



**RECIPE FOR SUCCESS** FEATURE → PAGE 8



**LISTEN FOR CLEWS** REVIEW → PAGES 9-10

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# the South Sydney Herald

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Artist impression of the new park – what happens with the towers is still to be determined. Image: NSW Government

## Station upgrade one step closer

URBAN DESIGN

SSH

**REDFERN:** The Redfern Station Upgrade – New Southern Concourse proposal from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is on a month's exhibition until June 24, 2020. The proposal is a State Significant Infrastructure project carried out under the Transport Access program.

The proposal, which links Little Eveleigh and Marian streets, is almost the same as the 2019 TfNSW Option 1. The design of the shared zones on both sides of the line has not been finalised, and TfNSW is promising consultation with surrounding residents and Council in finalising the design.

The exhibition brings the long-campaigned-for accessibility upgrade at Redfern station a step closer with 18 months of construction expected to commence in late 2020 or early 2021. TfNSW has said it is exploring how platform 11 & 12 can be added to make the entire station lift accessible.

Among the impacts identified in the proposal, 20 parking spaces are relocated from Little Eveleigh Street to the adjoining North Eveleigh site to make way for a shared zone in Little Eveleigh Street with no kerbside parking. The University bus stop zone is moved to the southern side of Lawson Street with a Kiss and Ride zone added.

A larger shared zone is proposed for Marian Street and the northern end of Rosehill and Cornwallis streets where 16 street parking places will be removed and not replaced on the basis that there is alternative street parking available nearby.

Footpath widening is proposed for Ivy Street to take students heading to Sydney University. Gibbons Street also receives a footpath widening around the bus stops as well as a station Kiss and Drop zone to the south of the bus zones. *Continued on page 2*

## Waterloo estate – half a plan

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

**WATERLOO:** The six high-rise towers are not covered by the Waterloo public housing rezoning plan lodged by Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) with the City of Sydney. In an earlier LAHC staging plan, the excluded area is not redeveloped for 13 to 18 years. The towers are now divided into two new precincts, Waterloo Central (Banks, Cook and shops) and Waterloo North (Marton, Turanga, Matavai and Solander).

The lodged proposal, called Waterloo South, covers 12.32 hectares or 65 per cent of the total master-planned site. This area includes 749 existing public housing units, consisting of all the walk-ups and the mid-rises within the estate. The area covered by the rezoning application also includes all 125 privately owned dwellings and the commercial property.

The key feature of Waterloo South is two promised parks, including a central park adjacent to the new Metro station, similar to that requested by Council.

Open space has increased by 4,000 square metres over the earlier plan, to 2.57 hectares. The amended proposal also includes wider tree-lined streets and expanded bike paths.

The proposal cuts the maximum building heights from 40 to 32 storeys, compared to Council's suggested 13 storeys. Where the earlier plan aimed for 6,800 dwellings across the entire estate, the new plan is for 6,200.

The lodged plan delivers 3,000 of these dwellings plus the parks, space for businesses, shops and community facilities. Social housing will make up 30 per cent (900 units). The balance is private and affordable housing, but no split is revealed.

While LAHC lodged with Council sometime mid-May, the first details became public only when Council posted some high-level details on its website late on Friday May 29. The Sunday Telegraph carried the government information drop on May 31 online, behind a paywall and inaccessible to the majority of affected tenants.

The Waterloo Communities Plus website now provides visuals that

give some idea of the proposal, but there is no indicative map showing layout of Waterloo South.

The community requested the release of all information equivalent to that supplied for LAHC's earlier preferred plan, but this has not happened. As it did then, by splitting the Metro from the estate, LAHC only provides half a plan, making it difficult to assess the proposal, as it can only be considered alongside what borders it now, not what might be built in the future at Waterloo Central and North.

Minister Pavey has said the proposal will include "an additional 100 new social housing dwellings in the area". It is not clear if this refers to only Waterloo South, where there will be an increase of 151 social housing units, or if this sets an estate-wide target increase to 2,112.

Before any redevelopment of the towers, there would be 2,163 social housing units – 900 in Waterloo South and 1,263 in the existing high-rises. Thirty per cent of the proposed 6,200 would only deliver 1,860 social housing units.

In the 2011 redevelopment proposal, the towers were not

included as they were said to be in sound condition, but infill development was proposed around them. In its alternative plan, Council proposed retaining and renovating some of the towers as a way to deliver more social housing. Although preferring demolition and rebuild, LAHC's options kept open the possibility of retention. What happens with the towers is still to be determined.

The LAHC application is being assessed by Council. City staff will then prepare a planning proposal for consideration by Council and the Central Sydney Planning Committee.

The community will see the detail of the proposal, with its rumoured 10,000 pages of reports, when the staff proposal is presented to a Council committee in several months' time. If supported, Council will seek a gateway determination from the NSW government for public consultation, which is when the community can have its say. Council will lead the community consultation.

Geoff Turnbull is a co-spokesperson for REDWatch.

SSH

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# Quarantine routine – Adam, Virginia and August

**HEALTH**

ANNA NORTH

**WE are united but isolated. I am safe in the home I am so lucky to have, but when I go out to shop or just to walk, I am acutely aware of a sneeze here, a cough there. I am scandalised by stories of parties on Bondi Beach and disgusted by stories of hoarding and fighting in supermarket aisles. I feel old and cranky.**

Asking questions and listening to others talk about their hopes, fears and coping strategies has given me space from my own judgements and reminded me how lucky I am to live in Waterloo, a strong and true community.

This month I spoke with Adam, Virginia and August.

**Adam**

When the bars and restaurants were closed I fully realised the severity of the situation. I have learnt to enjoy my own company more while doing activities that I relish such as reading, walking, cooking and learning Spanish.

I am still going to work four days a week working the same hours. However, I no longer wake up at 5.30am for the gym, as it's closed! I wake up a bit later and go for a walk instead. I miss seeing friends regularly and randomly. I miss the gym. I miss dressing up and dancing in bars with friends!

When this is over I will visit my family home in Camden. I have been keeping away from my mum as she is higher risk.

This time has given me a better appreciation for what matters in



Adam at Counterpoint Community Services in Waterloo Photo: Andrew Collis

life and how grateful I am to live in a country with good healthcare.

The coronavirus has forced people to reassess their lives and garner a greater appreciation for the little things, such as saying hello and hugging friends on the street or just going to a dinner party.

**Virginia and August**

I'm a local resident of Waterloo living with my husband, Scott, our son August, who's in primary school, and our dog, Pixel.

We love the Waterloo area for its central location and everything the suburb has to offer like cafes, parks, the local library, galleries, pubs, bars – and we mostly access it all by walking.

I work as a production designer in the film and TV industry. The production I was working on closed for an eight-week hiatus mid-March but we now know it is unlikely that the show will start back up again for some time.

I am uncertain whether I will be able to access any of the stimulus package because of the freelance nature of my work and the complex business structures that the film industry operates within. The uncertainty has probably been the hardest part of dealing with everyday life during this time.

At first, I was panicked about the health of my family, but I have since relaxed because of the latest modelling and information, which suggest that our numbers

here are low and the situation is somewhat under control.

We had some cool things lined up for the school holidays so it's disappointing to be missing out on those activities but, from what my son tells me, he's happy staying at home chilling out with me and the dog. He is happy doing home-school on the computer and understands that the virus "is like the flu" and we have to stay inside.

A slowing down of life and reflecting on what we have to be grateful for is what is really important. I hope all the local businesses survive and I'm really looking forward to Friday night beverages at the Tudor Hotel when this is all over.



Proposed upgrade to Redfern station – entrance at Marion Street (above). View of concourse from Marion Street toward Little Eveleigh Street (right). Images: NSW Government

# Station upgrade a step closer

Continued from page 1

Bicycle storage will be available at both ends of the proposed concourse, but riders will need to dismount and possibly tap on and off if they or pedestrians are to move from one side of the railway

line to the other. TfNSW says it has not decided whether or not there will be barriers at each end.

In relation to heritage issues, the Environmental Impact Study proposes relocating the Platform 1 Office Building

14 metres to the south of its current location. This would allow the retention of the bulk of the exterior of the warehouse at 125-127 Little Eveleigh Street as a concourse entrance.

Those wanting to know more about the station and

the area's heritage will find the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal heritage studies of special interest.

You can see the major project site exhibition documents here: [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/25836](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/25836)

# Cultivating crops and community

## URBAN DESIGN

DAVID WINTERTON

**DARLINGTON:** I first walked past Charlie's Garden on Abercrombie Street with Erik the dog in 2011. At only 88m2 it is probably Sydney's smallest community garden. However, if you take a bird's eye view of this fenced-in space, the pathways and garden beds form the outline of a dragonfly.

My daily walks revealed that the garden needed love. There wasn't much growing and, on closer inspection, the soils were light on nutrients. I did some digging to find out who was involved and soon got my hands dirty.

Charlie's is open 24/7. Admiring the garden is for everyone, but planting and picking is for members only. A community garden is also both teacher and classroom. Here are a few things I've learned (mostly through failure).

### People choose to be involved for diverse reasons.

I wanted to grow tasty food, what I ate growing up. I assumed that other volunteers would want to learn how to garden. It is seldom the case. People are seeking community connections, a place to relax or somewhere to drop off their vegetable scraps.

### Gardening is a way of seeing.

From tiny leaf details to trees reaching for the sky. A skill that's been eroded in the urban context. It takes patience, dedication and self-awareness of our connection to ecology to develop this renewed vision.

### The problem is the solution.

A purple mustard green springs up in the garden like a pretty weed and is allowed to flower and becomes infested with aphids. The solution is not seeing this plant as a weed, but as an ally. The purple mustard functions as a decoy, becoming an aphid trap for predators while the flowers provide bee forage. When aphids aren't being eaten by predators the entire diseased plant is either a protein boost for compost or can be dug in to enrich the soil.

### Take advantage of local resources.

With thinking and planning, community gardens can become part of a local exchange system. Charlie's has used coffee grounds from Short List café, eggshells from Darling Thai, and vegetable scraps from community-filled compost bins. Quality seedlings are sourced from the Eveleigh Market; Inner West Seed Savers provides an exchange for local, adapted seed; while the rustic Enfield Produce has a range of manures, soil additives and cats that love a pat.

### Gardening approaches are complementary.

Tending is a gentle practice – removing weeds before they seed, maintaining plant hygiene or ensuring airflow between plants to reduce mildew, pests and disease. The opposite of this is turning over the soil, digging in a green manure or soil additives when a crop finishes to clear the bed for the next rotation.

Too much intervention turns your patch into a market garden with gluts of produce. Too little invites disease and low yields.

### Gardens don't care about your schedules.

Regularity and rhythm are important but gardens ask you to respond to what is at hand. Harvest plants in their prime, remove fruit-fly bitten tomatoes before they infect others, share an oversupply of produce with a passer-by. Charlie's maintained weekly Thursday gardening sessions for over five years and developed a crop rotation to maintain soil health.

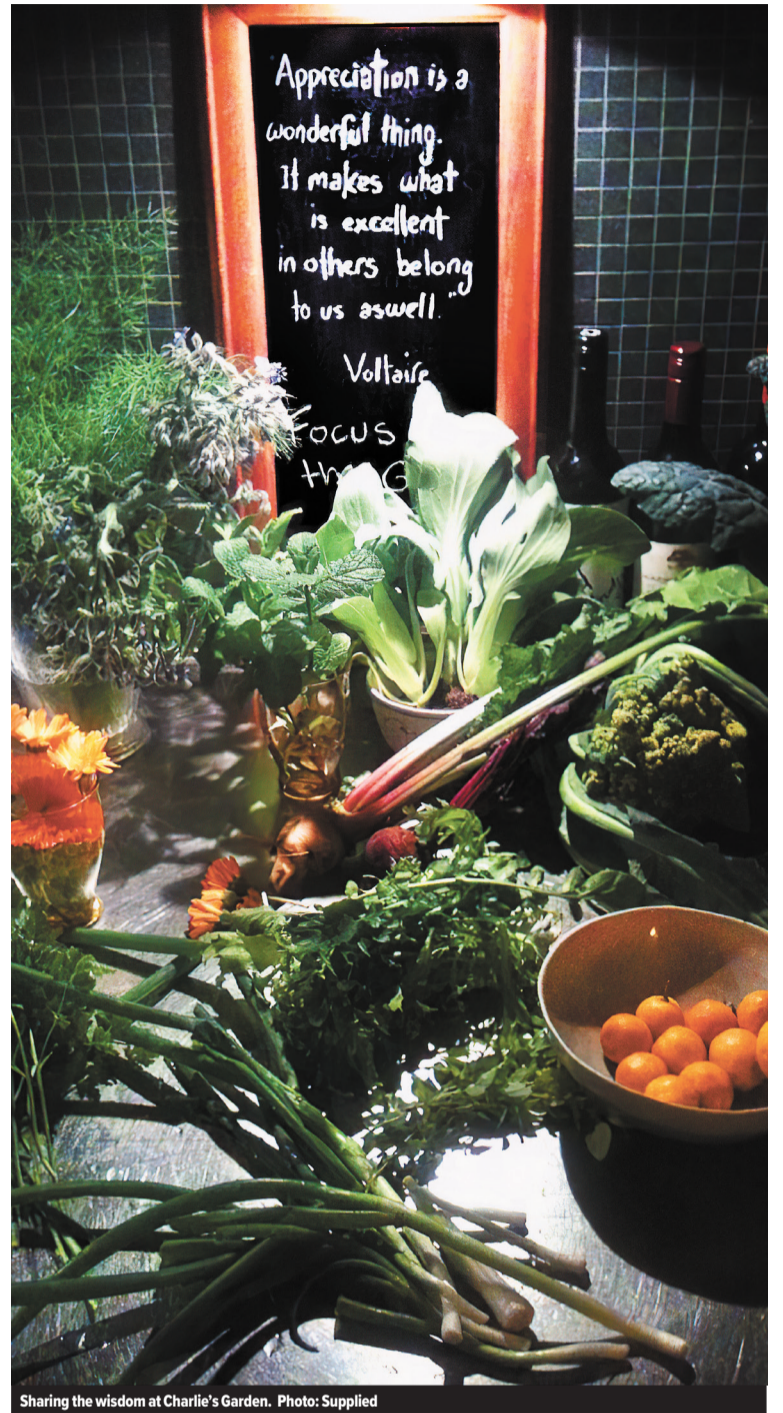
### You never know what impact you are having.

Charlie's has inspired a birthday party with a lady beetle theme, kids foraging mulberries or sorrel leaves, members leaving the city to start their own country gardens, too many tasty meals to count, and myriad conversations.

Charlie's Garden was an apprenticeship for me in implementing the permaculture ethics of earth care, people care and fair share. Sustainable urban food growing requires a framework that favours the local over the bought, otherwise the joy of local exchange is replaced by consumption as normal.

A community garden is a place where we can learn from each other, and where, like the plants we are tending, we can grow. SSH

Charlie's Garden is currently following physical distancing guidelines that preclude meeting for weekly harvests or working bees. Please direct enquiries to: [charliescommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:charliescommunitygarden@gmail.com)



Sharing the wisdom at Charlie's Garden. Photo: Supplied



# OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAM

**Redfern Waterloo Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) is seeking to boost its membership and wants to hear from locals who are passionate about building a strong, healthy and connected community.**

The CDAT Community Committee is wanting to recruit people who are willing to share their ideas and thoughts about how to support harm-minimisation programs, and help the community in Redfern and Waterloo.

The committee is currently focused on supporting local residents who may be experiencing substance use issues and need assistance, or families that are living with someone who is experiencing substance use issues. We know that during the Covid-19 pandemic there has been an increase in the use of alcohol across Australia and that social isolation can cause spikes in drug use.

CDAT hopes to produce a feature article for the *South Sydney Herald* that will highlight the journey of local people who might have had trouble during this difficult time finding the right support. The article will also include examples of those who have been able to overcome obstacles during the lockdown, and those that can offer advice to others who may be struggling.

"Whether you'd like to become a Community Drug Action Team member or can offer a small amount of time to assist with one-off events, we'd love to hear from you," committee chair, Claire Mennie, says. "Community Drug Action Teams are led by passionate volunteers wanting to make a difference in their own neighbourhoods. If more people get involved, we are likely to have a bigger impact."

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation – which manages the NSW Government-funded Community Drug

Action Teams – commended CDAT for its efforts in reducing and preventing alcohol and other drug-related harms at a grass-roots level. "The dedication of the Community Drug Action Team to strengthen its neighbourhood is inspirational," said the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's NSW state manager, Lorenzo Woodford.

The NSW Government's Community Engagement Action Program is administered by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation. The program oversees the coordination and operation of Community Drug Action Teams, which have been helping to strengthen communities across the state for 20 years.

Interested community members can call 0402 281 943 or email [eo@innersydneyvoice.org.au](mailto:eo@innersydneyvoice.org.au)

## University of Sydney builds ventilator to fight Covid-19

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MICHAEL SPENCE

**THE University of Sydney and NSW Health Infrastructure have partnered to develop a simple, low-cost ventilator solution using modern design tools and 3-D printing technology.**

A multidisciplinary team of academics and students from the University is leading a collaboration with NSW Health Infrastructure to produce a simple, low cost ventilator solution to assist the COVID-19 effort.

The "CoVida" ventilator is based on proven ventilator technology with an updated control system. University students and academics have helped to create the first prototype using modern design tools and 3-D printing in a matter of weeks.

The ventilators have been developed to provide NSW with additional ventilator capacity if required as part of the Covid-19 response.

The team, led by the Head of School of Biomedical Engineering, Professor Gregg Suaning, comprises academics and students from the Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Medicine and Health, and the School of Architecture, Design and Planning.

Professor Suaning said the University of Sydney, in collaboration with NSW Health Infrastructure, embarked on a project to build the "CoVida FC100" to address the urgent issue of providing additional ventilator capacity.

"This initiative aims to deliver a 'shelf-ready' solution that



Using an army of people power and 3-D printing technology, the device has quickly gone from concept to working prototype. Photo: supplied

can be rapidly-manufactured if required for front-line use in the fight against COVID-19," Professor Suaning said.

"Our team has engineered the system based on a trusted Australian design that was commonplace in the healthcare system in the 1990s. We have used rapid prototyping technologies, including 3D-printing to produce the first prototype devices, which we hope will offer renewed hope of addressing the potential strains on our healthcare system," Professor Suaning said.

Professor Christopher Peck from the Faculty of Medicine and Health has been linking project collaborators within and outside the University. "We are working hard with Health Infrastructure to develop an innovative ventilator solution which could be manufactured quickly should additional ventilator capacity be required for Covid-19 patient care."

The rapid and collaborative response of the University's academics and students, government and industry partners has shown what's possible when focusing on responses to pressing problems.

Using people power and the

ingenuity of our academics and students, we have drawn on our collaborative Westmead model to get this cost-effective, straightforward and robust ventilator solution ready.

It's not the usual route for R&D but it's clearly outcomes-focused and could, we believe, be a model in how to make an impact on the big issues.

Health Infrastructure Chief Executive Rebecca Wark acknowledged the response from the higher education sector, which has seen the prototype ventilators designed, built and tested over the last few weeks.

"These partnerships have led to true innovation in finding creative solutions to a complex, real-world problem and may support industry, the NSW economy and ensure people are employed during this challenging time," Ms Wark said. SSH



Authorised by Dr Michael Spence, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney.  
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**Jenny Leong MP**  
STATE MEMBER  
FOR NEWTOWN

### No Wage Freeze for the NSW Public Service

Living through a pandemic has been a challenge for everyone – and it is the work of our frontline workers and those who are the heart and soul of our public institutions who have been going above and beyond to help us through.

Our nurses and health professionals have put their own lives on the line to care for those with COVID-19 showing exceptional compassion, bravery and selflessness. Our teachers spent their entire holidays busting their guts to get all their materials online, scrambled to provide laptops to students who didn't have them at home, and only found out through a media announcement that schools would be returning to full time face-to-face teaching with just less than a week's warning. All of the support staff in our schools and hospitals have kept them clean, functioning and ticking over throughout this crisis.

### They all put themselves at risk in the interests of the public good.

Others working in the public service in our youth justice facilities, national parks, Service NSW branches, emergency services kept going to work because working from home was simply not an option. All of these workers are essential to keeping NSW functioning.

### And for this extraordinary effort, what are these workers getting as thanks if the NSW Liberal Government gets their way? A pay cut.

This is nothing short of outrageous. Talk about a slap in the face, when people should be getting a pat on the back.

To make matters worse, just before this pay cut for our public service was announced, the Government awarded pay increases to senior public servants – people that were already earning over \$562,000 per year got pay increases of \$87,000 in some cases. That's an annual pay increase that is more than the average income for some.

### The Greens are absolutely opposed to this – and are working in the NSW Parliament and with unions and impacted workers to turn this inequality around.

We want to block the pay increases for those on big salaries and ensure front line workers and those working in the public service in roles that help and support the community are put first.

### Now is the time to show gratitude and respect to those who serve the public good – and give them the pay increase they deserve.

*Our Newtown Electorate Office doors are currently shut, but we are still working and able to help our local community. If you need our assistance, please call 9517 2800, leave a message and we will call you back. Alternatively, you can email us on [newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au).*

*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](mailto:newtown@nsw.greens.org.au)

Authorised by  
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## Pemulwuy – finishing affordable housing first



Making good progress with affordable townhouses on Precinct 1. Photo: Supplied

SPONSORED

AMANDA FLEMING

**REDFERN:** While the majority of the country has been working at home during the Covid-19 lockdown, the construction industry has been able to continue with a few adjustments to allow for safe environments for workers.

Great progress has been made on site during this time. If you have walked or driven past the Pemulwuy project you will have seen the affordable housing taking shape and the student housing growing. As originally promised, we will be delivering the affordable

housing for our people first.

The development consists of:

#### Precinct 1

Affordable housing for 62 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, along with a gym, and gallery.

#### Precinct 2

Commercial and retail space, and childcare.

#### Precinct 3

The Col James student accommodation.

#### Housing update

The structure of the apartments including the roof and metal framing is complete. All the outside walls have been rendered and painting of feature walls has started.

From level 1 to 5 internal work is being completed. From level 1 to 3 painting of ceilings and walls is already finished along with the tiling. The kitchens are ready to go in.

External brickwork is commencing on the townhouses. The gym is ready to have its windows installed then will move onto the flooring and painting ready for fit-out.

#### Student housing update

The Col James student accommodation has reached Level 12. Framing has been completed up to level 8 and air conditioning and bathrooms are now being installed. Substation transformers have been delivered ready for installation.

Precinct 2 Site establishment commenced in May. SSH



Authorised by Michael Mundine, CEO,  
Aboriginal Housing Company Limited



Joe at Ambour Hardware in Redfern. Photo: Andrew Collis

## Ambour Hardware – quality service over more than 60 years

### LOCALS

ANDREW COLLIS

**REDFERN:** At Ambour Hardware, 93a Redfern Street, you will find all manner of products such as cutting and plumbing tools, gardening and power tools, building materials, chains, picture hooks, locks and keys, paints and much more. Locals hold owners Joe and Marie Ambour in high regard. “This shop is an example of what hardware stores should be like,” says one satisfied customer. “The service is impeccable and professional.”

The store was first opened in 1958 by Phillip Salem, Joe’s uncle. At that time more kitchenware was sold than hardware. Joe’s brother John bought the business from Phillip and Joe worked

with John for 12 years before becoming its new owner in the early 1970s. Hardware then became more of a demand.

Joe recalls that “business was much better in those days”. People were working, saving and spending a lot more. There were a lot of factories around Redfern, he says, which slowly changed to more restaurants and cafes.

The aisles, shelves and walls are packed with colourful items, neatly and helpfully arranged by Marie.

“We carry a variety of stock,” Joe says. “The most popular products are screws, nuts, bolts, various light bulbs and globes. Customers can also request key cuts. Other products in demand include glue, small tins of paint, pliers, garden rakes and sink pumps.”

Joe continues: “I am here to help as much as I can. Customers ask me to cut timber for them or cut metal conduits to size.

They also ask for advice on the best way to support picture frames on walls, how to change cylinders or how to fix cabinet hinges that have fallen off.”

Ambour Hardware is open six days a week, Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm and Saturday from 8am to 2pm.

“Each day is different,” says Joe. “There can be quiet times and then a few rush hours where I am juggling several things at once. I answer telephones, serve customers, stock product orders, clean the store, and many other small things. Thankfully, my wife Marie comes to help me every day for four to five hours.”

On his days off Joe enjoys backyard gardening, cooking, spending time with family and visiting the in-laws, and “a nice, good long rest!”

www.ambourhardware.com.au



‘The Ivory Tower’ mural in Chippendale by Scott Marsh draws attention to how powerful forces worked to hide the role of climate change in the recent Black Summer bushfires. Photo: Lyn Turnbull

## Coal’s power over Australian politics

### ENVIRONMENT

SSH

**SYDNEY-BASED** mural artist Scott Marsh has transformed a wall in Chippendale to protest coal’s power over Australian politics.

The mural, located on the corner of Grafton and Shepherd streets, features mining magnate Gina Rinehart, media mogul Rupert Murdoch, Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison along with Alan Jones, Clive Palmer, Andrew Bolt and Barnaby Joyce.

Marsh painted “The Ivory Tower” mural to depict the

“intertwined beast” comprising the Coalition government, coal industry and conservative media, and to promote the *Dirty Power: Burnt Country* documentary released in mid-May by Greenpeace Australia Pacific.

www.scottiemarsh.com.au

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

#### \$60 BILLION JOBKEEPER BLUNDER

The Government has admitted to their \$60 billion dollar stuff-up when it comes to JobKeeper. Now there is no excuse to exclude arts workers, or those at Australian universities, casual workers or companies like Dnata from getting access to JobKeeper payments. Australian universities alone face losing 21,000 staff over the coming months.

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, casual teachers, university staff, and childcare workers. Let’s keep up the pressure to ensure no one is left behind.

### JOBKEEPER RULES

If your employer is in receipt of JobKeeper payments it means:

- ▶ You must receive \$1,500 per fortnight as a minimum.
- ▶ All eligible employees must get it. Employers can’t choose which workers receive the payment, and which don’t.
- ▶ Employers can’t charge administration fees or ask you to pay back part of the payment, or withhold your payment. If they’re getting it, you must be getting it too!

#### ROBODEBT

The Morrison Government has announced it will refund \$721 million worth of debts that were illegally collected from Australians through the Government’s dodgy Robodebt Scheme.

The Government has spent \$63 million on debt collectors over the last few years chasing debts that they were never owed, using taxpayer money.

#### SECOND ECONOMIC SUPPORT PAYMENT

The second Economic Support Payment is also \$750 and will be made in July 2020. You may receive it if you get an eligible payment or have an eligible concession card on 10 July 2020.

#### CARRIAGEWORKS

Carriageworks, our beloved arts and cultural hub, has engaged administrators because they do not believe they can recover from the economic impact of this pandemic. I have written to the NSW Premier and the NSW Minister for the Arts urging them to support Carriageworks - but to date, the NSW Government has failed to introduce any support package for Carriageworks.

#### ELECTORATE OFFICE

My electorate office continues to provide support with Centrelink, Veterans’ Affairs, Medicare, Immigration, NBN and other federal matters. Please contact us for assistance on (02) 9379 0700.

Tanya

### TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

1A Great Buckingham St, Redfern NSW 2016

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# MSIC – saving lives, bringing hope

## HUMAN AFFAIRS

KYLE PHILIP COX

**IMAGINE growing up in a dysfunctional family on Sydney's outskirts – surrounded by violence, a culture of drinking and drug-taking, all leading to alcohol dependence by age 13.**

Add to that, physical and sexual abuse; violence in adolescence; the revolving door of juvenile correction; then seven years of adult prison where you learn to use the ultimate drug of escape, heroin.

That's a Polaroid snapshot of the life of Kim, a real person now in his early 60s (name changed to protect his identity).

Kim used heroin for over 40 years to "numb the pain of life". He stopped using two years ago through a trial of the innovative drug Buprenorphine – and is venturing to regain what he's lost: family, friends, memories, dignity of work and connection with fellow Australians.

This would have been impossible without one vital health and harm-reduction service nestled in the heart of Kings Cross: Uniting's Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC).

May 6, 2020, marked the 19th anniversary of the centre. As well as celebrating its monumental successes, we should also reflect on its personal impact on our fellow Australians who use this life-saving service – and why now, more than ever, we need more centres like it.

In stark contrast to today's Kings Cross, with its vibrant, bustling shops and trendy restaurants,



Staff at Uniting MSIC 2018 including Dr Marianne Jauncey (4th from right) with Sir Richard Branson of the Global Commission on Drug Policy (3rd from right). Photo: Supplied

back in the mid to late nineties it was a more forbidding, darker place – littered with syringes, and the desperate souls using them lingering in shadows, seeking a cheap temporary fix to society's woes. That meant increasing ambulance call-outs for heroin overdose, especially along Darlinghurst Road's red-light district.

There you would have found Kim strapping his belt around his arm for a quick jab in "Deadman's Lane" (Hourigan Lane).

"I'd check on other blokes to see if they were breathing," he says. "It was pretty common for people to die in that back laneway."

Kim and his mates would climb into the backyards of local residents to access water taps to clean their

injecting materials. "It was a free-for-all," says Kim – himself only recently treated for (and cured from) Hepatitis C. "People used dirty equipment and spread disease amongst themselves."

All that changed for Kim in 2001, when the doors of MSIC opened.

At the centre people with a history of injecting may do so with clean equipment, under the supervision of clinically trained staff. According to MSIC Medical Director Dr Marianne Jauncey, "Overdoses are easy to overcome, but a person's mental state and the sociological ills impacting them are much more complex. It takes time and care to help people get into treatment. But our first job is to keep them alive. No one gets better if they're dead."

Financed from confiscated proceeds of crime and operating with the blessing of the NSW government, police and local residents, MSIC has an impressive record. In its 19 years it's overseen nearly 1.2 million injections, successfully reversed over 10,000 overdoses, made more than 17,000 referrals for treatment and, most importantly, no one has died at MSIC ever.

That bears repeating: zero deaths.

According to Kim, "MSIC kept me alive until I was ready to seek treatment. The staff didn't judge me. Now I have my life back and can give back to family, friends and society in general. MSIC is not just a place to inject drugs – it helps people like me regain health and dignity."

Kim is now a volunteer team leader on Uniting's Fair Treatment campaign – helping others with lived experience to share their stories and build a grassroots movement throughout NSW and ACT.

Fair Treatment works to convince state and territory governments to modernise laws and treat personal drug use as a health and social, rather than criminal, issue.

The campaign looks to places like Portugal where, over 20 years, reforms have slashed drug deaths and allowed more people to reclaim their lives and become active members of society.

For more information see the community impact section of Uniting's website [Uniting.org](http://Uniting.org) or visit [fairtreatment.org](http://fairtreatment.org)

# Vale Jack Munday, 1929-2020

## URBAN DESIGN

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**SO much of the inner city owes its existence to Jack Munday and the green bans he led as secretary of the NSW Builders' Labourers Federation.**

Dorothy McRae-McMahon remembers how she met Jack Munday in her capacity as Minister of the Pitt Street Uniting Church. "Back in the early 1970s when it was the main

city Congregational church, there was a proposal to pull it down, as it had a very small congregation. Even though he was an atheist and communist, Jack opposed its demolition and saved that grand old church from becoming an office block.

I would often come out of my office on a weekday to see Jack sitting by himself in the church. One day, I asked him why he did that, given he was a committed atheist. He told me, even though he didn't believe in God, when he sat silently in

our church he experienced a gift of spirituality which added peace and strength to his life.

The last time I saw him, he greeted me with, "God bless you, Dorothy!" I responded, "Thanks Jack, but I thought you didn't believe in God?" He said, "What did I say? Oh, I didn't notice that!"

For artist and environmental campaigner Jess Harwood Jack was a family friend as well as a legend. "When I was 12 I entered a competition with a poem about Jack saving a

wharf on Sydney's foreshore from demolition. I got a prize for it and Jack was sent a copy.

"Months later, I got a letter from Jack thanking me for the nice poem and asking if I would like to meet in The Rocks for a pub lunch. I wrote back saying I'm 12, so I don't think I'm allowed. He replied, saying that's nonsense, bring your parents!"

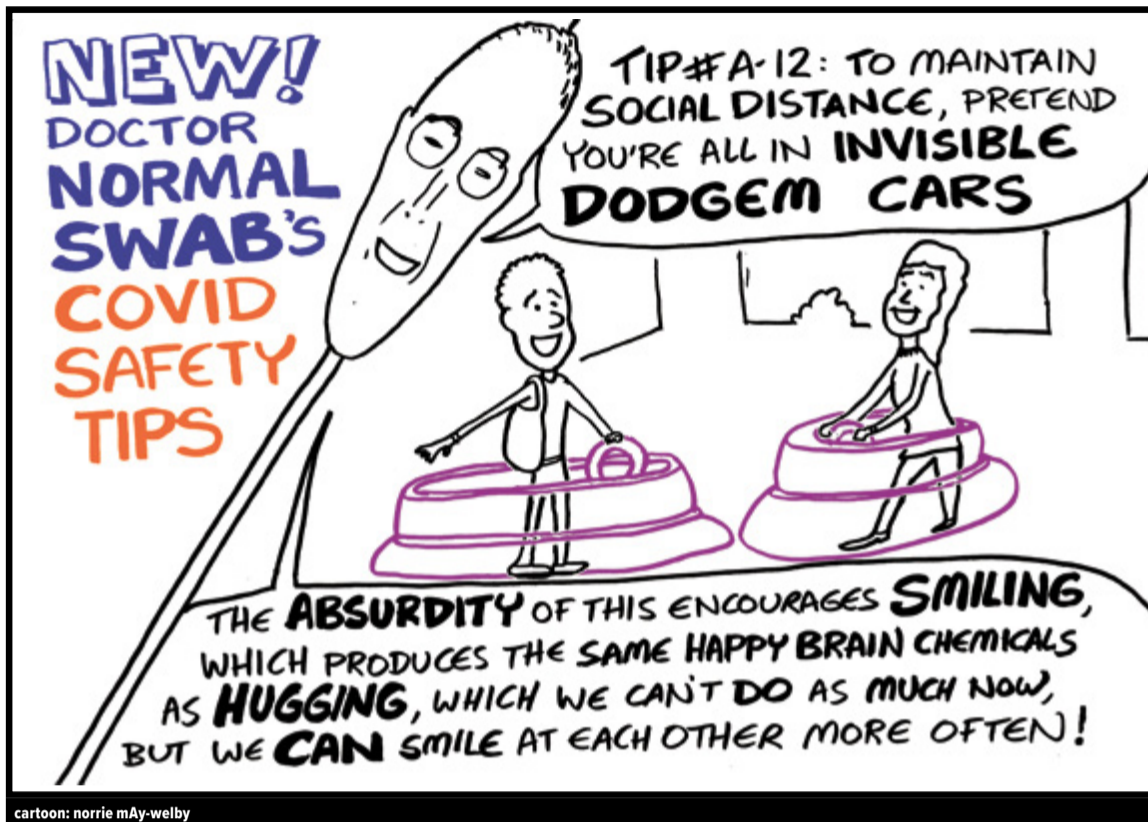
"We met at The Mercantile in The Rocks. After lunch we had a great privilege as he took us around The Rocks and told us the story of how it was saved!"

"Over the years he came to stay at my parent's place. Mum cooked him his favourite curries, always served with a glass of red, as he talked to Dad about mechanics and construction, and to Mum and me about politics and the environment. I'm sure he put the fire in my belly for social change.

"Imagine if unions took this moment to demand a just transition for workers from fossil fuels to renewables? It's what Jack would have done – without a doubt."



Images: Jess Harwood (@jessharwoodart)



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

# The time is ripe for change

## EDITORIAL

SSH

IT'S World Environment Day as we head to press – and it feels significant to note this. People and businesses across Australia are also lifting their shutters in the hope that we have lived through the worst in our brush with Covid-19. The phrase on people's lips and in the media is #BuildBackBetter. But do we have the will and the imagination to embrace what this might mean?

Can #BuildBackBetter be more than a snappy catchphrase used to cajole us to swap insurers, accept pay freezes (even as our politicians refuse to countenance this), or treat ourselves with extravagances “because now, more than ever, we're worth it”?

Greenpeace says the people it's surveyed say YES, it's time to create an economy that's resilient and equitable – one that helps us thrive while protecting our natural environment.

The United Nations is also urging us to turn Covid recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future. “With this restart, a window of hope and opportunity opens,” said UN Climate Chief, Patricia Espinosa, on April 22, “[a chance] for nations to green

their recovery packages and shape the 21st-century economy in ways that are clean, green, healthy, safe and more resilient.”

The Greens, too, in their *Invest to Recover* report, say it's time to build a better normal: “What this pandemic and the response to the economic crisis has shown is that the government is able to respond to any big problems we face, so long as they choose to put people before the private profit of their donors, so long as they listen to scientists and experts and we mobilise the resources of society for the common good.”

It is patently unwise to rush legislation and mining activity that hurt our nation in ways the coronavirus never could.

The Covid-19 pandemic and associated economic shock is exacerbating the challenges faced by Australians in our most disadvantaged families and communities. They'll also be the ones who'll find it the hardest to bounce back.

That's why a key recommendation of the Australian Council of Social Service's plan for Australia to “build back better” is for the nation to undertake an ambitious \$7 billion program to build 30,000 social housing dwellings to create jobs and reduce homelessness. This initiative would make

support for disadvantaged people and communities *tangible* – a critical part of how we get the country back on track.

With respect to the Waterloo Redevelopment, a commitment to 50 per cent social housing would better reflect community needs.

To help ensure a just recovery, the Uniting Church Synod of NSW/ACT and its service arm, Uniting, have called on the federal government to use some of the \$60 billion incorrectly forecast for JobKeeper to support temporary visa holders, including refugees and people seeking asylum.

Around 1.1 million temporary visa holders across the country are in precarious situations as Covid-19 unfolds with no access to JobKeeper or JobSeeker, limited access to Medicare, and visa insecurity.

JobSeeker and JobKeeper were designed to help our community survive the significant economic and social impacts of Covid-19, said the Synod's Moderator, the Rev. Simon Hansford. “Excluding temporary visa holders is false economy, which puts more pressure on charitable and other community services. It is unsustainable.

“I ask the government to give serious consideration to extending JobKeeper and JobSeeker to temporary visa holders so we can all live

# There are many pathways through life

## FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

OVER the last few years, our paper has had an interfaith focus for this faith column, so that we might learn from and respect the truth, which lies in various faiths. Now, I suggest that we can also learn from the spirituality which sometimes lies within the lives of people who are not related to formal mainstream faiths.

I have always maintained that if people are not believers in a traditional religious faith, but are of compassion, honesty, justice and wisdom, they are to be respected. Having said this, it is only recently that someone like this showed me a poem which they used for meditation and inspiration. They found this poem was deeply spiritual and therefore that creative spirituality can also arise from many different sources, some of which are not connected with formal doctrinal and creedal religions. The poem included ...

*Center down.*

*And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart. Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful ...*

*Know that our lives are within each other's hands. Reach out your heart. Reach out your words. Reach out the tendrils of compassion that move invisibly, where we cannot touch ...*

The poem is called *Pandemic* and was written by Lynn Ungar. The Rev. Dr Ungar, as well as being a poet, is minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship, an online congregation for isolated religious liberals.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship describes its philosophy as being not about doctrine or creed. “We are atheists and Christians, Buddhists and Jews, agnostics and Hindus, who know that no metaphor or story of the holy is big enough to truly hold what is holy ... We are people who value diversity: of opinion, of culture, of language, of life experience, of spiritual practice.”

As human beings, none of us can ever know the whole of truth and which of us truly represent God, assuming, as I do, that God exists.

We can, however, celebrate and give respect to those who add to the deeper meanings and sources of love and justice in our communities.

They are sacred in every time and place.

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and work together, uniting our communities to face this challenge, and making everyone stronger as a result.”

Belated government support for the arts has been selective. During the lockdown art groups came into their own, offering many well-patronised programs online to alleviate isolation and promote mental wellbeing. A vibrant arts sector is crucial to building a better normal.

Can we rebuild, as Labor leader Anthony Albanese has said, in a way that recognises “we are not just an economy, we are a society”? Can we preserve the good the lockdown has taught us: that the wheels of industry can slow up, that time for being with people is important, that we can live with less stuff and less stress in our lives, and that this can be good?

Shaping a new normal as we recover won't be easy – of course we know this. Especially if we want to redistribute wealth, rewire our economy, and fast track our transition to renewable energy. And if we decide it's time to move away from a market economy and greedy profit margins, towards maintaining our own assets and industries.

“The new world order is rearranging itself on the planet and settling in,” writes poet Sabrina Oran Mark. “Our touchstone is changing colour. Our criteria for earning a life, a living, are mutating like a virus that wants badly to stay alive.”

The time is ripe for change – but will we grasp it? Are we ready to build a better world where we *really* want to live and no one is left behind?

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# Learning is activism – #ClimateStrike School

## ENVIRONMENT

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TENS of thousands of people tuned in to School Strike 4 Climate's #BuildaBetterFuture livestream on May 15. Participants heard from those fighting on the frontline of the climate and coronavirus crisis and took action together asking our local MPs to take the crisis seriously and stand for a fairer future for us all.

“Together, in spite of these challenging times we showed we are organised and ready to keep fighting for climate justice,” said Arlie, striker from Armidale, and Elise, striker from Franklin, Tasmania.

“But the journey can't stop there. If we are serious about creating the change needed to tackle the climate crisis we need to listen, learn, and skill up.”

School Strike 4 Climate is now running a six-week climate justice curriculum for everyone:

#ClimateStrike School. This covers the basics of climate justice and climate science, with input also from social change experts on how to build movements and become community leaders.

The program includes: Mondays: Back to basics on climate science and climate justice, including first nations justice and economic justice.

Wednesdays: A space to meet others, connect and share skills.

Thursdays: Going deeper into organising and social movements,

in collaboration with the trainers from Organising in a Pandemic.

“While we strike from school to demand social change, we know the importance of education, and we also know there are things they don't teach at school. Learning is activism, and without activism we cannot create change,” said Airlie and Elise.

All are welcome. Find out more and register at [www.schoolstrike4climate.com/school](http://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/school). School Strike 4 Climate and

Fridays for Future Australia also invite supporters to sign an open letter to the Australian government calling for a “green recovery”. The letter asks the government to listen to the experts and design the COVID-19 response, recovery and stimulus packages to create new jobs in clean industries and renewable energy, instead of centring it around fossil fuel projects.

Sign the open letter at [www.greenrecovery.good.do/openletter/sign](http://www.greenrecovery.good.do/openletter/sign)

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Cindy, Ivan, Jane, Pru and Marina from Two Good Co. Jane is head chef, Ivan and Pru are sous chefs, and Cindy and Marina are in the current cohort of Two Good's Work Work program. Photo: Jes Lindsay

# Two Good's recipe for success transforms lives

## FOOD

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

**EVELEIGH:** A few weeks ago, a friend and I went to the Two Good Co. near Eveleigh's Carriageworks to pick up the meals we'd ordered online.

Today we reminisced about the experience.

"Of all the takeaway meals I had during lockdown, Two Good's is the one I keep dreaming about," she said. "We'll have to go again."

Nicole's immediate response to the food had been a text message full of love-heart emojis and exclamation marks. And yes, our dinners were delicious! Silky onion in the potato and chickpea skordalia, fragrant slow-braised lamb, crunchy smoked almonds paired with the sweetest caramelised carrots and cous cous, and the kind of melt-in your-mouth chocolate brownies that round off a feast.

Along with the flavour – a definite drawcard – it's the feel-good factor of these meals that's tempting us to order again.

*It feels good* to support this "buy one give one" social enterprise that's bringing love and worth to women in domestic violence safe houses and refuges across the country.

*It feels good* to know that, when we order from Two Good's takeaway menu, we enable people from these safe houses to be employed in its kitchen to make the meals for the shelters and

the other businesses it serves.

*It feels great* to be met at the door by the women in the Work Work program who have cooked your dinner. Seriously. In the Covid days of physical distancing, to connect with these fun, earthy women is as close as it gets to a warm hug, and we need it.

"For us it's about creating love in a black takeaway container," said Two Good's head chef Jane Strode. "We work with our suppliers to get the best ingredients. Each dish is full of fresh, nutritious produce and cooked with love by our Two Good team."

In Sydney, it's also about cooking hundreds of meals each week and delivering them to 30 shelters, including Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Wayside Chapel in Potts Point, and the Women's and Girls Emergency Centre (WAGEC) in Redfern.

"We believe people staying at these shelters and community services deserve the very best," Ms Strode adds. "That's why we take such pride in ensuring each donated meal is packed full of love and restaurant-quality ingredients."

### Support for fire victims

Women's services on the bushfire-ravaged south coast doing it tough have been the recent and grateful beneficiaries of Two Good's generosity – eliciting heartfelt responses from clients and workers.

*"A delicious perfect meal for someone who has lost a home*

*and is living in a caravan with a microwave, thank you."*

*"So nice to have a meal made for my family and me after all we have been through, makes waiting for accommodation more bearable."*

*"Our clients are women who have had tough times – these meals, made with love and care, are real godsend for them – good, healthy and delicious food. Feels like being wrapped in love."*

Two Good's Program and Community Engagement Coordinator, Alex Nagle, said crises like bushfires unfortunately lead to an increase in domestic and family violence (DV), which inevitably places strain on DV support services.

"In early March, just before Covid-19 took hold, we visited women's services between Nowra, Moruya and the Bega Valley to see what was happening on the ground, and what needs we may be able to meet," Mr Nagle said.

Services that had been stretched before the fires, struggled even more when the fires hit – with resources like housing, food and counselling reaching capacity.

Requests for help increased and exceeded records. One service manager was working double-time, without pay, just to keep up with demand.

"Two Good couldn't help with all these issues, but nutritious, ready-made meals was something we could do. With so many people without

a kitchen, a microwaveable, complete meal was a godsend."

Since it began in June 2015, Two Good has donated 163,989 restaurant quality meals across Sydney and Melbourne. Its Work Work program, which skills-up women over 50 to re-enter the workforce, has also been a great success.

"The program gives vulnerable women a safe workplace to reclaim their confidence and adjust back into employment," said Mr Nagle.

"We see lives transformed.

"Employment unlocks positive self-perceptions and brings better housing, financial and health outcomes for the women. This is particularly important for women over 50, who are the fastest growing group of homeless people, and one of the most financially insecure."

### A proud advocate for good

Jen is part of the Work Work team in NSW and is proud to be the Two Good advocate in the refuge where she lives.

"I first found out about Two Good when our shelter fridge was stocked full of their beautiful food one day. The care and respect put into it was so clear to me. But women transition in and out of the refuge all the time so it's a message that needs to be constantly re-told.

"So now when our delivery day arrives, I tell everyone in the shelter all about how I'm working at Two Good now and how much love has been put into the food as a gesture of worth. I'm proud to be an advocate for good.

The women all huddle around to ask what I've cooked and packed.

"I might have to start putting a little 'with love from J' on their meals. It would be great to have an advocate in every women's shelter to pass this message of love on."

Jane Strode has an impressive background as a chef and restaurateur in Australia and her nous in the Two Good kitchen is complemented by sous chefs Ivan, Pru and Jen.

Jane's husband Jeremy was a culinary trailblazer who'd also been a fervent advocate for RUOK, and for getting people in the food industry the mental health support they needed, before he took his own life in 2017.

When I ask Jane why she made the shift to join Two Good in January 2020 and what she most loves about the work, she's candid.

"I have a deep understanding of trauma, having your world turned upside down and being vulnerable. I believe in everything Two Good stands for and I was thrilled to join as head chef.

"To stand alongside women who have had their self-worth stripped away from them and to remind them that they are worthy of dignity and respect is a position I am humbled to fill. And right now, with everyone going through so much uncertainty, it's even more important that we stand together as a community."

To support Two Good you can order household meals, purchase from its catering menu, buy merchandise and donate online at [www.twogood.com.au/#/story](http://www.twogood.com.au/#/story)



# The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

## Winning photos paint picture of recent drought and bushfires

### EXHIBITIONS

AMY CHENG

**THE winner of this year's Head On Photo Award Landscape Prize is not a professional photographer, and her winning entry was taken on an iPhone.**

The Head On Photo Awards celebrate excellence in photography in the categories of Portrait, Landscape and Student.

This year's awards were announced on May 1 as part of a digital launch event of the Head On(line) Photo Festival hosted by *The Bachelor* host Osher Günsberg.

Marcia Macmillan was out with her nine-year-old daughter doing farm jobs when a dust storm began rolling in; it was the second one for the day.

At the time, they were a regular occurrence at Mullengudgery, the property managed by her husband in the Central West of NSW.

"My daughter was just mucking around and playfully taunting the storm, in the way that kids do in a very innocent way," she said.

"And she was just running across the paddocks really and it was at that moment, for a very brief second, I saw something which I thought was quite spectacular."

The size of the storm wasn't unusual, she said, as they had been experiencing dust storms of that magnitude for over a year.

"It was the contrast of someone so little and fragile and innocent, who appeared to be taking on this incredible force of nature," Ms Macmillan said.

She took out her phone, an iPhone 8, snapped a few pictures and then began cleaning up the residue from the storm. Ms Macmillan does not want her photo to generate sympathy.

"I would love for the image to develop a better understanding of



'Whimsical warrior' by Marcia Macmillan won the 2020 Landscape Prize in the Head On photo awards. Photo: Marcia Macmillan

the issues faced in rural Australia, including the important role that the agricultural sector plays in Australia's economy," she said.

"I would urge people to try and see beyond the two-dimensional scene taking place, peel back the layers and try and discover some quality or element that resonates with them on a more personal level."

When her photo was featured in *The Land*, it generated a lot of unexpected attention, including media organisations using the photo without credit and people criticising her on social media for putting her daughter in danger.

"I definitely didn't put my daughter in danger; that statement is completely incorrect," Ms Macmillan said.

"Our house is just out to the side of that photo, which you can't see, and that dust storm is still a long way off. It was slowly rolling in and it didn't arrive for probably another 25 minutes."

She is hoping to use her prize money to take a course in photography and improve at the craft.

The Australian runner up for the landscape prize, Nick Moir, captured a rare moment in his winning photo.

*The Sydney Morning Herald* photographer was photographing the Green Wattle Creek fire in October.

He was on a property with fire and rescue units, the fire was quiet, with flames a metre high, but it was already heating up the forest. The smoke was a higher temperature than that in the air, and fumes from the tops of trees could not escape.

"It got up to an explosive mixture and the flames just exploded. It was a 300 metres by 50 metres deep section of forest that all went up in a matter of seconds," Mr Moir said.

"That kind of event, which is called an area ignition, is quite rare. They're not often seen and very rarely photographed and videoed. And I hadn't seen an event with so many embers in the air."

Mr Moir, who has been photographing bushfires for over 20 years, said the recent bushfire season was particularly difficult.

"I'd done plenty of fires ... but they were always essentially a build-up of a few weeks of heat and dry ... (but this season) there was one major fire day every single week, and each one of those was the equivalent to an entire season's worth of bushfires," he said.

Back in 2001, he began photographing bushfires because he saw a need. Since then, he has captured many memorable moments.

"On those extreme days, you see those things that go into history books where they are very rare but they are stories that are told for generations," he said.

"They will always essentially mark time from when that event happened, and that's where the role of the photographer, more than a video or a journalist, has to take an iconic and important image."

.....  
**The Head On(line) Photo Festival featured 110 exhibitions from May 1 to 17. The festival went virtual in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions in galleries.**

## Clews channel the iso muse



Clews – Grace and Lily Richardson. Photo: Supplied

### MUSIC

TESS RIDGWAY

**CLEWS comprises sisters Lily and Grace Richardson. Originally from Mollymook, they released their first single "Museum" in 2019. Their music is a polished pop-melancholy to warm up winter evenings. Shimmering vocals and poetic lyrics inspire adventuring or roaming (which we all long for right now).**

Unfortunately, Covid has delayed their "Feel" headline tour which is rescheduled for December. They were also supposed to tour with Boy & Bear right about now but that too has been delayed until November.

To ensure the pandemic isn't holding them back they've been getting on board with the Instagram festival bent to help you deal with staying the hell home! They appeared on Bridget Hustwaite's *Saturday Night Stay In* live on Instagram TV with other Australian artists including Vera Blue, Adriane Eagle and George Alice.

**How do you collaborate on song writing? Is one driving the lyrics the other the music?**

Yes, Lily drives the lyrics and Grace is in the little sidecar thing that hangs off the motorbike. I'm constantly writing down lines about everything that happens to me, then Grace swans in and absolutely slays it with a killer melody.

**Has social isolating got you writing and rehearsing more?**

I've definitely been writing more. I've had a bit of extra time on my hands so I've been getting up early and walking around the neighbourhood listening to country music. Plus, as the weather turns colder, I always write more. So, it's been a good formula for being creative. We have it pretty good at the moment compared to a lot of people so we're not complaining. I love being locked in my house by myself playing guitar anyway!

**What's your infinite repeat song (a song you could listen to seven or more times in a row)?**

Throughout isolation I have listened to Little Feat's "Long

Distance Love" literally every single day, and Grace will never stop replaying "Long Train Runnin'" by The Doobie Brothers.

**Royalties aside, which song would you most like to cover?**

"This Love" from Maroon 5's classic 2002 album *Songs About Jane*.

**What does the future hold for Clews?**

We're actually about to start on our first full body of work. Up until now we've just been releasing singles but it's time to sink our teeth into a bigger project. We can't wait to get back to playing shows when the world is safe and well again too.

.....  
 @clewsmusic

# The Reviews

## Book Review by Marjorie Lewis-Jones

**Isla's Family Tree**  
 Katrina McKelvey, and  
 illustrator, Prue Pittock  
 EK Books, 2020

*Isla's Family Tree* is a delightfully conceived picture book that features a little girl who can't see how the twins her heavily pregnant mother is carrying will fit into her family.

When Isla's mother shows her the family tree she has crafted to help illustrate how families are always growing and changing, Isla shouts, "There's no room left on our branch - it's full!"

Author Katrina McKelvey, and illustrator Prue Pittock have deliberately kept the story and visuals simple - a hard task given the complexity of families and family trees.

In the study notes for teachers and home schooling, McKelvey says, "I deliberately did not use technical language (such as generations, heritage, ancestors, inherited and so on) as this story can be used to start discussions about family types at school and at home, and can then lead to teaching a more formal way of recording family trees and histories."

Pittock adds, "The illustrations for Isla's family tree were created using ink, gouache and coloured pencils. I like the contrast of the black and white with a pop of colour, keeping the pages fresh and light."

Isla's family tree includes an adopted cousin, a same-sex couple, and the new "leaves" that are her newborn brothers. Happily, Isla finally realises: In a forest full of family trees, there are no rules about what a family looks like.

This warm and wonderful book focuses on inclusion and connection. It shows how love makes room for those around us, so everyone belongs.

## Book Review by Catherine DeMayo

**This is Happiness**  
 Niall Williams  
 Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2020

*This is Happiness* intrigued me with its title. Was the title sarcastic, a gibe at the miseries of an impoverished rural Ireland? Or was I about to read a twee tale of a mythical, pastoral, romantic Ireland?

In fact, this genre-defying novel - Dublin-born Niall Williams's tenth book - is a rare find. Here is a novel that features guilt, atonement, terminal illness, loss of faith and unrequited love, to name a few - but can best be described as joyous.

Part of that joy is the way that Williams's prose sings from the page. His use of English is at times idiosyncratic, but never mundane. Yes, the books can be wordy, and there were a few times when I had to restrain myself from skipping ahead to see what happened to his

fascinating and flawed characters.

I didn't, and was rewarded with prose like this description of the narrator's beloved grandfather: "A short and almost perfectly rounded man with eyes always near to laughter and tufted hair that sat like a small wig on a football, Ganga had the large ears that God puts on old men as evidence of the humour necessary for creation."

*This is Happiness* is set in Faha, a small town in County Clare where rain is constant, and legendary. "Rain ... was a condition of living. It came straight down, sideways, and frontwards, backwards and any other wards God could think of."

Williams draws Faha and its inhabitants fondly, but these are no cutesy simple villagers, this is humanity, warts and all. At long last, "the electric" is coming to Faha, bringing with it inevitable changes. Into the town come dozens of workers to lay the power lines and bring Faha into the modern world.

Noel, whom everyone calls Noe, is staying with his grandparents, Doady and Ganga, after leaving the seminary due to a crisis of faith. Into this household appears Christy, a worker with the electric scheme, who boards with Noel's grandparents. Christy, though over 60, forms a close bond with the 17-year-old Noel, who gradually learns the 50-year-old secret that has drawn Christy to Faha.

Describing Christy's spontaneous singing, Williams could instead be describing his own novel: "It seems to me that the quality that makes any book, music, painting

worthwhile is life, just that. (They) can never be as full, rich, complex, surprising or beautiful, but the best of them can ... turn you back to look out the window, go out the door aware they you've been enriched, that you have been in the company of something alive."

» [books@ssh.com.au](mailto:books@ssh.com.au)

## Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper

**Gruesome Playground Injuries**  
 Writer: Rajiv Joseph  
 Device of choice  
 10.30am, Saturday, May 9, 2020

Following the success of Lyle Kessel's *Orphans*, Red Line Productions (Artistic Director, Andrew Henry), presented a live-streamed reading of *Gruesome Playground Injuries* by award-winning American playwright, Rajiv Joseph. The reading featured actors Rose Byrne (in New York), Ewan Leslie (in Sydney) with musical accompaniment by guitarist John Butler (in Perth) and stage directions by Anna Houston.


The play, a two hander, explores the 30-year relationship between Kayleen (Byrne) and Doug (Ewan Leslie). The two first encounter each other as 8 year olds in a primary school sickroom, and continue to encounter each other in various depressing and often medical locations. The setup encourages us to anticipate an off-beat love story, particularly as Doug's arrival is not always as random as it seems, but Rajiv's

choice to present the encounters non-chronologically discourages our tendency to prioritise development. The choice to mark the break between scenes with John Butler's lovely guitar accompaniment underscores this shift in focus.

Neither Kayleen nor Doug deepen as characters but their early tendencies intensify. The withdrawn Kayleen's gentle interest in Doug's facial gash progresses to cutting her thighs and then to extreme self-mutilation. She begins by fancying herself in a dungeon, cut off from the fanfare of the castle, and loses hope that she will ever join in the fun. Doug, her would-be rescuer, begins with an injury to his Achilles tendon, which progresses to a cane and a limp and finally to a wheelchair. His mother may think he is accident prone, but his injuries are self-sought, the consequence of a crazy wish for pain. "I like to get stitches," he tells Kayleen.

As different as they are - Kayleen, tender and quirky, Doug, foolishly energetic - their curiosity about each other and their commitment to the each other's welfare when they meet and meet again, brings a limited acceptance of themselves. Neither seems to question why they have repeated their self-destructive behaviour, and while there are clues, it doesn't seem to matter. They must deal with themselves as they are in the ever-changing present. While at times the play may seem to be almost two-dimensional, Byrne and Leslie bring it to life and give it substance.

» [theatre@ssh.com.au](mailto:theatre@ssh.com.au)




**The Pipeline**

Install at Galerie pompom  
 Photo: Docquiment

Galerie pompom presents the first exhibition of Hayley Megan French's ongoing project *The Pipeline*, a suburban painting project across Guildford NSW, Kununurra WA and Toowoomba QLD. Until June 21.

[www.hayleymeganfrench.com](http://www.hayleymeganfrench.com)

Galerie pompom  
 2/27-39 Abercrombie Street  
 Chippendale NSW 2008



**JOSHUA**  
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 SATURDAY JUNE 20  
 2PM  
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# VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

PAT CLARKE

**I hope the last month has treated you all well, especially now that some restrictions are being lifted.**

Daily, I'm finding it hard to keep up. Despite all my good resolutions (to myself) the list of things to do doesn't seem to have got any shorter. Our managing editor Marjorie Lewis-Jones and the editorial team have been pulling out all the stops for this issue. Lots of our favourites for June have been postponed or cancelled.

**2020 National NAIDOC Week from Sunday July 8 to Sunday July 15.**

NAIDOC Week has sadly been postponed to ensure safety for communities. A new date later in the year is being considered.

**Refugee Week from June 14-20 has gone digital, and is now Digital Refugee Week.**

Contact: [www.refugeeweek.org.au/](http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/)

**2020 Sydney Film Festival from June 10-21 is now the Virtual Sydney Film Festival.**

The 67th Festival has just announced a full virtual program and tickets are now on sale at: [ondemand.sff.org.au](http://ondemand.sff.org.au)

It's not all gloom though, as the following are set to reopen:

**Art Gallery of New South Wales** from Monday June 1, with free timed tickets in half-hourly batches. The Gallery will announce new dates for the very popular Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes later in the year.

**White Rabbit Gallery,** Chippendale, from Saturday June 6.

**Museum of Contemporary Art** from Tuesday June 16.

**Biennale of Sydney** also from Tuesday June 16.

**Palace Cinemas** have announced a reopening on July 2, with other cinemas likely to follow on July 16. Social distancing and other restrictions on numbers will apply, including online booking, contactless payments and staggered session times.

**Libraries**  
Some local libraries, like three inner-west locations Marrickville, Leichhardt and Ashfield, will open from June 1, with varied opening hours. City of Sydney's libraries remain closed but online resources are available.

And, of course, local pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes will now be able to cater for more patrons. Physical distancing and safety measures will still apply.

**Sydney Fringe Festival**

The festival was cancelled due to Covid-19 but will partner with five international Fringe Festivals to present Global Fringe, to be streamed live in September.

**SSH Volunteers' Monthly Meetings**

Meetings on the first Saturday in June and July (2-4pm) will take place via Zoom. Please subscribe to updates on the SSH website so we can send you the Zoom details.

**SSH Volunteer Agreement 2020**

It's important for Volunteers to complete the form (the green one distributed in December). If you've mislaid it or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact managing editor Marjorie Lewis-Jones at [marjorie@ssh.com.au](mailto:marjorie@ssh.com.au), or Allison Forrest at [distribution@ssh.com.au](mailto:distribution@ssh.com.au).

As always, take care of yourselves and each other, and spare a thought and whatever you can afford for those who haven't had this last 10 weeks easy.

Until next time,  
Pat Clarke

[volunteers@ssh.com.au](mailto:volunteers@ssh.com.au)



A cohort of potential funders has indicated it could help get Carriageworks back in business as part of a bailout deal. Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones

## Saving Carriageworks

ALLISON FORREST

**EVELEIGH:** In early May, when Carriageworks announced it had gone into voluntary administration due to "irreparable loss of income" from Covid-19 shutdowns, shockwaves rippled through the arts world and wider community.

How could one of the largest multi-arts centres in Australia close?

Later in May, when a group of potential funders stepped up to help with a bailout deal, the relief was palpable. But the fight is far from over given the philanthropists' offer of funding is contingent upon Create NSW granting Carriageworks a long-term lease.

Local residents Alice Anderson and Louisa Dyce are anxious about the site's future but remain hopeful. They spoke recently about their love of the space, the importance of its history, and the vibrant arts events and markets it hosts.

Alice lives in an apartment block next door to Carriageworks and has regularly attended visual arts and performances at the centre since moving to her unit in 2015. She is passionate about the site and what it means to the local community.

"I was upset when I heard Carriageworks was going into administration. The site has a rich history which emerges in conversation with all sorts of people whenever I say I live in Eveleigh. A lot of people, not just locals, feel a connection to the history of the building and the site.

"I love living so close to such a vibrant creative place – even with the downside of noise at times when events are bumping in and out.

"I'm also pleased to be asked to comment on this issue because the 88 units in my block are all affordable housing and sometimes the voices of affordable-housing residents are lost in consultations about community facilities like Carriageworks, which isn't right.

"I'm really concerned for the future of Carriageworks given its reliance on income from big events which haven't been able to happen since Covid-19. This makes the prospect of private funding encouraging and, as it's happened before, I'm not too worried about private stakeholders gaining control.

"What I am worried about is that Carriageworks is on public land and that in the current economic climate the government might feel a strong temptation to sell it to the highest bidder.

"If that happened the community would lose in a big way. This includes the artists who work from studio space, exhibit and perform there, and the local community overall. Events at Carriageworks draw a big audience from across the city which has a flow-on effect to local businesses like pubs and restaurants. On top of Covid-19 losses – will they survive?"

Louisa worked at the Saturday Farmers Market at Carriageworks and has been associated with the market since its inception.

"I live in Darlington so it was wonderful to have a 10-minute walk and then be at work. What made the market different was that it was mainly actual growers who were selling their produce. For many it was their only retail outlet.

"Carriageworks is a wonderful place where the community could meet and be entertained in so many ways. Night markets, art fairs, food fairs and fashion week: it made me proud to be able to meet with, and work with, so many people who enjoyed the space as I did.

"We loved visiting the fabulous art installations that you couldn't see anywhere else. It was also very refreshing to wander around inside the building as it holds a great deal of history.

"We would acknowledge how rare the buildings and the shows were – and recognise that Carriageworks is part of our history that shouldn't be lost or taken for granted.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime space. If lost, it could never be replaced." **SSH**

**South Sydney Herald**  
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### Uniting Churches



**South Sydney Uniting Church**

56a Raglan St, Waterloo  
Public worship suspended  
Follow @sundayssuc for prayers, music and reflections  
Rev. Andrew Collis  
0438 719 470  
[www.southsydneyuniting.org.au](http://www.southsydneyuniting.org.au)

**Leichhardt Uniting Church**

3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt (near Norton St, free parking behind church)  
Public worship suspended  
Revs Radhika & Adrian Sukumar-White  
[www.leichhardtuniting.org.au](http://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](http://mustardseed.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Newtown Mission**

280 King St Newtown  
Public worship suspended  
Rev. Graeme Tutt  
9519 9000  
[www.newtownmission.org.au](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ssms.org.au)

## YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS Contact this month by email or phone only



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# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Financial support

If you've lost your job, lost hours, or are suffering financial hardship, find out what support is available, including wage subsidies: [www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus).

## Support for businesses & sole traders

If you're a business or a sole trader, find out what support is available at: [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au) or **13 28 46**.

## Support for renters

The National Cabinet has agreed to ban evictions for commercial and residential tenants in financial distress who are unable to meet their commitments due to the impact of coronavirus.

## Help for renters

NSW Fair Trading at [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au) or **13 32 20** or the Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service at [www.tenants.org.au](http://www.tenants.org.au) or **(02) 8117 3700**.

## Need Further Assistance

If you need further assistance, please contact me on (02) 9379 0700 or at [Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au)



For the latest advice, information & resources: [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)  
NSW Health: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)



If you have concerns about your health, **seek medical advice**.



**National Coronavirus Helpline**  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.  
**1800 020 080**



**Translating & Interpreting Services**  
**131 450**

## LET'S KEEP SAFE

Observe  
social  
distancing

Practice  
good  
hygiene



Observe limits  
on public  
gatherings

Follow the  
self-isolation  
rules

## THANKS TO YOU,

we are saving lives and stopping the spread of Covid-19.

We're all in this together, so let's continue to keep each other safe.

**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**

