

# the South Sydney Herald

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## Aboriginal affordable housing – call for action

### FIRST PEOPLES

ANDREW COLLIS

ON September 21 the Redfern Waterloo Alliance of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Allies launched its campaign to seek government action and targets for Aboriginal affordable housing in the Redfern Waterloo area.

The campaign calls on the NSW government to deliver:

- (1) 10 per cent Aboriginal affordable housing in all government redevelopments in the area;
- (2) an increase in Aboriginal social housing, ensuring that any community housing provider must either be Aboriginal Community Controlled and managed or work in partnership with an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation; and
- (3) Aboriginal jobs and ongoing employment, including targets for Aboriginal employment and contracts for construction and Aboriginal employment in the provision of ongoing services in all government redevelopments in the area.

“The Aboriginal Medical Service Redfern considers housing a major component toward improving better health outcomes for Aboriginal people in our community,” said LaVerne Bellear, CEO Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative Limited. “We’ve been here for 50 years come 2021, and although a lot has changed in our service delivery, the two reasons we were established were equitable and affordable health service provision and discrimination. Both of those



Warren Roberts, LaVerne Bellear and Siobhán Bryson at the Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) in Redfern. Many Aboriginal community members still live in social housing in Redfern and Waterloo and the Aboriginal services they access (including the AMS, Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Children’s Service, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Housing Company, Redfern All Blacks, the Black Theatre Arts & Culture Centre, Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care and Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation) are still there too.  
Photo: Andrew Collis

issues are still alive and well.”

“This is an opportunity to show a commitment to the Aboriginal community remaining in the area that is famous for Aboriginal people, and where our rights movement commenced and is based,” said Nathan Moran, CEO of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

“Redfern and Waterloo is

where many came to find out who their families were and to try to find their way home. For Stolen Generations survivors this became their home. They raised their families here and are now helping raise their grannies and great grannies here. This is their only home. Moving them out because they can no longer afford to live here is too painful

to even consider. They were forcibly removed as children, separated from their families and communities. Don’t do this to them again,” said Tiffany McComsey, CEO of Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation.

Other speakers at the online launch included Siobhán Bryson, CEO Weave Youth & Community Services, Tanya Plibersek MP,

Jenny Leong MP, and David Harris MP and Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty.

The alliance currently includes 27 local organisations, and welcomes new members and campaign supporters.

For more information email Warren Roberts: [warrenroberts@gmail.com](mailto:warrenroberts@gmail.com).  
Sign the petition: [bit.ly/33iwihl](https://bit.ly/33iwihl)

## Integration crucial in Redfern North Eveleigh rail development

### URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

TRANSPORT for NSW (TfNSW) has three separate sites in planning around Redfern station and North Eveleigh. SSH has previously reported on the proposed Southern Concourse, where TfNSW has just issued its response to submissions. TfNSW is also working with Council and local residents to try to co-design the shared

zones in Little Eveleigh Street and Marian Street where the concourse will exit. Some locals, opposed to the TfNSW proposal, have likened the co-design to putting lipstick on a pig.

The second site is between platform 10 and Gibbons Street, above platforms 11 and 12. This area is zoned for up to 14 storeys and offers lift access to the Eastern Suburbs/Illawarra lines and connectivity to a possible bus-rail interchange. TfNSW has

referred to this development but has not started any consultation.

The final site, now called Redfern North Eveleigh is the North Eveleigh precinct between Wilson Street and the railway line on both sides of Carriageworks. TfNSW held a Place Design Forum with community, business, education and government stakeholders in late August, and ran a community survey. Workshops for interested members of the community are happening until October 8.

The keynote presentations by Peter Bishop and Tim Williams emphasised the need to integrate development with the surrounding area and improve the opportunities for the local community. It is difficult to see how that will happen with TfNSW separately planning three adjoining sites rather than planning the sites in an integrated way, not only with each other but also with adjoining sites like South Eveleigh.

The North Eveleigh presentations at the design forum were at a

high design principles level to “inform the strategic framework” which will set out “the vision and principles to guide future development” that will be used to determine the planning controls for the site. Little in the two days of presentations dealt with the constraints of the site, or how TfNSW might handle the inevitable trade-offs between design principles.

Geoff Turnbull handles SSH Urban Design content and is a co-spokesperson for REDWatch.

Read these articles and more at SSH online – [southsydneyherald.com.au](http://southsydneyherald.com.au)



A future for transport rolling stock manufacture in NSW?



SEA museum partners with SSI to strengthen new migrant support



Paddington Markets reopens after pandemic pause

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A CDC development that has been referred to the Department of Fair Trading by City of Sydney Council, which is out of character with surrounding California bungalows in a residential street covered by the 1912 Covenant.  
Photo: Lyn Turnbull

## Rallying for suburban character

### URBAN DESIGN

LYN TURNBULL

**ROSEBERY:** In July the state government made changes to the housing code that could allow the 1912 Covenant, which set the character of the suburb, to be overridden. The Covenant is part of the title deeds of all blocks within the area since the time it was first subdivided as a working class industrial estate, with factories separated by parks from single-storey California bungalow-style houses with garden frontages.

That same month in the SSH, Wayne Moody from Rosebery Residents Action Group (RRAG) outlined the concerns of Rosebery residents at the "continued disregard of the original and existing covenant that sets the character of the Rosebery estate", that has been exacerbated by the introduction of private certifiers signing off on Complying

Developments (CDCs), which no longer involve Council officers.

In mid-September about 90 residents met in Turruwul Park where Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Councillors Philip Thalys and Linda Scott (president of Local Government NSW) addressed the physically distanced crowd, all expressing their concern at the potential for overdevelopment in the suburb that is under increasing pressure with the high-rise residential development of former industrial land to its north at Green Square.

At the meeting the Lord Mayor advised that Planning Minister Rob Stokes has given her a verbal commitment that he will exempt the Rosebery Estate from the new housing code. As she is yet to receive written confirmation of the undertaking, to support this call, a petition was circulated at the meeting and she indicated she'd like to invite the Minister to attend the next Rosebery community meeting.

## Pemulwuy - hits the heights

### SPONSORED

AMANDA FLEMING

**REDFERN:** The Col James student accommodation reached a milestone this month as it "topped out"; construction of the top level of the 24 levels was completed. Uncle Micky Mundine isn't too fond of heights but, after a little encouragement, he went for a look-see at the top. He was "okay" and enjoyed the incredible views.

The student accommodation consists of 596 beds and will offer accommodation for students at all the universities, TAFE, and colleges in the area. There will be dedicated beds for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students which will be provided to them at a discount rate.

Work on the affordable housing is continuing at a great rate, the apartments are nearing completion and it is exciting to see the progress of the townhouses as each week goes by. The exteriors are looking wonderful with our colour palette of natural tones such as green, beige and ochre.



Michael Mundine takes in the spectacular views from the top floor of the Col James student accommodation. Photo: Amanda Fleming

We are looking at moving new tenants into the housing by the end of the year. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can apply to live at the Pemulwuy Project through our website. Please check our eligibility criteria before completing our Expression of Interest form online.

[www.ahc.org.au/housing/applications](http://www.ahc.org.au/housing/applications)



Authorised by Michael Mundine, CEO, Aboriginal Housing Company Limited



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## Colour it for conservation – children and adults please join in!



Deforestation is pushing wildlife to extinction. Thousands of koalas, possums, quolls and gliders are killed each year because the NSW government has weak land-clearing and logging laws. Download and colour the drawing (various drawings by local artists here: [bit.ly/3lfZufh](http://bit.ly/3lfZufh)), display prominently, photograph and post #sshphotos to show your support for the Nature Conservation Council's Ending Deforestation campaign: [www.nature.org.au/our-campaigns/ending-deforestation](http://www.nature.org.au/our-campaigns/ending-deforestation)  
Image: Jo Tracy

While residents have not yet heard the outcome, Council has also referred to the Department of Fair Trading, a number of local CDC renovations that RRAG asked to be investigated for non-compliance and Council has asked for its advice about any further CDC constructions on

blocks with the Covenant in place.

Minister Stokes has not yet replied to RRAG correspondence, but local member Ron Hoenig continues to monitor the situation on the group's behalf as they continue the campaign "to protect the special character of the Rosebery Estate".

SSH

## TAKING 'EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST'



Welcome to the **PEMULWUY PROJECT** in the heart of Redfern. Our fabulous new affordable housing is on track for completion and we are looking forward to moving in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants by the end of the year.

PEMULWUY offers an amazing inner-city location across the street from Redfern Station. It is only 3km to the CBD and close to schools, university and EORA TAFE. Walk up the street to numerous cafés, shops and services or take a stroll down to Broadway and Central Park.

**PEMULWUY features:**

- ▶ 26 apartments with a mixture of 2 or 3 bedrooms
- ▶ 36 townhouses with a mixture of 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms
- ▶ Generous size floor plans for singles, couples and families
- ▶ Large balconies/terraces for outdoor living – townhouses also have courtyards
- ▶ Latest modern design and high-quality finishes throughout

To apply to live at Pemulwuy please fill out our "expression of interest" form online (NB: please check our eligibility criteria before applying).

[www.ahc.org.au/housing/applications](http://www.ahc.org.au/housing/applications)

# The little country school in the big city exhibits artwork to neighbourhood

**SPONSORED**

EMILY PETTAFOR

**DARLINGTON:** Like the hand-drawn rainbows in windows during Sydney's Covid 19 lockdown in April, Darlington Public School is bringing colour to the community.

Artworks by students from the school, ranging in age from 7 to 12, have been installed on its outside walls.

"There is so much colour and creativity within these walls and we wanted to share it with our neighbours who may not always see it," says Marnie Rozea, Vice President of Darlington Public School's P&C.

"Children's creativity is literally unparalleled in the world of adults and these little minds are being nurtured and expanded by the wonderful teachers at Darlington and we just wanted to showcase some of that."

Darlington Public School Relieving Principal Michelle McCormack said 2020 would long be remembered for the unprecedented destruction and uncertainty of the tragic bushfire season followed by the global spread of Covid-19.

"For school children, this has been an emotional and unsettling time," she says.

"So when we returned to school at the end of Term 2, we decided it was time to celebrate our school and celebrate being together. The artworks project was intended to bring excitement, joy and happiness to all who shared."

Ms McCormack says



Colour and creativity has been encouraged at Darlington Public School since schools went back after the Covid lockdown  
Photo: Supplied

Darlington is a special school.

"At the very foundation of our school is the strength of relationships that our students, staff and families forge with each other," she says. "It is a connection that grows in a safe, nurturing school community and lasts a lifetime."

Violetta, eight, says seeing her artwork on the school walls makes her happy. "I love painting and seeing all the wonderful colours."

Darlington Public School is a small school nestled between Redfern and Newtown in Sydney's inner west.

The current school, built in 1975, will at the end of this year make way for a two-year rebuild.

Designed by architects fjmt, who also created the nearby Inner Sydney High School, the new school will have state of the art educational spaces and beautiful play areas.

The first part of the staged rebuild will be a new playground, ready for students to return to school in 2021.

SSM



Darlington Public School is currently accepting kindergarten enrolments for 2021 (and limited enrolments in other classes).  
[darlington-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://darlington-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)



On September 25, people gathered across Australia to call on the government to "fund our future not gas". 630 actions were registered – Covid-safe gatherings, like this one on Albert Street Redfern, and online actions – in support of School Strike 4 Climate, Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and their demands. Participants called for no public funds for the gas industry. Instead, funding should be used to resource Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led solutions, create jobs that care for country and climate, and to transition our economy to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030. Unions representing 1.5 million workers have endorsed these demands. Photo: Dave Hanson

## COVID-19 UPDATE

**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**

Federal Member for Sydney

### JOBKEEPER

The Morrison Government has now reduced JobKeeper to \$1,200 per fortnight for eligible employees who worked for 80 hours or more in the four weeks before either 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020.

**The reduced rate will apply from 28 September to 3 January 2021.**

For other eligible employees and business participants, JobKeeper has been reduced to \$750 per fortnight. These changes will impact the 80,000 people employed in the electorate of Sydney who are currently receiving JobKeeper.

**I believe that the Government should reconsider their cuts to JobKeeper which are coming at the worst possible time for many workers, businesses and communities.**

The recession will be deeper, and the unemployment queues will be longer because the Government is pulling support from the economy too soon, with no plan for jobs.

It makes no sense for the Morrison Government to be withdrawing support from the economy without a comprehensive jobs plan to replace it.

### TAX HELP

Throughout October, Tax Help will be operating from my electorate office on Friday afternoons to provide assistance to those eligible.

You are eligible for Tax Help in 2019-20 if your income is around \$60,000 or less for the income year and you did not:

- work as a contractor, for example a contract cleaner or taxi driver
- run a business, including as a sole trader
- have partnership or trust matters
- sell shares or own an investment property
- own a rental property
- have capital gains tax (CGT)
- receive royalties
- receive distributions from a trust, other than a managed fund
- receive foreign income, other than a foreign pension or annuity.

**If you need help lodging your tax return, call my office to book an appointment on 9379 0700.**

### ELECTORATE OFFICE

My electorate office provides support with Centrelink, Veterans' Affairs, Medicare, Immigration, NBN and other federal matters - **please contact us any time for assistance.**

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

My office also provides Justice of the Peace services - simply call to make an appointment. Services are available on: Mondays (2pm-4.30pm) Tuesdays (10am-1pm) and Thursdays (2pm- 4.30pm).

**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**

Federal Member for Sydney

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# Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarships winners announced

## SPONSORED

MICHAEL SPENCE

**YASMIN Smith and Kalanjay Dhir have been awarded the 2020 Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to an emerging and a mid-career/established artist who are graduates of the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA).**

The Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarship (FLMS) was established in 1997 through a gift from the estate of Renee Fauvette Erdos, an educator and founder of the History Teachers' Association of NSW, to support graduates of SCA through travel bursaries.

In 2020, the scholarship was expanded to include two categories (emerging and mid-career/established), in recognition of the potential to progress an artist's career at various stages of their practice.

Andrew Lavery, Chair and Director of the SCA, said of this year's FLMS: "After 27 years supporting Australian artists, it was quite amazing to receive so many high quality applications. The finalists can best be described as rigorous, conceptually rich and creative; a cross section of SCA alumni that provide valuable insight into the courage, depth and resilience evident in the visual arts sector more broadly."

### WINNER – mid-career/established artist (\$20,000 prize)

Yasmin Smith was awarded the 2020 Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarship for her work, "Flooded Red Rose Basin", 2018.

Yasmin will use the Scholarship funding to present at the *Rethinking Nature* conference, being held at the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, in early 2021. Yasmin will also conduct a period of self-directed research,



Yasmin Smith, 'Flooded Red Rose Basin', 2018. Photo: Supplied

travelling to power stations in QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and WA to collect material to utilise in the creation of a new body of work to be exhibited in late 2021.

The judges said of Yasmin's selection: "We were particularly impressed by how Yasmin employs the medium of ceramics to investigate larger ideas and concepts relevant to broader society. Her timely, well-resolved proposal builds on a deeply layered practice that is both community engaged and site specific; embedding her objects with indicators of history in the creation of 'future relics'. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of her travel and research funded by the Scholarship."

### WINNER – emerging artist (\$10,000 prize)

Kalanjay Dhir was awarded the Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarship for his work, "Immersion: Parra River Patch", 2020.

In addition to supporting Kalanjay's first exhibition in Melbourne, the Scholarship will support his travel to Indonesia and research into the Medang and Majapahit maritime empires, leading to his development of a film script and video work based on the medieval history

of the Asia-Pacific region.

The judges said of Kalanjay's selection: "Kalanjay demonstrates a unique and progressive conceptual approach to his work. His approach incorporates tropes drawn from a popular culture narrative, to position cultural and historical practices within contemporary critical discourse. Humorous and engaging yet rigorous and well-resolved, his already strong creative practice will undoubtedly grow as a result of the opportunities afforded by this Scholarship."

The judges of this year's Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarship are Clothilde Bullen, Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; leading Australian contemporary artist Sarah Contos; and Andrew Lavery, Chair and Director of Sydney College of the Arts.



Authorised by Dr Michael Spence, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney.  
Contact Details – Security & After Hours:  
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## SEXtember – faithful speak of struggles, pleasure, danger

### FAITH

SSH

**SPEAKERS from four faith traditions – Buddhist, Islamic, Unitarian/Atheism and Christian – presented at a "faith, sexuality and sexual ethics" seminar conducted by the UNSW Health Promotion Unit as part of its online festival SEXtember.**

Dr Desmond Perry, from Pitt Street Uniting Church, spoke of his experience as a gay man, with reference to the seminar's sub-theme "pleasure and danger" for LGBTI people.

"It was terrific hearing how much we [speakers] each had in common," he said, "including the struggles dealing with other religious people's negative attitudes."

Dr Perry cited research by

John Boswell from the 1980s which showed that Christian views on homosexuality were not inherently negative, and there was great diversity and inclusion over the first 18 centuries of Christianity's existence.

"It has really only been in the 19th and 20th centuries that Christian fundamentalists have used somewhat obscure ancient texts to justify homophobia. This was part of a reaction against the growth of science."

Dr Perry also spoke about the stages of moral development outlined by Lawrence Kohlberg which starts with children complying with the expectations of authority figures and evolves through other stages to the point where a person has an emerging comfort with diversity, mutual respect of difference and focuses on justice rather than rules.

The danger for LGBTI people, Dr Perry said, is identical to the danger for Christian evangelicals.

"It is a danger of getting stuck in a less mature stage of moral development.

"This is more dangerous for LGBTI people as it is an affront to their sense of self, and connection. It is therefore important to question the validity of faith-based homophobia."

Dr Perry said a new progressive approach to Christian thinking was emerging. "It is not an attempt to scientifically explain religious stories, but a reclaiming of ancient narratives. The premise is that religious stories are told in a cultural context in time and place. The challenge is to enter the power of the story and see if it applies in a new cultural context, to decide if the story is or is not culturally appropriate to our time and place."



**Jenny Leong MP**  
STATE MEMBER  
FOR NEWTOWN

In response to the latest unemployment figures for NSW, the NSW Treasurer attempted to spin them into a good news story.

At first glance the figures did appear to show that the level of unemployment in our state was not as low as expected, but a close look reveals that any job growth was entirely driven by a surge in "non-employees" – that is self-employed people (owner-managers) who themselves have no employees – who work in an unincorporated enterprise. In short, that's a surge in gig workers.

Let's not beat around the bush – a surge in gig work is not good. By its very nature this is insecure work with little to no wage or workplace protections and a completely unequal business model where mega-corporations profit from the exploitation of individuals. For almost everyone, gig work is a last resort.

A drastic growth in gig economy employment is not a win, it's a failure. For the most part, apps and platforms that facilitate gig work use a cloak of innovation and progress to reintroduce archaic and outdated labour practices, circumventing minimum wage rates and removing employee safety nets. By classifying their workers as independent contractors, these mega-corporations absolve themselves of any responsibility for providing access to standard employment entitlements and conditions.

Working for yourself is one thing, having no choice but to be exploited is another. Gig workers do not receive sick leave, recreation leave, superannuation, award rates or access to workers compensation. There are no set hours and no minimum wage. Nobody gives those things up willingly, but this pandemic has forced hundreds of thousands of workers into accepting this type of situation.

There's no question that Covid-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities in our society. Pushing hundreds of thousands of people into insecure and underpaid work is another example of that, it's certainly not something for this Liberal/National government to be talking up as good news.

As more people face the loss of work and are at risk of going into increasing debt, we need to keep demanding that this Government take firm action right now to ensure a just society, where no one is too poor to be able to live. That means working together towards a society with universal housing, a basic income guarantee that prioritises community care and well-being. We need to work towards a society without systemic racism, that addresses injustice and acts to limit the impacts of the impending climate emergency.

*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)

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Cartoon by norrie mAy-welby in homage to R. Cobb

## Why eight pages?

### EDITORIAL

SSH

IF the *South Sydney Herald* feels a little slimmer in your hands this month, it's because we've (sadly) had to cut the paper back to eight pages.

Why?

The *South Sydney Herald* is one of the few non-profit, independent papers in Sydney and a Covid-related downturn in advertising revenue, and the loss of a major sponsor, means we're now battling to make ends meet.

In 2020, lots of local papers have closed or gone exclusively digital.

And while we continue to build and broaden our digital presence, we remain committed to getting printed copies of the paper to social housing tenants and others for whom digital access is not a given.

Ultimately, it's about equity and providing an independent and quality news service for all.

If you love your local paper here are a few practical

things you can do to help us survive the pandemic.

- Assist us to find a sponsor for our Social Justice page (probably a larger agency or non-profit as the sponsorship package is considerable).
- Urge your local shopkeepers and businesses to advertise with us – see our print and digital options [southsydneyherald.com.au/advertising/](https://southsydneyherald.com.au/advertising/).
- Promote the online SSH Celebrate Community fundraiser/trivia night/auction/concert with MC Julie McCrossin AM, singer-songwriter Julia Jacklin, Gumbaynggir-Wiradjuri musician Tim Gray (Green Hand Band), and more. **Save the date of December 11, 7pm to 8.30pm** as well as your pennies so you can contribute – and tell all your friends to join online. You might even like to host a small group and think about where your group can connect and take part (we'd love to

welcome small groups in various South Sydney locations).

You should also subscribe to our e-newsletter Update ([bit.ly/2AX8n1Y](https://bit.ly/2AX8n1Y)) to ensure you know when we've posted stories online.

The pandemic has presented the *South Sydney Herald* team with some of the most challenging months in the history of the paper – and it's far from over.

As a recent piece in *The Conversation* said, "The newspapers under threat during the crisis connect people well beyond matters of politics and public interest. Our research shows that, in fact, it is often the social dimension of these newspapers that matters most. They are also bridges to the local advertisers deeply affected by this crisis, such as retail shops, cafes and restaurants."

We're a hub and a bridge. And with our loyal band of volunteers and mainstay advertisers we serve a brilliant community. Meet us there.

SSH



The mask can release women from society's expectation that they will smile at random strangers. Photo: Supplied

## Mask-wearing can be liberating for women

### COMMENT

KATY GOMPERTZ

**WHETHER you choose to wear a mask (to lower your Covid-19 risk) is a contentious subject in 2020. I am in the fifth month of wearing mine to school pick up, the shops, and my son's soccer match.**

Notwithstanding the foggy glasses, weird breathing through three layers, claustrophobia and other valid reasons people find mask-wearing difficult, I am finding something interesting has happened.

I feel less of a need to smile at random people.

I clearly remember working at a pub when I was 18 and a customer came up to me and said, "You should smile more, you look miserable". In truth I was simply staring out of the window, thinking about my dinner, but somehow that meant, to a totally random man, that I was miserable. I can't tell you

how many times he came into the pub after that to see me standing there like a mannequin, smiling gormlessly out of the window in a frozen mid-run pose, speaking through my deranged teeth, "Iss diss better?"

Women have been told to smile more for a gazillion years but in 2020 it's different. My mouth is covered for 90 per cent of the time I'm in the company of strangers and suddenly, and quite inexplicably, I feel, well, free.

I'm no longer burdened with the unexplainable need to smile at anyone I walk past – and, after months of feeling like this, these social exchanges somehow seem easier, less exhausting. There is less (whether perceived or not) expectation of me to behave a certain way. Social norms have been thrown out and we all have to start again. Working on our communication is never a bad thing and perhaps this fresh beginning is exactly what we need to review how and why we speak to others.

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## King hit by Covid but Parliament rises

### HUMAN AFFAIRS

ALLISON FORREST

**COVID-19 has disrupted many hospitality businesses and left customers high and dry without our usual caffeine. The impact on Newtown's much-loved Parliament on King has been especially complex.**

The café is the hub of a diverse and vibrant community that includes refugees and asylum seekers. Its social enterprise catering business has given hundreds of people essential work experience and training. Most importantly, Parliament on King welcomes and includes refugees, asylum seekers and newly arrived people: anyone who is looking to make friends, discover purpose and feel at home

in this big city.

Owner Ravi Prasad says when Covid-19 hit, "everything that we had been working towards for years came to an end. We went on a roller coaster of emotions – first, devastated, then relieved when we found out about Jobkeeper, then the next day in despair when we found out the 16 people in the catering business weren't eligible."

But while the café had to close, its place in the community did not. In May, the catering business took a new direction. Take-away "Soup of Human Kindness" is served on Friday and Saturday nights. It's free for anyone who is struggling, and "pay what you can afford" for others. It helps Ravi and the team too: "The soup keeps a light on at the end of the tunnel for our guys ... it keeps them close to us, and us close to them." The soup was first funded by Ravi and his wife



Ravi Prasad serving up the Soup of Human Kindness at Newtown's Parliament on King. Photo: Jom Photo

Della, and is now supported by a crowdfunding campaign for \$5,000 that actually raised \$21,000. Along with a grant from the City of Sydney, there is now enough to

keep the soup cooking until the end of this year.

Staff with no access to Jobkeeper have been supported by making beautiful kimono fabric face

masks, available for order from the café's online shop: "These masks are not just gorgeous, they are also happy things, and made with love and optimism that things will get better; and they will."

Indian street chai served in the café, packaged up for brewing at home, will soon go on sale. The Tea of Loving Kindness is spicy, flavourful, and made to a recipe carried back by Ravi's tastebuds from the many chaiwallahs encountered on his travels.

Now, at last, the café is gradually re-opening – once again serving up happiness, connection and kindness on the thoughtful side of the street.

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**Parliament on King**  
632 King St, Newtown  
Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
(subject to Covid-19 restrictions)  
[www.parliamentonking.com](http://www.parliamentonking.com)

# The Review

## Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

### Wilde-inspired watercolours



Kim Carpenter's watercolour 'The Prince and the Swallow'. Photo: Supplied

**ART**

ANNA NORTH

**KIM Carpenter has been collaborating with Oscar Wilde's famous story since 1992 when his company Theatre of Image presented its second production of *The Happy Prince* in partnership with the Sydney Theatre Company. This production went on to have a 16-year life, and many awards, regional, national and overseas tours.**

Carpenter recently adapted *The Happy Prince* for the Australian

Ballet in collaboration with choreographer Graeme Murphy, and designed the stage sets and costumes.

The production premiered at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane on February 25. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Australian Ballet was forced to cancel the August season at the Arts Centre in Melbourne and the November-December season at the Sydney Opera House.

Oscar Wilde's immortal tale combined with the creative journey of making a new full-length ballet, with choreographer Graeme Murphy and composer Christopher Gordon, inspired Carpenter to

create a suite of watercolours. He will exhibit 26 major artworks at ARO Gallery in Darlinghurst (51 William St) from October 13-25.

I had a few questions for the artist ...

**What has it been like having this complex and bittersweet character looking over your shoulder for much of your career?**

Oscar Wilde has given me a gift, a timeless story I have been able to interpret both visually and dramatically. The statue of the Prince looks over his city and can see the disparity between the rich and the poor. This reflects the divisions in our

society today – heightened by the current pandemic. So the morality of this story is in my DNA.

**Do you share any of the Prince's qualities?**

Yes I do. A sense of justice and equality, fairness and kindness, as well as a childlike quality that is reflected in my work.

**Do you ever think about the possibility of an afterlife?**

Yes I do, in a rather dreamlike, surreal way. I guess a stream of consciousness, which is part of an artist's process. And on a more tangible note ...

**John Olsen was one of your first teachers. Is there something he taught you that has influenced your work?**

Most significantly he taught me the importance of mental and physical preparation – so that once you apply marks to the paper, you know what you are doing and can maintain a fresh spontaneity as the picture is clear in your mind. It's about the coordination between the hand, mind and heart.

**Of the study awards you received, which made the strongest impact on your work and yourself as an artist?**

I worked with American doyen of visual theatre Robert Wilson in New York City on an opera production of *Medea*. Through visual storyboards and unique rehearsals, his process has stayed with me.

**What factors led you to a career in the Arts?**

It was evident I had a clear and specific talent for drawing and painting from the age of 4, and from then on it was basically a straight trajectory. My parents and teachers helped channel my artistic gift, so I was able to take advantage of every opportunity.

**How will you celebrate the end of the pandemic that stole your show?**

*The Happy Prince* exhibition is the first step towards the artistic liberation of *The Happy Prince* show and book, to be followed by seeing the ballet at the Sydney Opera House in the near future.

Virtual gallery tour: [publish.exhibit.com/gallery/73268674/atrium-gallery-33106](https://publish.exhibit.com/gallery/73268674/atrium-gallery-33106)

### Five October days to support

SELECTED BY MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES



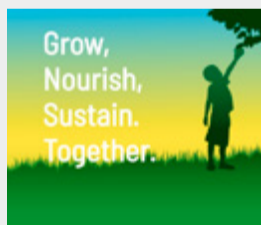
**Odd Socks Day**

Odd Socks Day, on **October 9**, is a National Mental Health Campaign developed and run by Grow Australia. It encourages Australians to wear odd socks to show that anyone can have an odd day. The messaging promotes conversations and demonstrates the understanding that people struggling with their mental health are not alone. Funds raised support community mental health programs across Australia.



**Pink Ribbon Day**

While 89 out of every 100 women diagnosed with invasive breast cancer now survive five or more years beyond diagnosis, it is still a prevalent issue that needs our attention. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Pink Ribbon Day, on **October 13**, raises funds for prevention programs, support services and vital cancer research. You can help by sharing this information and donating to the cause.



**World Food Day**

"Grow, nourish, sustain. Together" is the theme of World Food Day in 2020. As countries around the world suffer the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, #WorldFoodDay on **October 16** is calling for global solidarity to help the most vulnerable people to recover and make food systems more sustainable, stronger and resilient to shocks. Solidarity and making food choices for health and sustainability will help forge a better future.



**Eradication of Poverty Day**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, an estimated 71 million people are expected to be pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020, the first rise in global poverty since 1998. Observing the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on **October 17** gives those who are suffering a chance to make their concerns heard, and invites solidarity and action from others to listen and act for justice.



**Intersex Awareness Day**

Intersex Awareness Day seeks to inform people that intersex people do not need to be "fixed", to open the conversation around intersex issues, and to end shame, secrecy and unwanted genital cosmetic surgeries on intersex children. Held on **October 26**, the international LGBTQ+ community commemorates the day and shares resources to help raise awareness about the lives, stories, and human rights of Intersex people.

# The Reviews

## Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



**Deerskin**  
**Director:** Quentin Dupieux  
**Starring:** Jean Dujardin, Adèle Haenel, Albert Delpy  
**Genre:** Oh dear

Quentin Tarrantino will probably direct the English-language version of *Deerskin*. It will star Leonardo DiCaprio which is a shame because he's too young and good looking for the role. Nonetheless, Tarrantino would be the perfect director because he has a knack for portraying madness and somehow making the gratuitous seem valid.

In *Deerskin*, the descent into madness is triggered by a marriage breakdown. Most men would at least consider drowning their sorrows in fast cars and pointless short-term relationships, but Georges (Jean Dujardin) seeks solace from a second-hand overpriced deerskin jacket, and then progresses to ensure, at the jacket's urging, that it be the only jacket in the world.

*Deerskin* is set in the pre-internet world – Georges documents his love of his jacket through a handycam and makes calls on pay-phones. If Tarrantino is looking for an angle for his remake he could look to updating it to the modern age, and rather than the wobbly handycam, a mobile phone could substitute, documenting the madness and posting it on socials until it becomes

a global phenomenon triggering worldwide insanity. It could have a lot to say about Covid loneliness and searches for meaning.

But the original *Deerskin* is French, quaint, amusing and odd in a good way. And therein lies its attraction. The Tarrantino blockbuster version may get more eyeballs but will never capture the intrinsic essence of one man's loss and gain.

Rating: Three-and-a-half anoraks.

## Film Review by Catherine Skipper



**Freeman**  
**Director:** Laurence Billiet  
**Co-Director:** Stephen Page (Bangarra)  
**ABC iView**

*Freeman* is so much more than a timely documentary about a young woman winning a gold medal at the Sydney Olympics. Its release, coinciding with the 20-year anniversary of what was internationally recognised as a high point in the staging of the Olympics, came also as a welcome relief. The uplifting vision of a country coming together in passionate support of Cathy Freeman's bid to win the 400 contrasts favourably with the demeaning boundary disputes between states arising from Covid-19.

From the opening scenes of the crowd at the Olympic auditorium to families and neighbours gathered around television sets, from an excited surging hum to individual endorsements and the final lone voice shouting encouragement as

Freeman emerged from the tunnel into the stadium, we relive the country's total engagement. At the same time, we feel the immense pressure that such support fanned by the "beast" – the media to use Freeman's own words – placed upon this one young Aboriginal woman.

Billiet deftly shows us the Freeman that lies behind the public but private face of an athlete dedicated to Olympic success. We are familiar with Freeman's characteristically earnest almost anxious face, leavened by a gap-toothed and engaging, self-conscious smile, and most acknowledge that she was, and is, deserving of that so often misapplied adjective, "humble". It seems that while there is much in her background that explains her unaffected manner – her sister Ann-Marie, afflicted by cerebral palsy, and from whom Freeman felt she learned humility and acceptance, and her mother, Cecilia, a loving and grounded presence – the documentary also explores less visible presences.

It may seem contradictory to call Freeman "humble". After winning the 200 metres at the 1994 Commonwealth Games Freeman completed the victory lap carrying the Aboriginal as well as the Australian flag, an iconic image included in the documentary. Reprimanded, she ignored a ban by Arthur Tunstall, *Chef de Mission*, for the Games, again carrying the two flags. It was neither bravado nor sensation seeking that prompted this ground-breaking action, but a conviction she had a greater responsibility; to make known on an international stage the injustice done to Aboriginal people. Her self-effacing demeanour and refusal to be drawn into debate won the respect of many.

At the time prime minister Keating stated: "The Games [that is, Freeman] revealed that the overall sentiment of Australians is for the reconciliation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians." And so it proved, as another iconic inclusion in the documentary, the

Walk for Reconciliation (May 2000) beneath the word "Sorry", confirmed. The 400-metres event was not only Freeman's "moment" – her chance to achieve the goal she had consistently worked towards since a youngster – but the means through which Freeman could assert the resilience of her ancestral lineage in the eyes of the world.

The invisible presences throughout her story are those ancestors whom she felt were so strongly behind her journey to success. Turning to another Australian national treasure, Stephen Page, artistic director of Bangarra, Billiet found in Bangarra dancer Lillian Banks and Page's choreography the perfect expression of "an energy or spirit" that endows Freeman's story with a special radiance and a powerful sense of chosen destiny.

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

## Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



**Where the Crawdads Sing**  
**Delia Owens**  
**Hachette, \$22.99**

This runaway bestseller – with over 4.5 million copies sold – is genre-defying. It's part whodunit, part coming of age story, part rumination on the effects of social isolation and prejudice on a young girl, with a healthy dose of nature writing thrown in.

While there are sections of beautiful writing, and an intriguing murder mystery which only resolved in the final pages, I found it too unconvincing and too reliant

on stereotypical, superficial characters to merit the hype.

It opens with the discovery of the dead body of Chase Andrews, a former high school football star and a known womanizer, and alternates between the investigation into his murder and the lonely childhood of Kya, the "Marsh Girl".

From there – to find the book remotely credible – one has to accept that that a young child can survive and raise herself alone in the swamps, surrounded by hostile townspeople and with no source of income. Then believe that this illiterate young woman learns to read and write so quickly and well (from her boyfriend, local high school student Tate during their brief relationship, after which she teaches herself) that she becomes a successful author and illustrator of books on the marsh's ecology.

Fifteen-year-old Kya undergoes a miraculous transformation – from declaring "I ain't scared", and "You don't have to say nothing", to sounding like a university educated scientist. Within months of mastering the alphabet, she describes a shell: "An ornate scallop. *Pecten ornatus*. I only see them rarely. There are many of that genus here, but that particular species naturally inhabits regions south of this latitude because these waters are too cold for them." Really?

The Good Black Folks trope is also heavy handed, with the book's three Black characters (Jumpin' Jake, his wife Mabel and the prison guard Jacob) just too earthy and big hearted to be true. While they are clearly the good guys, their speech sounds like something from *Huckleberry Finn*: ("Gotcha yo' oatmeal, Miz Clark"; "Miz Clark, ya got anotha viz'ter"; "Lawd, child, let's don't worry none about the details.")

Owens is at her best, and most believable, when describing the marsh, its wildlife and Kya's affinity with it. Unfortunately, this isn't enough to keep the story afloat for its 268 pages.

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

# Poetry of hope hits Enmore

## FESTIVALS

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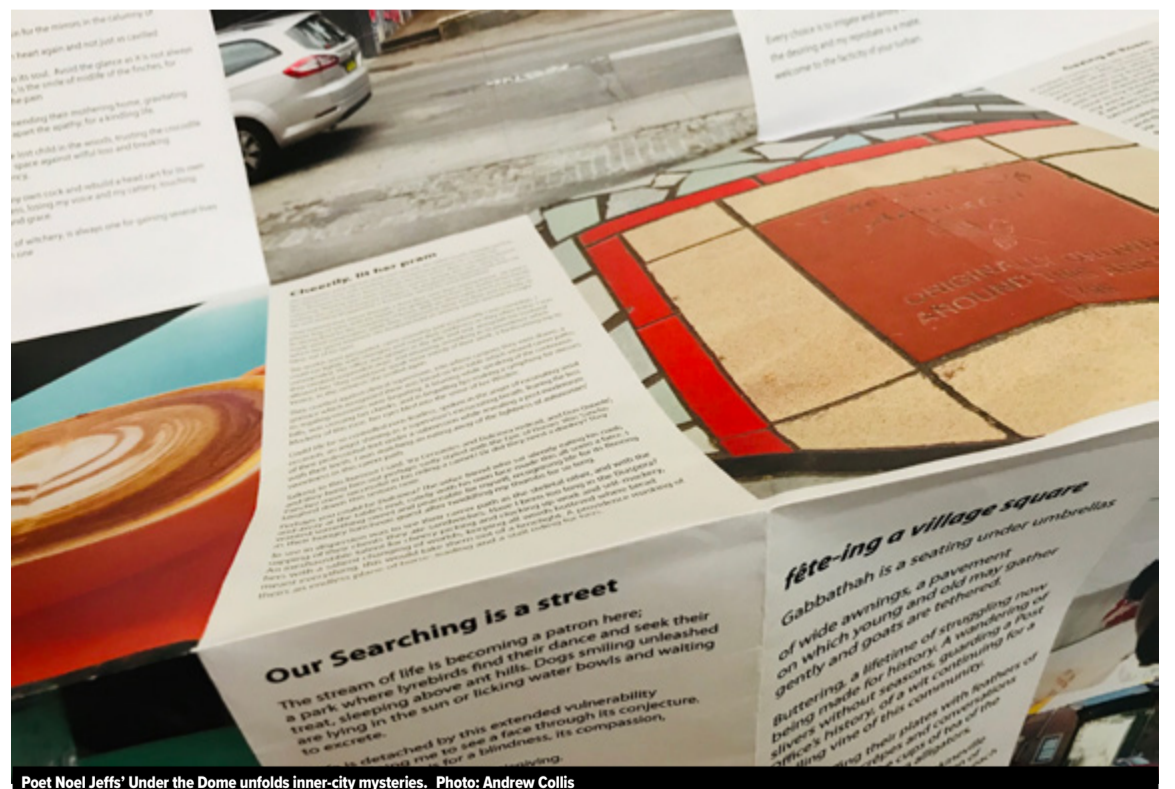
ISSUES of our times will be aired at *Words of Hope*, a live poetry reading at St Luke's Anglican Church in Enmore on October 31 at 2pm.

Join poets Norm Neill (poetry of living); Charles Freyberg (poetry of change and vulnerability), Phillip Hall (poetry of depression dreaming hope), Martin Langford (poetry of the other), Judy Ann Johnson, Paul Scully (poetry of history, poetry of existence), Mona Zahra Attamimi (poetry exploring the personal and political), Noel Jeffs (poetry from the heart and soul), Anna Kerdijk Nicholson (poetry of relocation and growth) and Colleen Keating (poetic journey with Hildegard of Bingen) at this annual event subsidised by the Inner West Council.

Jeffs' self-published *Under the Dome* is a rich collection of poems inspired by local places. "Pieces of eight I said, for a table of eight" begins: "I prayed for all my longings and its letting go into surrender; a wish to make more grace in the body than the soul." While "Jacaranda" recalls street epiphanies: "Stardust speckled through the corner of her eyes, sparkling down in the waves of her hair. She lets it down as she dances for the tune of a reggae."

"A street adoringly reveres all its jacaranda," the poet says elsewhere, seeing "Geckoes and skinks forever clinging to all the wall" ("Our searching is a street").

The unfolding nature of inner-city life, characterised by many twists and turns, sharp angles and contrasts, is neatly presented in a book which itself unfolds. The photographs are worth a mention, too – sensual images of eucalyptus



Poet Noel Jeffs' *Under the Dome* unfolds inner-city mysteries. Photo: Andrew Collis

leaves, billowing steam, ("Below my balcony door the 3801 lugs its track for a crimson defence ..."), mouth-watering café fare, mosaic tiles.

Jeffs' book will be available for purchase at the *Words of Hope* event.

There will also be lucky-door prizes kindly donated by Better Read than Dead bookshop in King Street. Gold coin donations for the Writers Benevolent Society will be gratefully received.

The venue at 11 Stanmore Road, Enmore, has limited parking (some for people with disabilities).

For more information and RSVP: [noeljeffs@hotmail.com](mailto:noeljeffs@hotmail.com)

# Local athlete relights cauldron

## SPORT

STEVE TURNER

**LAST month the Olympic cauldron was reignited in Cathy Freeman Park for the 20-year anniversary of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Two young Australian athletes, Tenayah Logan, a basketballer with the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence program, and athletics Paralympian Tamsin Colley, who competed at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, were given the honour of relighting the cauldron.**

Joining them were Olympic and Paralympic heroes Ian Thorpe and Louise Sauvage and AOC President John Coates. Golden girl Cathy Freeman also delivered a special video message from Melbourne where she was in isolation.

### Passing of a cricket great

Justin Langer, Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara were among many to pay tribute to former cricketer Dean Jones after his recent passing. Jones played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia in the 1980s and 90s. The Victorian scored 3,631 runs at an average of 46.55 with 11 centuries in 52 Tests.

Current Australian coach Justin Langer held a press conference to

express his sadness at the death of one of the greatest trailblazers in the history of cricket. "My gosh, it's a real shock," Langer said. "It was certainly an incredibly sad time when we found out. I was only talking to Jonesy recently. The more I think about it, what probably summed him up is he was so passionate about Australian cricket, he was so passionate about the game of cricket full stop."

### Tokyo Olympics update

Organisers of next year's delayed Tokyo Olympics will require coronavirus tests of foreign athletes upon arriving in Japan, but may not mandate a two-week quarantine period. Japanese athletes and other participants living in Japan would face similar requirements when travelling to training camps and competition venues under the planned measures, which were released after a meeting between the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, the Japanese government and the Tokyo metropolitan authorities.

The pandemic has cast a shadow over the viability of next year's Games, even as Japan's new prime minister Yoshihide Suga has emphasised their importance.

### Here come the Rabbitohs!

Rugby league reporter John Lanzky was thrilled with Souths'



Tenayah Logan (right) shared the honour of relighting the Olympic cauldron. Photo: Supplied

performance in the final round of the season. The 60-8 annihilation of the Roosters was the Rabbitohs' biggest ever win against their arch rivals.

Alex Johnston moved to the top of the try-scoring list with five tries, including one where he put Corey Allan over the line,

only for the fullback to wait and pass back for the winger to put the ball down. "It was a great performance, it's a great club to be a part of," coach Wayne Bennett said.

On October 4 Souths took on Newcastle at ANZ Stadium. Down by 14, the Rabbitohs went

on to score 46 unanswered points – eight tries, including two to Alex Johnston. The final result was 46-20. John Lanzky described the performance as gutsy and classy. South Sydney will now face Parramatta in the semi-final at Bankwest Stadium on October 10.

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## Volunteers' news

PAT CLARKE

Hello again, I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and getting out and about. And since October is Australia's Walking Month you might be interested in **Walktober**. This is a health awareness and fundraising event that challenges people to walk for 31 minutes a day for the 31 days in October. This sounds like a good plan if you are able to commit to it. More information can be found at [bluearth.org/walktober/](http://bluearth.org/walktober/). You can also subscribe to their Movement Matters newsletter.

### NSW Covid-safe summer plan

The state government has released a Covid-safe plan for the warmer months, including safe distancing in parks and popular open spaces, and keeping a towel length between you on beaches. Contact [dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dpie.nsw.gov.au)

### Sculpture by the Sea postponed

The usual October dates for Sculpture by the Sea will not go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, organisers say the event could start in mid-November if the NSW government grants an exemption.

### School holidays

NSW schools return for Term 4 on Monday October 12 and HSC written exams start on Tuesday October 20 and finish November 11. Good luck to all HSC entrants for 2020 and best wishes for a successful year to all Year 11 students starting Year 12 this month.

### Save the date – Friday December 11, 7pm Fundraising event for the South Sydney Herald (via Zoom)

The fundraiser will feature MC Julie McCrossin AM.  
– Musical performances by Julia Jacklin, Tim Gray (Green Hand Band).  
– Quiz with Prizes.  
– Sports and Arts Auction (with auctioneer John Lanzky).

Full details will be in our November issue. In the meantime, please put the date in your diary and plan to join us to support and celebrate the good work of the *South Sydney Herald*.

Full Zoom details next issue. If you can't access Zoom, why not get together with friends who can and make the evening a special event. Could be good for a few laughs, don't you think?

### Quotable quote

I came across this quote from George Bernard Shaw recently, and it put me in mind of a certain President of a North American country during a certain recent debate: "The secret of success is to offend the greatest number of people."

### Mental Health Month

October is Mental Health Month in NSW, which is especially relevant in these Covid times.

As always take care, look out for your friends and loved ones, keep well, wash your hands, practise physical distancing and wear a mask when needed.

Until next time, Pat Clarke.  
[volunteers@ssh.com.au](mailto:volunteers@ssh.com.au)

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