, the NSW government announced a \$34 million package of supports to prevent homelessness. The package included \$14.3 million to increase the supply and flexibility of temporary accommodation across the state, including accommodation, such as hotels and motels, suitable for self-isolation.

An additional \$20 million has been committed to accelerate pathways for existing clients and priority social housing applicants to secure stable housing in the private

rental market. This includes: 500 Rent Choice packages; more than 350 Start Safely packages dedicated to women and children escaping domestic and family violence; more than 140 Rent Choice Youth packages for young people.

Meanwhile, Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross is delivering its own "love and care" packages to people most in need.

Wayside Chapel has more than 50 years' experience supporting the most marginalised. During this crisis, it has mobilised a new Community Outreach team to deliver emergency food, care packs and love to people sleeping rough on the streets, as well as driving to people who are housebound.

A Wayside spokesperson says: "We meet people at their front doors or driveways, far enough to follow distancing guidelines but close enough to look someone in the eye through the fly-screen door and share a much-needed moment of connection.

"Now, more than ever, we must do whatever we can to support people who are struggling in our community."

Donate to Wayside's Care Pack program:
donate.waysidechapel.org.au/event/carepack/home

City of Sydney Emergency Contact:
9265 9333.

Link2Home (crisis accommodation referrals): 1800 152 152.

Coronavirus spurs clever Finnish campaign to combat loneliness

HEALTH

SSH

FINNISH NGO HelsinkiMissio has demonstrated how the world looks for the lonely through images of the deserted city streets of Helsinki during the Covid-19 pandemic. Its aim is to highlight the distress caused by involuntary loneliness and to prompt compassion for those who endure it and need more support than ever.

HelsinkiMissio's campaign slogan is "For some this is how the world has always felt. Show the lonely they are not alone."

"Due to the coronavirus, we have had to adjust to the new world of social distancing," HelsinkiMissio says in its campaign media release. "For most of us, a life without daily human interaction is an entirely new situation. It is, however, nothing unusual for those suffering from chronic loneliness and isolation. Momentary solitude can be good for you. However, involuntary

loneliness can lead to life-threatening health conditions."

The empty city streets inspired HelsinkiMissio to use pictures of deserted public spaces in its campaign to show how the world looks through the eyes of the lonely, even without the ongoing virus outbreak.

"We are now seeing pictures of deserted cities everywhere," says Erno Reinikainen, Creative Director at TBWA\Helsinki. "They have turned into a post-apocalyptic art exhibition for everyone isolated at their homes.

Reflecting on Jewish ethics with Muslim teens

FAITH

ZALMAN KASTEL

A group of senior Muslim high school students, their teachers, a Catholic priest and I, an Hasidic, bearded rabbi, sat down recently for a discussion about Jewish marriage and sexual ethics as part of their Studies of Religion course.

I told the students what they needed to know for their course about weddings. I noted that in Judaism there are two distinct ceremonies. In earlier times, these typically happened first at the home of the bride's parents and then that of the groom's parents but today are done at the same time with only a symbolic break between them. I shared that I found it interesting when two Muslims I know got married, it was not a one-step process. I attended a nikah religious wedding ceremony in a mosque and a wedding feast with loud Lebanese drums.

I was more interested in talking about marriage than weddings. I shared a memory with the students from a time when I was not much older than them. I had watched a scene in the movie *Fiddler on the Roof*. The devoutly religious Jewish husband turns to his wife Golde, and asks her, "Do you love me?" She finds the question bizarre and wonders if he had indigestion. She replied, "Do I love you? For 25 years, I've washed your clothes, cooked your meals, cleaned your house ... milked the cow. After 25 years, why talk about love right now?"

As a young man I was terribly troubled by the implication that in my very orthodox world we could not expect to ever be in love. I had read some novels and romantic love seemed marvellous, but not for me, it seemed. Years later I realised that, due to modesty, ultra-orthodox couples don't show affection to each other in front of other people, making love invisible.

I explained to the students that Golde's list of 25 years of caring action also reflects a Jewish idea about the feeling of love being a product of caring and loving behaviour. In the Torah we read that Isaac brought his wife Rebecca into his tent, he married her, and he loved her. In that order.

I shared with them a Kabalistic teaching about Adam and Eve

first being created back to back as a double human, one side female and the other male. "But God split them so that they could face each other, face to face, light in light." Marriage is meant to be about a powerful experience of connection between a couple. Unfortunately, for many people in our time the mundane requirements of earning a living and house work leaves little energy for anything else.

We are human beings, not machines. For this reason, we also need to consider sexual ethics. Due to the syllabus requirements, the students and I spent some time on technical questions about restrictions and exceptions relating to contraception and abortion. But we also got around to the requirement for consent for sex, and guidance about the right way being that the couple should have sex when they are not angry with each other but rather out of joy.

We discussed pleasure. Specifically, Jewish teaching that encourages men to consider women's sexual pleasure. Part of Jewish marriage is a contract called a Ketuba that stipulates a husband's obligation to be available to his wife sexually.

I was pleased to learn from the Catholic priest that it was not correct that sex is the original sin. He explained that it is more appropriate to think of a child being born into a morally troubled world.

A few days after the session at the Islamic school I was reflecting on all of this and it got me thinking about the Jewish attitude to pleasure. Not just as a requirement of kindness from a husband to his wife.

One explanation of why snakes are not Kosher is because they "go on their bellies". This is interpreted as being symbolic of a person being pleasure driven, both in terms of food and sex. However, I recently read that God creates our desires. I don't believe sexual desire or pleasure are bad – they are only problematic when they're out of balance with other ways of being such as altruism, attentiveness to others in a range of ways, and being of service.

This is the heart of the matter. Human beings, essentially similar, but significantly different in various ways, connecting in understanding each other and ourselves.

Rabbi Zalman Kastel, AM

With this campaign, we hope that people will understand how the situation is affecting those who are already suffering from loneliness."

Tuula Colliander, CEO at HelsinkiMissio, says, "What we're now facing has already been a sad reality for many. We want to make sure that people who are now even more desperate for social interaction get help. It's never too late."

HelsinkiMissio has been

committed to helping lonely people in Finland since 1883. With its new campaign, it hopes to encourage more people to help fight the battle against loneliness through actions of caring and compassion, donations or volunteering.

The campaign was carried out pro bono with TBWA\Helsinki, FLC Helsinki, Sanoma, and Clear Channel.

See the campaign film: bit.ly/2VNexTP

When the city turns silent

CLAIRE MAHJOUB

ALL around the world, countries are trying to contain the outbreak of Covid-19. Since mid-March, the Philippines has been taking measures to fight the spread of the virus to protect its 110 million inhabitants.

Usually the streets of Cebu City, the third largest city of the archipelago, located in the Visayas region, are full of life. People are bumping into each other in the local markets, karaoke is plugged day and night, and traffic jams are endless. A joyful cacophony!

With the implementation of the community quarantine, the streets went suddenly silent and empty. A disconcerting scene we're not used to. No more horns, no more street vendors yelling, no more jeepneys (the local public transport), no more traffic snarls, and no more karaoke. Only the roosters crowing and dogs barking to break the silence.

The "no work, no pay" system has started to be challenging for hundreds of thousands of people who haven't had any income for weeks now. Construction workers, street vendors, jeepney drivers ... many of them rely on their daily wage (on average around 400 Philippine pesos = 12 Australian dollars) to feed their families.

The authorities are providing some first-necessity supplies (rice, canned goods, oil) and financial assistance to the more vulnerable (elders and low-income workers), but for how long?

On April 30, more than 8,200 cases of Covid-19 were recorded nationwide. It's a puzzling situation between the economic impact of the crisis and the public health in the country.

In the densely populated slum areas, it is challenging to



A bustling thoroughfare in Cebu is now devoid of vehicles and people due to Covid-19 quarantine restrictions. Photo: Claire Mahjoub

implement the social distancing rules. How to stay 24/7 at home inside a house of a few square metres with children, parents and grandparents.

No matter what happens here, people are facing the situation with resilience – that's the strength of Filipinos.

SSH

Claire Mahjoub is a former photo editor of the South Sydney Herald who now works for an NGO in Cebu.



Social distancing rules are difficult to implement in densely populated slum areas in Cebu where a house of a few square metres is home to children, parents and grandparents. Photo: Claire Mahjoub

Loneliness during Covid-19 and where to find help

AMY CHENG

THE Covid-19 pandemic has produced and exacerbated feelings of loneliness but people are finding creative ways to cope. From virtual dinner parties, dance offs, art and exercise classes to online karaoke sessions and movie nights, people are connecting and supporting each other.

Dr Glen Hosking, a clinical psychologist and lecturer at Victoria University, said that coping with feelings of loneliness begins by accepting them as a normal reaction to the current situation.

"People are experiencing this massive shift in their day-to-day lives and how they go about their day-to-day lives. They're not connecting or are unable to connect with people the way they normally would," he said.

Over one weekend, he attended a virtual dinner party with his friends, where they all shared a recipe, cooked the same meal and enjoyed it together over video chat.

"They're good things because it's a task that involves preparation, thus it involves someone doing something and achieving something and then connecting with others in doing so," he said.

Developers of Dial Up app have added a feature called Quarantine Chat that enables people to receive calls from strangers who are also staying at home.

"While people can still talk to their friends and family virtually, the experience of spontaneously talking to a stranger is now missing from many of our lives," the website said.

For people who don't have access to technology, some older people for example, Dr Hosking said telephone calls are still

helpful, but he would like others to take the initiative to send them letters and gifts.

"I would certainly encourage people to make every effort to connect with the older population ... these kinds of things really make a difference for people when they're experiencing that sense of loneliness at this time."

Loneliness often brings with it a decline in mood, which leads to a decline in motivation and can make it harder for people to reach out.

"Sometimes that means a person has to force themselves to do things, and force themselves to connect with others," Dr Hosking said.

"We find that once they've started that or completed that, the impact on their mood and anxiety is actually pretty good."

But sometimes additional help may be required.

"When they notice big



Image: Drawing by Hillary Monckton

shifts in things like self-care or showering ... if there's a real shift in their day-to-day functioning, then that would be a good indication that seeking some professional help would be necessary," he said.

To begin with, people can

contact organisations such as Beyond Blue and Lifeline, and then speak to their general practitioner about organising a session with a psychologist.

SSH

Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636
Lifeline 13 11 14

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

Forbes' photos unfurl beauty and intricacy in the ordinary

EXHIBITIONS

SSH

DARLINGHURST: "Traces of beauty exist everywhere around us," says Melbourne-based street photographer Mark Forbes. "Sometimes we just need the time and space – physical and emotional – to be able to pause to experience them ... to soak in the details that can go unseen in everyday life."

The coronavirus pandemic has given at least some of us the chance to pause more and look around us. Linger on the photographs in Forbes' solo show, *Beautiful Solitude*, we realise they could have been taken anywhere. They're also soothing in their solitude. Comforting in their emptiness. Nostalgic enough to invite contemplation. Structured enough to lead the eye but not lasso it.

Until recently, much of Forbes' work featured people and the busy ebb and flow of life on the street. In the *Beautiful Solitude* series, he focused more on the environments that humans engage with and live in. He found the more time he spent appreciating the whole scene, the more he'd see and understand the beauty and intricacy in the ordinary.

Shooting film, he says, also forces the photographer to slow down and visualise the final image, bringing greater engagement with the process and more satisfaction with the result.



The comfy seats, 2019, CType Print from Medium Format Film. Photo: Mark Forbes

Forbes has been a semi-finalist in the Moran Australian Contemporary Photographic Prize, is the winner of the Gomma Grant 2019 for the Best Colour Photograph and

was awarded *Capture* magazine's "Australasian Top Emerging Photographer 2018" in the Travel category. His prints are held in public and private collections, in Australia and internationally.

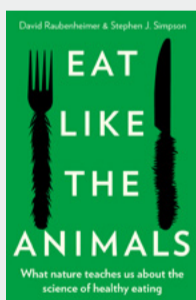
Beautiful Solitude is online at Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, from April 29 to May 30. It is also a featured exhibition in the HeadOn Photo Festival 2020, which has adapted its program

for online viewing due to Covid-19 requirements for social distancing.

See www.stanleystreetgallery.com.au and www.headon.com.au/2020-festival-program

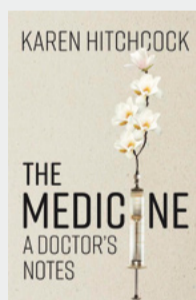
Five things in isolation

SELECTED BY MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES



Step away from the fridge

With people's focus on the refrigerator and what they can and can't buy in the supermarket, it made sense to avert my eyes momentarily from the Covid-19 pandemic and fix them on the obesity pandemic sweeping the world. *Eat Like the Animals*, by biologists David Raubenheimer and Stephen J. Simpson offers groundbreaking research and vivid storytelling to highlight how animals in the wild instinctively mix a nutritionally balanced diet. The authors expose how our modern food environment overrides the hunger-control system in humans and is driven by big business. They also offer sound steps to leverage the power of protein to ensure we live long and healthy lives.



The best medicine

They say "laughter" is the best medicine but I'm addicted to reading sobering books about medical matters including surgery, treatments, pain management and how swayed we can be by pharmaceutical marketing and news of pandemics. My obsession is topical this month, with the coronavirus lurking in public places and causing pandemonium. *The Medicine* by Karen Hitchcock is both wise and illuminating. Here's a quote to get you thinking. "Globally we have the capacity to produce a few hundred million influenza vaccines each year and a population of 7.5 billion. If there's a need for a pandemic-preventing vaccine, who gets the protection?"



The Grammarians

On the Easter weekend I hunkered down with *The Grammarians* by Cathleen Schine – an exhilarating tale of nerdy, wordy, red-haired twins, Laurel and Daphne, who confound their family, their partners and (sometimes) each other. We get involved in their lives from babyhood (when they commune in their secret language) and go on to delight in their deepening love for words (both arcane and more widely used). There's a host of characters that provide humour and tug the heartstrings. When the twins fall out badly, Gravit, a shabby but considerate and articulate school principal, says, "My divorce was much more civil than this."



Here We Are

It's a stellar summer season for the theatre at the end of the pier in Brighton in 1959. Ronnie is a magician, and he and his assistant Evie have been drawing the crowds along with the show's glittering compère Jack Robinson. From the feathers, the diamonds, the down-at-heel rehearsal rooms and the pre-show nerves, to the inner life of a 70-year-old woman looking back on a successful marriage and career, Graham Swift tells his tale of this theatrical trio with humour and heart. Swift won the Booker Prize in 1996 for *Last Orders* – and it was marvellous. *Here We Are* is different but also beautiful in its simplicity.

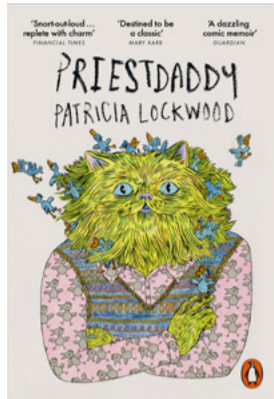


Scrolling along

I flouted the Easter baking trend and instead of making my own hot cross buns, I cooked cinnamon scrolls from scratch. I couldn't find the "bread flour" the recipe specified, my yeast was beyond best-by date, and I had to rescue the scrolls from the oven after three minutes to ensure they had the all-important second rising. Despite all that, they didn't turn out too badly. I will experiment again when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and sanity returns to our supermarkets. Kneading the dough for ten minutes was a great stress buster! My uncle used to make the airiest Victoria sponge. And Autumn calls for frangipane tart. I'll try these next.

The Reviews

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



Priestdaddy by Patricia Lockwood Penguin Press, 2018

If Patricia Lockwood's family had been normal, they still would have been highly unusual.

Lockwood, who had made her name as a poet before publishing the highly acclaimed *Priestdaddy*, is the daughter of a married Catholic priest, Father Greg Lockwood.

As she explains in this touching, sad, funny and beautifully written memoir, a minister from another denomination (Lutheran, in her father's case) who converts to Catholicism can obtain special permission to be ordained. "He is allowed, yes, to keep his wife. He is even allowed to keep his children, no matter how bad they might be."

Lockwood leaves home at 19, but after 12 years away, crippling medical bills bring her and husband Jason back to the family home for nine months. Lockwood is a keen observer of her family with the

distance of those years, and muses on her childhood and adolescence.

Lockwood can be hilarious. She describes her father, whose wardrobe is either full priestly regalia, or embarrassingly transparent underwear at home: "My childhood was one long life drawing lesson, where Santa posed for us ... His default position is a kind of explicit lounge ... Like the worst kind of Jazzercise stretch you could ever imagine."

When not lounging in his semi-transparent underwear, Father Greg Lockwood may be found coaxing bizarre noises from his guitar collection or cleaning his guns. This is, as her sister Mary declares, not a normal family.

This is also a memoir of pain, as in the author's description of her adolescent depression (culminating in a pill overdose at age 16); her rape by a family friend (the subject of her poem "Rape Joke"); and her reflections on the sex abuse scandal that has rocked the Church, locally and globally.

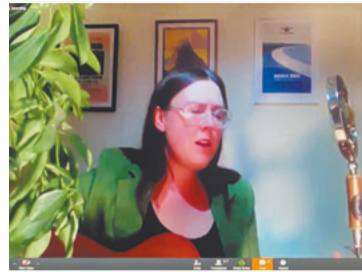
This family may be strange, but it is loving. When Lockwood tells her parents about their dilemma, her mother responds simply: "Come home." And so she and Jason do, and squeeze into her mother's tiny sewing room, warmly welcomed.

While Greg Lockwood's dress sense, parenting style and politics can be truly cringeworthy, Lockwood also makes clear his devotion to his vocation. "My father lounged horizontal at home, and sent us up and down the stairs to fetch for him, but when the call came at three o'clock in the morning, he was up and out the door without the smallest sign of protest."

Lockwood's memoir draws on ample material for both pathos and humour. *Priestdaddy*, like Father Greg Lockwood, never ceases to surprise, and is chock full of heart and soul.

» books@ssh.com.au

Music Review by Anne Camac



Nadia Reid Live on Zoom

I reviewed the Nadia Reid concert at the Lansdowne Hotel in the *South Sydney Herald* in August 2019. On April 17, she performed again, not from Brussels as planned, but from Dunedin, New Zealand.

The concert was viewed via Zoom, with the audience paying via Eventbrite so she could earn her wage, and we could pay her for the experience. And now, we have access to a Zoom recording of the concert! Over 350 people zoomed in, from places such as Israel, Berlin, Japan, Canada, Chad and Ireland.

We got to hear her play 15 songs over 80 minutes; just her and her guitar. The sound quality was amazing, her at-ease manner and quiet confidence evident throughout. Because of the close-up camera her guitar strumming and chord progressions were clear for us to see (and for the guitarists among us to try to copy).

From the first song, an acapella gospel, "I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table", I knew it was going to be a good night.

As it was via Zoom, we could also see the audience. Some dressed in PJs, some sharing a wine and some eating dinner! We could share comments via written notes, people able to make requests (which she honoured) and let her know the new album provided them with comfort during isolation.

Her final song ended with the words, "Are you lonely?" My answer was "no", not lonely or alone. I'm not a quick adopter of technology, but it all worked for me.

» music@ssh.com.au

Television Review by Lindsay Cohen



Unorthodox Director: Maria Schrader Starring: Shira Haas, Amit Rahav, Jeff Wilbusch Genre: Cult cult

In these most unusual of times it seems fitting that I should do my first ever TV review of a most unusual, but excellent, Netflix series. *Unorthodox* is the clever and fitting title for a miniseries (only four

episodes) detailing the escape of pregnant Esty (Shira Haas) from the ultraorthodox Jewish community and her unhappy marriage in New York.

Esty herself is an unorthodox orthodox piano-playing Jew, with a secular and distant mother who also escaped the community and an abusive marriage to live in a gay relationship in Berlin.

You don't have to have a Jewish heritage to appreciate that *Unorthodox* is excellent, unique and compelling, though I do, and it may help to appreciate a few nuances around custom and tradition. Nonetheless, ultraorthodox practices are so far removed from any Jewish understanding I have as to make them almost completely foreign to me.

Unorthodox is loosely based on a true story and a book, and features actors who themselves have Jewish heritages, including Jeff Wilbusch, who plays Moische Lefkovich who tracks down Esty in Berlin. Wilbusch left the community when he was 13.

Despite an unlikely and unconvincing final episode, the series largely rings true as it deals with familiar topics of escape from abusive power structures and misogynistic cultures.

It's curious to consider that *Unorthodox* will likely never be viewed by the community that it examines and will change nothing in that community. That's just the nature of cults that by definition don't embrace change or empower their adherents.

But for the rest of us, understanding that you don't have to be officially self-isolating to feel isolated certainly provides perspective that may make our current circumstances seem tame in comparison.

Rating: 4 Stars of David

» film@ssh.com.au

All the web's a stage

THEATRE

CATHERINE SKIPPER

WHAT to do when theatres are locked down during the Covid-19 crisis? Reach for your mobile and cancel your theatre tickets? Maybe not. Apart from directors, actors and creatives, the theatre employs ushers, ticket staff, backstage, install crews, security and hospitality staff, and when the theatres re-open they will need funds desperately. So, if possible, donate the price of your cancelled ticket or ask for a non-cash credit for a future performance.

Having generously donated, what now? Out of a sympathetic interest you might look at how some performance groups are coping with the crisis. Director Anna Jahjah of Théâtre Excentrique, whose play was set to open just two days after the lockdown was announced, responded with a lively sense of humour by posting this on LinkedIn:

"After *Love in the Time of Cholera*, introducing *Rehearsals in the Time of Corona*. Performances of *Tideline* by Wajdi Mouawad have been postponed but rehearsals are still going strong, and we thank the internet for that." [#zoommeetings]

Like Jahjah, both theatre lovers and theatre companies have good reason to be grateful to our new best thespian friend, the internet.

First up you can go to www.timeout.com/theatre/best-streaming-theatre-shows-how-to-watch-online and stream amazing plays, musicals and dance shows. You can access New York's Broadway, London's West End and your own Australian lively theatre scene. At home, your sofa is the best seat in the house and you can sing along, tap your toes or sniff loudly during a weepie without disturbing anyone. You will need to research what is on offer as the various theatres offer a range of performances at different dates and times.

For instance, on Saturday April 18, the fabulous Bangarra streamed *Bennelong* – its soul-stirring exploration of the life of one of our history's most iconic Aboriginal figures. On April 5, the Australian Ballet launched its digital program "At Home with Ballet TV" beginning with *The Sleeping Beauty*, followed by *Cinderella*, and *Romeo and Juliet* to be shown from May 1-15. Griffin, under the corny title "The theatre may be closed, but Griffin is evergreen – we won't leaf you!" introduced the Griffin Lock-In, which gives viewers access to five nights in



Catch *Romeo and Juliet* on the Australian Ballet's 'At Home with Ballet TV'. Photo: Jeff Busby

which specially commissioned artists create and perform made-for-livestream works from their home with only a week's notice.

Of course, we may say such an innovation is no substitute for live theatre but, for those open to new experience, it can be rewarding. A dear friend of mine recently watched a reading of Lyle Kessler's 1983 black comedy *Orphans*, streamed on Facebook and YouTube by Red Line Productions, a small Sydney Theatre company.

The reading featured the well-known Alec Baldwin, Australian actors Andrew Henry and Aaron Glenane, and American actress Judy Jerome reading the stage directions and descriptions – with all four performers connected from their homes around the globe. My friend wrote, "I loved it! It was so uplifting and affirming to have that opportunity to be part of that innovative approach to enjoying a play."

How the present need for isolation and consequent reliance upon digital

technologies will shape theatre-going behaviour post-Covid and impact upon live theatre productions remains to be seen. Once it was thought that cinema would mean the end of live theatre, and now cinema itself is struggling to survive. Considering the huge demand for streamed entertainment, it may be that streaming live performances will be a means of increasing the audience of both cinema and theatre.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Wordplays

THE popular form haiku is derived from hokku, originally the opening verse of a renga, a traditional Japanese form of collaborative verse which became popular in the Heian period (9th-11th centuries). To create a renga, poets alternate between a traditional haiku form of 17 syllables (5, 7, 5) and a couplet with 7 syllables per line. The verses are linked – sometimes very obscurely – by theme and image. The following is a work in progress.

Renga in the time of C19

Autumn seclusion
in the imagination
the slap-slap of the sea

Catherine

sunshine on my face
leaf shadows on the deck and
quiet is hum hum humming

Anne

in total isolation
warily taste salty wind

Margaret

cardboard houses quickly made
for strangely thin paper dogs

Margaret

slap-slap of sandals
the salty coast enthral her
a thousand eyes watch

Catherine

unleaving, the trees
reveal a sky bare and clean
the crows look blacker

Catherine

calmly alluring the sea
deceptively hides its rage

Margaret

lonely feet trudge aimlessly
the sun, beach and the azure sea

Yvonne

this isolation
met with quiet eyes, feet twitch
beneath the table

Catherine

the book falls open
an essay on gardening
plants from place to place

Andrew

resisting the urge to fall
into total lassitude

Margaret

the sea breaks before black dogs
food is the point of focus

Margaret

pots overflowing
late Monday rain filled with light
it seems like a dream

Andrew

slowly the tea spills
quickly a dog laps it up
and lollops away

Catherine

rubbing your eyes and yawning
rain brings opportunity

Catherine

he watches, they coo, he barks
they fly off, he waits, then sleeps

Anne

blades of grass twitching
assertively under feet
moving in sunlight

Catherine

everyone sleeps
memories nod in the sun
the herd waits and waits

Margaret

lizard twitching on a rock
spotted skin warm, precious now

Andrew

animals are not silly
see how they move in and out

Andrew

they ask for how long
watching a skink on damp stone
we count the moments

Catherine

who is calling me
from the garden with my voice?
leaves scatter, birds flick and flap

Catherine

the sea mutters restlessly
for how long will calm prevail?

Margaret

making cranes from paper squares
enfolding love, sending peace

Anne

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

PAT CLARKE

I can't believe it's a month since we've been social distancing and staying at home. During that time I've tried to put some order into my cupboards, garden, etc. Not with much success as opera, ballet, theatre and catch-up TV got in the way.

Good news though, and by the time this goes to press the NSW government will have partially lifted social distancing measures, starting from May 1, 2020. This means that two adults can visit another household, but we still need to practise physical distancing, especially when visiting the elderly or vulnerable people. This has been introduced to reduce social isolation, and to improve mental health.

And some more good news:

Welcome to Allison Forrest a ministry student joining South Sydney Uniting Church. She will be on hand one day a week as part of a field education placement for 12 months. This will include providing support to our volunteer distributors in any way she can. Thank you for choosing our area and we look forward to working with you, Allison.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work – April 28

A timely reminder from the World Health Organisation on that day, that at least 35,000 health workers are reported to be affected by Covid-19. There has been a high incidence of

violence against health workers all over the world, and they have to work longer hours, and face higher workloads and other psychological factors.

I know you'll join me in sending our thanks and appreciation to all the health and safety workers who have given so much during this time.

And not forgetting all those other brave souls who have served us, delivered food and goods to us, cared for us, and generally kept us going. THANK YOU!

Australian Ballet Digital Season

I cheered myself up by watching a wonderful production of *Cinderella* from the Australian Ballet.

The next production will be Graeme Murphy's *Romeo and Juliet* from May 1-15 on www.australianballet.com.au/the-ballets/digitalseason

For a little light exercise, I found these lovely barre exercises on YouTube from Australian Ballet's Artistic Director David McAllister, who is retiring this year. There are eight altogether, they are really fun, and you can get out your old leotards and tutus and join in.

Wishing you all well for another month, keep up the great persistence, as well as the physical distance.

Until next time,
Pat Clarke

volunteers@ssh.com.au

deciduous thoughts
the Mulberry is confused
all leaves have fallen

Margaret

watching the sunset
I remember my mother
pruning the roses

Andrew

folding papers, their fingers
are birds, leaves, lifting, falling

Catherine

Wordplay poetry group meets on the first Saturday of the month (via email during Covid-19 lockdown). New members welcome, email wordplay@ssh.com.au

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0438 719 470
www.southsydneyuniting.org.au

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(near Norton St,
free parking behind church)
Public worship suspended
Revs Radhika &
Adrian Sukumar-White
www.leichhardtuniting.org.au

Mustard Seed Uniting Church

Cnr Quarry St & Bulwara Rd,
Ultimo
Public worship suspended
Rev. David Gore
0449 875 065
mustardseed.unitingchurch.org.au

Newtown Mission

280 King St Newtown
Public worship suspended
Rev. Graeme Tutt
9519 9000
www.newtownmission.org.au

Paddington Uniting Church

395 Oxford St, Paddington
Public worship suspended
Rev. Danielle Hemsworth-Smith
Office 9331 2646
www.paddingtonuca.org.au

Pitt Street Uniting Church

264 Pitt St, Sydney
Public worship suspended
Revs Karyn and Gareth
Burchell-Thomas
Office 9267 3614
www.pittstreetuniting.org.au

Wayside Chapel

29 Hughes St, Potts Point
Public worship suspended
(Please note that Wayside is
still open for those in need)
Pastor Jon Owen
Office 9581 9100
www.thewaysidechapel.com

St Stephen's Uniting Church

197 Macquarie St, Sydney
Public worship suspended
Rev. Ken Day
Office 9221 1688
www.ssms.org.au

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Raelene Castle. Photo: Chris Hyde/Getty Images

Castle steps down

SPORT
STEVE TURNER

RUGBY Australia (RA) chairman Paul McLean has staunchly backed departed chief executive Raelene Castle, whom he says was subjected to “abhorrent” bullying from “faceless people” during her time in the job.

Castle stepped down as RA chief executive, a post she had held since late 2017, explaining

she no longer felt she had the support of the governing body’s board. Her decision to quit came three days after a no-confidence letter – signed by a number of ex-Wallabies captains – sent to RA was made public, calling for an overhaul of its leadership.

“I’m not a social media person but I’m aware of some of the things that were said over a period of time in a quite vicious and vitriolic way. It’s the silent forces, the dark forces, they’re the things that upset me most,” McLean told

reporters via a teleconference on April 24.

“It’s the people who didn’t know the facts or were just one of those faceless people out there – that was the damaging thing from her perspective. She shared some of that with me, which I found quite abhorrent.

“Without the things that happened in the last two years and some of the unwarranted criticisms and bullying, I think it might have been a different scenario.”

Training ‘tricky’ in isolation, says Barty

Ash Barty is finding it challenging to maintain high intensity in her training during

the shutdown but the women’s world number one is hoping she will be back to her usual self with the flick of a switch when tennis resumes after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Like other sports around the world, professional tennis screeched to a halt in early March as the virus spread quickly around the world. At this stage it is not due to restart until at least mid-July.

While Barty’s partner, golfer Gary Kissick, has seen Ash’s golf game improve during the lockdown in Brisbane, her tennis training is in “a little bit of a holding pattern”.

“It’s kind of tricky to train with the same intensity as always,” Barty, who turned 24 on Friday, told the *Herald Sun*.

“Obviously, we’re still not sure when we’ll go back. Now, it’s about maintaining for if and when we get an opportunity to play again this year, you can kinda flick that switch and go from there.”

Tyson in training

Mike Tyson, the 53-year-old former heavyweight champion of the world and Hall of Famer, says he’s been training a bit to gear up for some exhibition charity fights.

Speaking with rapper T.I. on Instagram Live, Tyson admitted it’s been tough, but he’s getting back into shape. “I’ve been working out, I’ve been trying to get in the ring. I’m going to box some exhibitions and get in shape. I’ve been hitting the mitts for the last week. That’s been tough, my body is really jacked up and really sore from hitting the mitts.

“It is all worth it though, as funds from the exhibitions will be donated to various organisations that help the homeless.”

Tyson retired from boxing after back-to-back losses to Danny Williams and Kevin McBride in 2004-05, looking a shadow of his former self in the McBride bout in particular, where he quit after six rounds. In more recent years, Tyson has extensively rehabbed his public image and persona, seemingly finding some peace in life.

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