

# the South Sydney Herald

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'Message on a Bottle' by Julz Strykowski aka PluckFastic is winner of the ART from TRASH 2020 Judge's Prize. Photo: Supplied

**ART**

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

**PASSIONATE** campaigner against single-use items Julz Strykowski aka PluckFastic has been awarded the ART from TRASH 2020 Judge's Prize for her work "Message on a Bottle".

Her artwork and more than 70 others from the competition were exhibited at 107 Projects in Redfern from October 16-25. They can also be viewed in a

gallery on the Bower Reuse & Repair Centres website – as the Bower ran the competition and hosted its associated exhibitions in Redfern and Parramatta. Competition judges Grace Kingston and Meryl Rogers said promoting sustainability and reuse was exactly what ART from TRASH was about – and "Message on a Bottle" admirably fulfilled the brief. "We loved the beautiful colours, the detailed assemblage of each piece, and we love that you can hang or install

it anywhere and it would provoke a conversation about sustainability and reuse." Bower's General Manager, Guido Verbist, said the aim of ART from TRASH was to inspire artists in the community to think about working with the circular economy to create incredible art. "We want to encourage our artists to view the Bower as a potential source for materials. There is an abundance of inspiration to be found at our centres. "On a broader level, we're

hoping to educate people about the potential value of what we throw away, and to keep some of these materials away from landfill." Julz Strykowski aka PluckFastic, whose works challenge the viewer to rethink their own contribution to plastic pollution, thanked the Bower, the judges, the prize sponsors and "this wonderful community of artists. "The real winner is our environment: awareness (with some playfulness) is the key." Annette Innis won the People's Choice Award for

her artwork 'Sydney Opera House'. She made her piece from stationery, including pens, pencils and rulers, and wooden board. "As an artist I have always appreciated the beauty of the art materials themselves, and feel disappointed that they all end up in landfill," Ms Innis said. "There is so much familiarity and nostalgia in stationery, I wanted to celebrate this by using it in a new way." SSH

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[www.bower.org.au](http://www.bower.org.au)



Caption: Karah Davis. Photo: Supplied

## Youth speak out for a fairer future

**HUMAN AFFAIRS**

ISABELLE THORPE-SPRY

**REPORTER Isabelle Thorpe-Spry spoke with Weave CEO Siobhan Bryson and youth advocate Karah Davis about some positive initiatives and youth-led creative projects in South Sydney.**

As a young person myself, initiatives such as Weave Youth & Community Services' What You Don't See and Be the Change campaigns really hit close to home. When asked about what it was like to work with such a diverse group of young people Siobhan Bryson had much to say: "These are extraordinary young people who inspire me every day. They have an infectious

positivity and a passion to make the world a better place. Their vibe and energy is infectious and they show wisdom and compassion that is way beyond their years. The What You Don't See campaign is centred around youth advocacy and has given many young people the chance to speak out and tell their stories." Young person Karah Davis spoke out on a range of issues including racism and sexism in the workplace: "I feel like there's not a lot of people who are willing to give youth a platform because we are seen as too young and we don't know what we want, we don't know what our rights are, we don't know anything. So I think this platform is a really good idea to get youth talking about their problems

and what has happened to them and give them a voice and a time to change the world." Inspiring young adults like Ms Davis have taken the time to get their voices out there on some of the most important issues we as young people are facing in 2020 – racism, sexism, homelessness and a lack of education on youth rights. These are pressing issues that demand media attention and presence. The brave young people involved in such projects are helping pave the way towards a fairer future for young people, not only in Australia but around the world. SSH

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**For more information about Weave Youth & Community Services (1b Elizabeth St, Waterloo), various programs and current campaigns visit [www.weave.org.au](http://www.weave.org.au)**



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Mike Galvin (Sydney blogger and storyteller), Andie Halas (founder and chair) and Anthony Chesler (CEO) outside Thread Together's new hub in Darlinghurst. Photo: Supplied

## Clothing – the forgotten basic human right

### HUMAN AFFAIRS

AMY CHENG

**DARLINGHURST:** A Sydney company is providing vulnerable people with free new clothes and replicating the retail experience for them.

Thread Together sources new and excess clothing from fashion retailers, and partners with social service agencies and registered charities to help identify the clothing needs of people in the community.

Started in 2012 by Andie Halas, a former shareholder of Seafolly who has a background in fashion and marketing, Thread Together believes that clothing is the forgotten basic human right.

Chief executive officer Anthony Chesler said access to clothing can help people restart or rebuild their lives.

"People who are in need can look for food security and shelter, and often go without what it is on their backs as a result of taking care of the other two forms of basic needs," he said.

"We think that by providing people with not only clothing but brand new clothing, and

in doing so provide them with choice, goes a significant way in helping them to start the road to recovery, irrespective of their circumstances."

All clothing sourced by Thread Together is new.

"We always talk about those that have the luxury of choosing what they wear. We're looking to replicate that feeling because we know what it's like to wear a new pair of jeans, clean underwear and new t-shirt," Mr Chesler said.

Thread Together provides clothing via an online portal and physical stores called clothing hubs.

People can order and select clothing with gift cards, which have no value but act as identifiers to indicate which agency or charity a person came from.

"When they come into that store, they're coming in a dignified way. They're not coming saying they have a voucher or a referral to use your service; they're simply saying 'I'm coming in with a gift card to use your service'," Mr Chesler said.

Mobile vehicles with walk-in wardrobes are also sent into vulnerable communities.

This service visited Newtown Neighbourhood Centre twice

# Pemulwuy – just add people!



Pemulwuy's affordable housing is nearly complete and ready to welcome tenants. Photo: Lyn Turnbull

### SPONSORED

AMANDA FLEMING

**REDFERN:** If you have happened to walk or drive past the Pemulwuy site lately you will have seen that all the hoarding around the affordable housing has come down. The apartments are nearly complete and work on the townhouse interiors has commenced, with the installation of stylish, top-of-the-line kitchens and bathrooms.

The townhouses have been designed to suit families living in a modern urban environment, including generous-sized courtyards, which allow for an inside-outside lifestyle. Each courtyard has a laundry/

toilet for greater convenience for larger families or for visitors to the households.

We are planning to move new tenants into the affordable housing by the end of this year and we encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply to live at Pemulwuy using our Expression of Interest form online.

Work on the road, pavements and landscaping around the apartments has started and we cannot wait to see the beautiful designs come to life soon. To all the loyal gym followers – behind the scenes the Elouera Tony Mundine Gym design and fit-out is progressing well. There will be a soft launch in December and we plan to open the doors early in 2021. Located adjacent to the gym is our wonderful gallery space, which will be opened at the same time as the gym.

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



Authorised by Michael Mundine, CEO,  
Aboriginal Housing Company Limited



## Show you care – SOS for our bush friends!

Calling on local artists, old and young – drawers, writers, sculptors, bush lovers ...

Which bush animals do you most love and care about? Who do you hope will have a safe and happy summer in our Australian bush? You are invited to draw, write, paint, create your beloved bush friend. Please display it in a front window, on your letterbox or send it to someone. Take a photo of your artwork on display and post online #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: Yvonne Hocothee

in the last few months to deliver clothes and shoes to regular clients.

Thread Together also recently helped a man who had been homeless for seven years and had not bought an item of clothing for 20 years.

He expressed his gratitude in a text message.

"Your kindness has today allowed me to walk out of my front door with dignity," the message said.

"And as every first impression counts, a chance not to be immediately perceived by the public as human excrement, as I have been every day for more than seven years."

Thread Together opened a new permanent clothing hub on Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, in September, and will move some operations into a bigger warehouse in Banksmeadow in November.

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[www.threadtogether.org](http://www.threadtogether.org)



## 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)



# Responsible business platform wins Sydney Genesis

## SPONSORED

MICHAEL SPENCE

**RELIEVABLES, a responsible business management platform, has won the Sydney Genesis competition, the University of Sydney's startup accelerator program.**

Seven teams competed in the final pitch night on Friday October 30, which was held online for the first time since Genesis' inception in 2008.

Twice-yearly, the Sydney Genesis program accepts the best startups from University of Sydney alumni, students and staff to accelerate their commercial and social enterprises.

Co-founder of Relievables and graduate from the University of Sydney, Victoria Edghill, accepted the prize on behalf of the team.

With responsible business practices more important than ever before, Relievables is a platform that helps organisations track their social and environmental impact.

"I'm an avid planet and animal lover, having worked and volunteered in roles focused on social and environmental issues. These are issues that are interconnected, which is where the impetus for starting Relievables came from," Victoria said.



Seven promising startups compete in the Sydney Genesis final. Photo: Supplied

It is a service software, which connects to and uses cloud-based apps to help businesses discover, track and report on impact in the one platform.

"Building a business from the ground up has many challenges, which have only intensified since the global pandemic. Despite these challenges, this cohort of the Sydney Genesis startup program have continued to thrive and innovate and I am in awe of their creativity and tenacity," said Professor Leanne Cutcher, Head of the Discipline of Strategy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

"Over 12 years, Sydney Genesis has supported the most promising startups through mentoring from experts, creating a local and global community of entrepreneurs who support one another and celebrate each other's success."

Genesis has supported more than 1,000 startups since it was established and has an extensive number of industry mentors involved in the program.

Manager of the Genesis program, Alex Carpenter, said the final pitch night was a shining example for the next generation of leaders who are contributing to solutions to real-world problems.

"One of the reasons we run the program is to build a deeply supportive entrepreneurial community based on empowerment and respect," Alex said.

"This year's program has surely been the weirdest in our 12-year history. We've seen many startups fail, pivot and grow but in a way, that's no different any other year when entrepreneurship is a real rollercoaster."

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Authorised by Dr Michael Spence, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney.  
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## Inclusion of young people in decision-making vital

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**NEW data from a jointly commissioned report shows the economic, educational and social impacts of Covid-19 will have a significant and lasting effect on the lives and livelihoods of young people in NSW. The youth sector has stepped up to respond to the challenge.**

The Equity Economics 'A Wave of Disadvantage across NSW: Impact of the Covid-19 Recession' report commissioned by NSW peak social services bodies examines five areas impacted by disadvantage: housing, domestic violence, child protection, mental health and education.

While young people are affected across each of these domains, points of particular concern are:

- 36,085 additional young people to join existing 1 in 4 young people experiencing poor mental health across NSW with the biggest impact felt by young females. An increase in death by suicide is anticipated by 11.5 per cent, an additional 105 suicides a year.
- Mean NAPLAN scores in Year 9 maths to fall by 4 per cent in 2021 compared to 2019 results, including those with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to fall over 6 per cent.
- The unemployment rate for NSW will peak at 9.5 per cent in January 2021 with almost double that expected for young people.
- 130,000 new university graduates to enter worst

job market in decades. These graduates face less jobs, less earning potential and more competition.

Research provides compelling evidence of the societal benefits of greater participation of young people in decision-making processes that affect them. Young people and the youth sector have shown incredible resilience during this challenging year and are best placed to lead a positive recovery.

Youth Action CEO Kate Munro said that while it is known that universally young people will bear the brunt of the economic impacts of the pandemic, improving decision-making processes in NSW by utilising the expertise of young people and the youth sector's lived experience will lead to better policies benefiting all and ensuring a positive future for the state.

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## Venturers appeal to safeguard hall for community service

SCOTT LYALL

**ALEXANDRIA Scout Hall at 130 Henderson Road is a local success story. After 20 years of being vacant it was reopened by volunteers in 2016 and now houses a thriving Scout group and is available as a community resource. It has been the venue for birthday parties, board game marathons and even a wedding.**

Venturer Scouts recently

celebrated the 65th birthday of the hall with a cake decorated with tents and a campfire.

As part of the 65th birthday celebrations the Venturers are launching a public fundraising appeal to help with essential repairs to the hall.

"We are confident that, with the support of our local community, businesses and organisations, we will be able to keep the hall in use for the next 65 years," said chairman Steven Harris and group leader Sandra (Sam) Kemp.

Donations to the Alexandria Scout Hall Maintenance Appeal are tax deductible and can be made online or by EFT.

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Online: using the ticketing page at [www.trybooking.com/BKXAR](http://www.trybooking.com/BKXAR) book for one ticket and then make a donation  
EFT: to 1st Alexandria Scout Group, BSB 032036 Account 319407, and then mail details of your donation and your contact details to alexandriascouts@gmail.com  
Contact: Scott Lyall  
Alexandria Scouts, 0499 773 303, alexandriascouts@gmail.com/.



**Jenny Leong MP**  
STATE MEMBER  
FOR NEWTOWN

Our right to engage in peaceful protest forms an integral part of our democracy, but within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have witnessed those rights being significantly eroded.

While we absolutely recognise the need to adhere to public health orders to keep us safe, it's clear that our basic rights of assembly have not been given the same level of importance by this Liberal/ National government as say, attending a sporting match or going to the races.

With so many concerning things happening in NSW right now – corruption allegations in ICAC, significant cuts to income support and university funding, attacks on the trans and gender diverse communities – not to mention the impending climate emergency – it's clear that our ability to raise our voices within our democracy is as vital as ever.

Up until now, the absence of clear guidelines from NSW Health around peaceful protests during Covid has resulted in the NSW Police Force engaging in heavy-handed responses, and excessive levels of over policing in response to small gatherings of activists or well-coordinated outdoor rallies.

**We have been consistently calling on the NSW Health Minister to establish Covid Safe guidelines for peaceful protest in NSW, and we are so pleased to see that this long overdue change has now been made. Our right to peaceful protest is a crucial part of our democracy.**

Back in July, when hundreds of police turned up to the Domain to prevent a small Black Lives Matter action calling for justice for Aboriginal people who have died in custody, we called on the Premier to implement Covid Safe protest guidelines. In August, we urged the Health Minister in Question Time to commit to this action. This month, following the widely condemned actions of the NSW Police Force on the University of Sydney campus, where several students and a professor were forcibly thrown to the ground, we wrote to Minister Hazzard, again advocating for guidelines.

**We are so pleased that they have finally acted on this need – and the growing campaign to support our rights to peaceful protest – led by the group Democracy is Essential.**

Under the newly updated Public Health Orders, the number of people allowed to protest outdoors has been extended to 500, provided the organisers have a Covid-19 safety plan and attendees abide by the four-square-metre rule.

While this is great news and it is our hope that it will stop the excessive and aggressive policing of peaceful protests, it is important that it doesn't stop there.

We need to ensure that the restrictions on our rights to engage in rallies and community actions continue to be lifted at the same scale and speed as commercial activities. It is also crucial that those police who have acted violently towards members of our community under the cover of the public health orders are held to account.

We will continue to stand up for our right to engage in safe, peaceful protest – because we know that the health of our democracy and society depends on it.

*Jenny Leong*

Jenny Leong, MP for Newtown

Authorised by  
**Jenny Leong MP**  
State Member for Newtown

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## TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

### JOBSEEKER

The Morrison Government is willing to rack up a trillion dollars of debt, yet the JobSeeker payment is scheduled to return to its old base rate of \$40 a day. A snapback of JobSeeker places millions of Australians at risk of poverty and will threaten our economic recovery before it has even begun.

Linda Burney, my good friend and the Member for Barton, tried to amend Government legislation to make the minister extend the \$250 per fortnight coronavirus supplement until March.

It makes no sense that those on JobSeeker do not have the same respect shown to them and the same certainty as those people who have to rely on JobKeeper, which has been extended to March.

The case for these changes is simple: the previous rate of Newstart is too low for recipients to live a dignified and healthy life. \$40 a day is not enough to survive on let alone to have the money to travel to education or to dress appropriately for job interviews or to eat healthy meals.

Labor has long called for greater support for welfare recipients, this change is well overdue. I was proud to support Linda's Amendment in Parliament, here is text of the Amendment:

*"whilst not declining to give the bill a second reading, the House:*

*(1) notes that:*

*(a) since the start of the recession, the number of people relying on unemployment payments has doubled;*

*(b) many pensioners—including those on the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment—have faced increased costs during the pandemic; and*

*(c) the Minister has the power under the Social Security Act to extend the Coronavirus Supplement; and*

*(2) calls on the Government to:*

*(a) extend the \$250 per fortnight Coronavirus Supplement until March, in line with Jobkeeper;*

*(b) better support pensioners—including Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment recipients—facing increased costs in protecting their health because of the coronavirus pandemic; and*

*(c) announce a permanent increase to the base rate of the Jobseeker Payment".*

### ELECTORATE OFFICE

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

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

My office 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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**Celebrate Community**

**FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 7.00PM~8.30PM**

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PASSCODE 952216

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TIM GRAY (GREEN HAND BAND)  
CLAIRE PATTI-CHEHADE  
MEL QUINN  
JULIA JACKLIN

## Celebrate community – and support independent media

### LOCALS

ANDREW COLLIS

**THE South Sydney Herald (SSH) is one of just a few independent community newspapers in Sydney. Established in 2002, the paper is published monthly (in print and online) thanks to more than 100 volunteer writers, visual artists, editors and distributors – and the ongoing commitment of South Sydney Uniting Church in Waterloo. We are also deeply grateful to advertisers and sponsors.**

On Friday December 11, the SSH will host a virtual fundraiser, emceed by Julie McCrossin AM, with the aim of raising \$5,000 toward production costs for this year.

The event will be a telethon-style fundraiser,

with opportunities to interact and donate. The program will include a trivia quiz (plus prizes), an art and sports memorabilia auction (with auctioneer John Lanzky), interviews and musical performances.

Aunty Norma Ingram will welcome us to country (and invite acknowledgement of Indigenous sovereignty throughout many countries). Gumbaynggir-Wiradjuri artist Tim Gray (songwriter, keyboard player and vocalist with Redfern-based reggae fusion group Green Hand Band) will open the show, with performances by operatic, recital and oratorio soprano Claire Patti-Chehade, and singer, composer and pianist Mel Quinn.

Ms Quinn says: "Music is the universal language of the soul. Without music and the creative arts, we lose a fundamental component of human expression. Therefore, it is essential we

protect, cherish, and celebrate the arts as fervently as we can."

Claire Patti-Chehade, a member of the church council at South Sydney Uniting, says: "I am honoured to be using my voice for this event to fundraise for the paper, so that it may continue to tell the stories of South Sydney and its people."

Singer-songwriter Julia Jacklin will also perform. Jacklin has just released two new songs for the Sub Pop Single Club – "to Perth, before the border closes" and "CRY". Her most recent album, *Crushing* (2019), has garnered critical acclaim.

Participants can join via Zoom – from various community locations. We'd love to give a shout-out to your community group. Please let us know if you will attend by emailing [editor@ssh.com.au](mailto:editor@ssh.com.au).  
**Celebrate Community, December 11, 7pm-8.30pm – join via Zoom ID 896 4678 9091, passcode 952216.**

## Human services plan for Waterloo

### URBAN DEVELOPMENT

GEOFF TURNBULL

#### More Waterloo South documents

Council has released some more LAHC masterplan studies. Included in the October release are studies on demographics, transport, local retail and services. The climate change adaptation report and the ecologically sustainable development study are also now public.

The population and demographic study raises more questions than it answers. It focuses on projecting the private makeup of the redevelopment without similar information on the future makeup of public housing, which is also changing because of government allocation policies.

The demographic study also provides some clues about relocation numbers

and available housing stock during redevelopment. It shows the existing 749 public housing properties not all replaced until 2032 with a maximum decrease of 312 social housing properties in 2027. LAHC says it plans to deliver 151 extra social housing dwellings, so this may offset the decrease depending on the timing. The final housing numbers will depend on the planning controls Council is expected to consider as early as this month.

If Council meets its November deadline, all documents would become public prior to the November 9 Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee meeting and then go to Central Sydney Planning Committee on November 12 and a Council meeting on November 16. Members of the public can register to speak at Council committee meetings for three minutes.

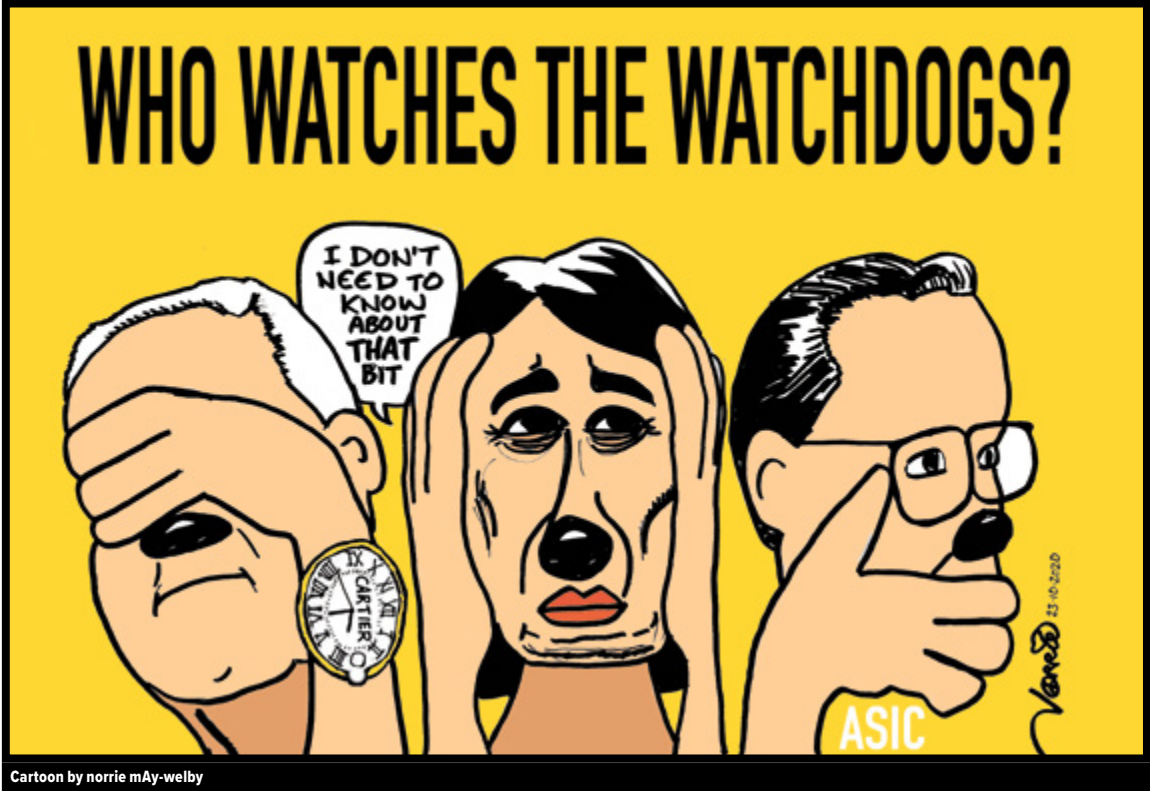
#### Waterloo human services

To honour earlier undertakings to produce a Waterloo human services plan to sit alongside the redevelopment plan, DCJ District has received funding to undertake work on human service improvements in Waterloo. Discussions are underway to set up a committee to steer this work, which will involve government, NGO and community representatives. Human services will be a major focus around Waterloo in 2021.

REDWatch, Counterpoint and Inner Sydney Voice have released a background briefing paper to help everyone understand the work that has been undertaken and what these NGOs expect from any human services mechanism. You can find the paper on the REDWatch website.

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





Cartoon by norrie mAy-welby

# The world’s best kept secret – and how to celebrate it

## EDITORIAL

CATH TAYLOR

**GLOBAL poverty has halved over the past 30 years and virtually nobody is cheering.**

Band Aid, Bono and that 40 Hour Famine you did as a kid? All part of the story, but also driven by massive economic shifts in places like China and India, along with advances in medicine and technology. The end result? *Since 1990, the number of people living in extreme poverty, according to the World Bank’s \$1.25-a-day measure, has reduced from 1.9 billion to 840 million people.* It’s completely incredible and also the world’s best kept secret – only one in 100 of us, globally, know about it. How is it possible we’ve missed

the good news? Probably because our narratives around poverty are incredibly well entrenched, nailed deeper by the general sense that the world is full of suffering. Places like Africa, we’ve been led to believe, are a leaky bucket. Aid, we’re told, doesn’t reach the people it should – and we’re paying way too much for it anyway. An annual poll by the Lowy Institute found that most Australians think we devote too much of the national budget to foreign aid – which is fair enough – but how much do they think we actually give? Well, the average Australian believes 14 per cent of the federal budget is devoted to overseas aid and say the number should be more like 10 per cent. That’s crazy. In reality, the number is 0.8 per cent, 17 times less than the average person imagines.

Our collective lack of knowledge means we’re inclined to be more cynical about the future and also far less generous. Imagine what might be achieved if we only knew how well we’ve done and the incredible bang we get for our buck? There are some epic milestones worth celebrating as we consider just how far the development dollar goes. Not only has extreme poverty been cut in half within a generation; both the maternal mortality rate and proportion of people without access to clean water have also halved, saving millions of lives. Polio has been virtually eradicated, and more people are able to attend school than at any other time in human history. But of course, behind the numbers are faces, and right now they’re showing a huge

# Who are you?

## FAITH

PAMELA BRIGGS

**A quote from author Richard Rohr says: “To become more present, we must reach into a deep inner spaciousness.”**

Because we are human, inevitably we are inclined to “judge” others through the filter of our own personality, which sometimes leads to misunderstandings. Our values, attitudes, beliefs and faith tend to be affected by our parentage, family, society, education and much more. One way to expand our inner spaciousness is to explore these influences, especially those which are so much a part of us that we are not even conscious of them. We are born, grow and are shaped and imprinted. Some of the imprints were unspoken and these are particularly powerful. Unless we go looking we remain unaware of them, but they’re there all the same! In early childhood as we

take in air to breathe, without thinking about it, we absorb attitudes and values, healthy or not so healthy. We decide early whether life is good and exciting, to be explored, or if the world is bad and dangerous, to be feared. We decide that, on the whole, people are kind and loving or not to be trusted, cruel. Our spiritual beliefs begin to be shaped before we can even pronounce the word. We are taken to a mosque, temple or church or none of these. Pausing and taking time to wonder, “Why do I ...?” can be helpful and freeing. As we gradually discover the origins of these influences and identify them, we can look at them and choose whether (though they may have been right in our past) they are still relevant for us today. We can then decide whether we want to retain them and, if we don’t, let them go. To quote from Victor Frankl: “Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.” SSH

amount of strain. The World Bank estimates that for the first time in 20 years, our progress on poverty is set to go backwards in 2021, with 88 to 115 million people pushed back into extreme poverty by the Covid-19 pandemic. That’s an absolutely heartbreaking amount of hard work undone virtually overnight.

**How do we help prevent it from happening? Three ideas this Christmas**

**1. Get educated about the facts, and then share them.** One of the major impediments to progress is belief!

**2. Sign the ENDCOVIDFORALL petition at [www.unitingworld.org.au/endcovidforall/](http://www.unitingworld.org.au/endcovidforall/).** It asks the Australian Government to provide vital support to vulnerable nations during the Covid-19 crisis.

**3. Commit to one person with one gift:** share your optimism for a better world with a loved one by grabbing them a card from UnitingWorld’s Everything in Common Gift Catalogue at [www.everythingincommon.com/](http://www.everythingincommon.com/). SSH

**UnitingWorld is the international partnership and development agency of the Uniting Church in Australia. Find out more at [www.unitingworld.org.au/](http://www.unitingworld.org.au/).**

# Coffee waste to fuel a circular economy

## ENVIRONMENT

AMY CHENG

**CHIPPENDALE:** Every year, Australians brew billions of cups of coffee, resulting in waste that ends up in landfill, but one social enterprise based in Chippendale is working to change that.

Kua, a not-for-profit company, recycles spent coffee grounds, the leftovers from when a coffee bean is ground and discarded. Founded by two engineering students, Darcy Small and Brody Smith, Kua adopts a sharing and lending model. It delivers specialty Ugandan-grown coffee beans in reusable cannisters to companies in Sydney, who collect their spent coffee grounds into the cannisters and return them to Kua. This is then distributed to local community gardens. Spent coffee grounds can be

used to create many products, including body scrubs, substrate to grow mushrooms, air fresheners and even coffee cups. Mr Small and Mr Smith have always had a big interest in sustainability. When they launched Kua in 2019, this was at the forefront of their plans. “If you offer an entirely sustainable solution to begin with, it’s easier for people to engage, rather than starting with compostable packaging and try to then introduce reusables,” Mr Small said. Moving towards a zero-waste society is important, according to Mr Small, because consumers have become “completely disconnected” from the environmental impact of their consumptions. “When you put something in the bin, you don’t see where it ends up. When you buy something from the supermarket, you’ve got no ability to conceptualise the carbon



emissions or where it came from, and I think that disconnect is what allows big environmental problems to keep getting worse,” he said. “Zero waste is a really easy way for people to quantify their

impact, and if we can move towards zero waste, then we’re going to be able to consume in a way that doesn’t harm our natural ecosystems and contribute to climate change.”

Kua also donates 100 per cent of its profits to farmers in Uganda to help build resilience to climate change into their farms. Through partnering with ECOTRUST, farmers can plant native trees to sequester carbon and build terraced waterways. Kua is currently looking to run a series of workshops on composting to help its consumers close the loop on their own waste. It is also working on its measurement and reporting, with the goal of digitally logging every customer’s impact, such as the amount of cannisters they have used. SSH

**[www.kuacoffee.co](http://www.kuacoffee.co)**

**Workplaces can make a genuine commitment to corporate social responsibility by joining forces with Kua. Check out its zero waste in-office service providing roasted coffee fortnightly and immersive sustainability workshops with virtual reality tours of Uganda. Individuals can also purchase the “world-positive” coffee beans for home.**



The Review

Arts & Culture in  
Your Neighbourhood



SDC Company Dancer Chloe Leong will make her choreographic debut at Carriageworks in November. Photo: Pedro Greig

Chloe’s choreography comes alive at Carriageworks

THEATRE

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

CHLOE Leong’s choreographic debut at Carriageworks is part of *New Breed*, which features works by four emerging choreographers. It’s also the first time the Sydney Dance Company (SDC) will perform live on stage in 2020.

**What happened when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Sydney?**  
We were in the midst of getting the first season of SDC performances for 2020 on stage when Covid-19 unfolded. We were thinking, “No, we’ll stage it. See what happens.”

Then we had to go into lockdown.  
**How did the SDC respond?**  
Within a week the company came back to us and said, “We’ve initiated the Virtual Studio. We need everyone to help where they can. Chloe, can you teach a body conditioning class?” From there it just blossomed.

**Where did you teach and rehearse?**  
My neighbours below my apartment in Bellevue Hill must really dislike me because every morning I’d be pushing my dining room table across the wooden floor and clearing space. I put my laptop on the table and off I went.

**How different has it been?**  
As dancers we’re normally at the studio from nine until six, constantly in contact with one another and being physical throughout the day. We usually spend four months in Sydney and the rest of the time performing around Australia and internationally – so those plans fell through! Swimming at sunrise kept me sane. I also adopted Dumpling, the best cat in the world.  
**SDC decided to make dance accessible through film. Which films are you in?**  
I’m in *Cuatro 4* and *#5 Wagga Wagga* (for *Dance Locale*), which we filmed on Wiradjuri Country – welcomed by an elder. In the

local Indigenous language Wagga Wagga means a place of dance and celebration. In fact, Luke Hayward performs his solo where the Corroboree participants dance. It was a special experience.  
**What can we expect from your *New Breed* work?**  
My theme is nostalgia which is quite poignant given that the pandemic has seen so many people turn inward thinking, “I just want things to go back to the way they were.” I use Davide Di Giovanni and Luke Hayward and all the elements of dance to create an atmosphere that’s not chaotic or overwhelming to the senses. How I like to move.

**Is the work socially distanced?**  
Choreographing my first work stretched me out of my comfort zone but this Covid-safe requirement ripped away my safety net and flung me out to sea! I mean: How do you find intimacy without contact? You’ve got to imagine another way.  
**How will it feel to be back in the theatre?**  
Each night will be a wonderful celebration of being “home”, and having the chance to perform again is just incredible.  
*New Breed* is at Carriageworks from November 26 to December 12.

Just making faces

ART

CATHERINE SKIPPER

AN important condition of the Archibald Prize is that the portrait of an individual “distinguished in the arts, letters, science or politics” has to be painted within the 12 months leading up to the award ceremony. In practice, this condition should ensure that the portraits are of well-known people of contemporary interest and acknowledged excellence.  
One could quibble that some subjects of the winning portraits, while their excellence in their particular field is acknowledged, for instance, Lindy Lee, the subject of Tony Costa’s 2019 winning portrait, are not well known outside

it. As Archibald also laid down the condition that the prize should be adjudicated by a Board of Trustees rather than drawn from various professions associated with the arts it seems clear that he intended the portraits to reflect the larger society rather than a particular segment.  
Thankfully, the present finalists and prizewinning portrait do reflect one of this year’s two major concerns, black lives and Covid-19. And thankfully, the prizewinning portrait is of Adam Goodes, an Indigenous sportsman not only known far and wide for taking a stand against racism but also for his exemplary conduct in the debate that ensued. Entitled ‘Stand strong for who you are’, the portrait is a lively and balanced display of vignettes, including Goodes’s famous war dance and a re-enactment of Nicky Winmar’s iconic gesture.



Further, the artist Vincent Namatjira, who is known for his witty and subversive portraits critiquing colonialism, and who has been a finalist in previous years, is the great-grandson of well-known and recently revalued artist Albert Namatjira. His reputation undermined by the perception that his style endorsed European proprietorship, Albert Namatjira’s landscapes have come to be understood as coded expressions of

traditional sites and sacred knowledge.  
In addition to getting the Prize right, the list of finalists included several Indigenous artists whose vibrant and diverse works act as a corrective to the public’s perception of Indigenous art as necessarily dots and emu tracks.  
Overall, there is much to enjoy, reflect on and wonder at in the 55 portraits displayed – and one portrait may just appeal as a painting. In my case it was Richard Lewer’s portrait of Liz Laverty described by the artist “as a warm, passionate, humble woman”. He gets it across.  
**The finalists for the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes, and for Young Archie, a competition for 5- to 18-year-olds are on display at the NSW Art Gallery until January 10, 2021.**



# The Reviews

## Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



**Wicked Sisters**  
**Writer: Alma de Groen**  
**Director: Nadia Tass**  
**Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre**  
**Until December 12**

A delightfully middle-aged Di Adams plays the role of Hester in the Griffin production *Wicked Sisters*. The play sets the lives and relationships of four middle-aged women, Meridee, Judith, Lydia and Hester, against a computer created by Meridee's deceased husband Alec Hobbes. A social Darwinist (without the humaneness of Darwin) and AI researcher, Hobbes believed in a ruthlessly competitive universe. After his death, the computer continues to work in Meridee's sitting room evolving strategies for artificial lifeforms so that they can survive. The women visit the bereaved and isolated Meridee and they are looking forward to a weekend of reminiscing and wine. But as Adams points out, their witty camaraderie disintegrates as their tongues loosen and each reveal secrets they otherwise might never have spoken of, and a desire to avenge past hurts.

To an extent, Adam observes, what is happening on the computer screen is being “mirrored in the room”. Hester is, as Adams says, “a fascinating, tricky character who stirs things up” – “and there is plenty to stir up”, she adds. While Meridee has tiptoed around her extremely controlling husband all her married life, and Judith and Lydia look to men for validation, Hester is self-sufficient and an unapologetic feminist. She remains focussed as she has come with an agenda but she is also in for some surprises. The audience, says Adams, has expectations of Hester but will, or can, she fulfil them? The influence of the narcissistic autocratic Alec looms large over the lives of the women. Adams describes him as a man “totally lacking in empathy” which brings to mind the US elections and the general dominance of politics at present by dictatorial men. Despite, or because of, women's rights groups, “the Boys' Club seems stronger than ever”, Adams says. Does *Wicked Women* offer a way forward? It offers entertainment: farcical moments, intense moments, and moments that provoke a deep response. You will need to see the play and decide for yourself. But as a play written for four very diverse middle-aged women it was, and still is revolutionary. The dynamic Adams is well aware of the paucity of plays that offer talented, spirited and professional older women the opportunity to continue to pursue their vocation.

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

## Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



**Borat Subsequent Moviefilm**  
**Director: Jason Woliner**  
**Starring: Sacha Baron Cohen, Maria Bakalova**  
**Genre: Niice**

My enjoyment of Sacha Baron Cohen's work has nothing to do with us sharing a surname or our similarly generous amounts of body hair. I am amused by him because in everything he does he tiptoes along the border of stupid, witty, absurd, hilarious, politically woke, politically incorrect and silly. It's a tough ask and one he doesn't always pull off. But that's okay. He's trying to shine mirrors and shine lights and like all good comedians the message is as important as the way it's delivered. In *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm: Delivery of Prodigious Bribe to American Regime for Make Benefit Once Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*, the original title which makes it much easier for me to reach my 250-word limit, Cohen (not me) is once again in the USA. The storyline is irrelevant. The movie is essentially a series of skits and pranks aimed at easy-target right-wing Trump-supporting Americans in an effort to demonstrate their ignorance. Some of it works, some of it doesn't. Some of the Americans fall for

the Borat shtick and so the film ultimately is a triumph of selective editing. That's not to take away from some genuinely funny and frightening moments and the sheer cringe value of seeing Rudy Giuliani in action, for want of a better euphemism. If you were a fan of *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* (2006) and like your movie reviews to reach their word limit then you will really

Rating: үш жүлдыз

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

## Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



**The Beauty in Breaking**  
**Michelle Harper**  
**Penguin, \$44.99**

It would be hard to find a more apt example of a wounded healer than Michelle Harper, whose recent memoir *The Beauty in Breaking* has met with wide critical acclaim. Harper is a Black American doctor with a specialty in emergency medicine. She grew up as the child of professional parents in a wealthy neighbourhood of Washington DC. Her neighbourhood was safe; her home was not. Harper's father was abusive, and life at home was fraught with violence and its constant threat.

At age seven, however, she has a vision of a visit from a guardian angel, who assures her that she will survive, thrive, and come to heal others. Driving her older brother to the local hospital emergency room after one of his many confrontations with their father, the teenage Harper is enthralled by what she sees. Highly intelligent and determined, she gets into Harvard and then medical school, and realises her dream of working with the stream of broken people who present to urban America's emergency departments. *The Beauty in Breaking* is a beautifully written and thoughtful memoir. The author moves between her childhood and the daily dramas of her hospital work, interspersed with deep insights into pain, trauma, healing, forgiveness and love. The nature of emergency medicine means that many patient encounters are fleeting, but Harper describes some profound connections as well as disturbing encounters with racism, sexism, hopelessness and, of course, death. A frantic but unsuccessful attempt to resuscitate a week-old baby finally leaves Harper, who has borne her personal and professional trauma with stoicism, in tears. It also leads her to a realisation: “We had all been broken in that moment – broken open by shock and grief and anger and fear. I didn't know how or when, but this opening could lead to healing.” *The Beauty in Breaking* is, at times, harrowing and heartbreaking, but it is ultimately a book about hope and healing. As the author says in her Epilogue: “By healing ourselves, we heal each other. By healing each other, we heal ourselves.”

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

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# Lapping it up

## SPORT

STEVE TURNER

THIS year marks 40 years since Redfern resident and Aussie swimming icon Mark Tonelli and his team won gold in the 4x100-metre medley relay at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Tonelli recently reflected on the achievement. "Although we were ranked seventh out of the 13 competing teams, we were nicknamed the Quietly Confident Quartet. Neil Brooks swam the freestyle, Peter Evans the breaststroke, Mark Kerry the backstroke and I swam the butterfly."

Sheer determination and self-belief saw them swim outstanding individual times to take the gold medal. When asked if he enjoyed the medley format, Tonelli quipped, "Yes, it's great ... but someone always has to swim the darn butterfly! Not that the backstroke is much better because you never know where you are going!"

Since those halcyon days Tonelli has been a keynote speaker on many occasions at sporting functions and has presented a real estate show on Foxtel.

He is a proud Redfern resident and is equally proud about the



Mark Tonelli. Photo: Supplied

variety of swimming facilities in the local area. "It's great that we have a choice of pools within walking distance. It would also be great to see increased development of talented Indigenous and non-Indigenous young swimmers."

### Pakistani pocket rocket

Muhammad Ikram, 32, takes aim, flexes his neck and strikes with his chin, sending the cue ball across the table and sinking his shot in a corner pocket. Born without arms, Ikram has nevertheless mastered the game of snooker.

In Samundri, a rural town in Punjab province, Ikram has spent eight years pushing a cue

ball around with his chin, and now he can take on anyone.

Mian Usman Ahmed, co-owner of Cuemaster Snooker Club, says Ikram has won several prizes in local tournaments over the past two years. "Years ago he would come to the club and ask that he be allowed to play. We would look at him and feel he was unable to," Ahmed said.

"I have met very good snooker players who tell me I am a real genius, and that I can bring great fame to Pakistan," Ikram said.

One of nine born into a poor family, Ikram was uneducated and deprived as a child. His main pastime was watching people play snooker, a game no one dreamed he could ever play. He does not remember how the idea struck him, but somewhere along the line, he started practising in secret.

Ikram says people appreciate his undaunted spirit. He hopes one day, with government help, to play at the international level.

### Souths do fans proud

Rugby league reporter John Lanzky thanks the mighty Rabbitohs for a great season. He says Souths has some very good young players, and next season will go all the way! Congratulations to Cody Walker and Damien Cook for NSW Blues selection.

## Volunteers' news

PAT CLARKE

Hello and welcome to November, and month nine\* of the Pandemic, Plague, or whatever comes to mind. It seems by world standards our public and individual restrictions have been mostly successful, despite a few hitches along the way. (\*first case confirmed on January 25, 2020).

Thank goodness some of our loved venues, theatres, recital halls and others are open for business, even if with physical distance restrictions. I went to my first live recital in so many months with the Australian Piano Quartet last week (as a trio of piano, viola and cello) and it was magical.

### Museum of Contemporary Art – Lindy Lee, Moon in a Dew Drop

Until February 21, 2021 – Free entry. The MCA's summer blockbuster is some 70 works by Australian Chinese artist Lindy Lee, and this year it is free. The works range from early photocopy artworks and wax paintings to large-scale installations and sculptures. The eye-catching stainless steel sculpture, 'Secret World of a Starlight Ember' at the Circular Quay entrance shimmers and glimmers in the changing light. I loved Lindy Lee's works and will certainly make another visit. Contact [www.mca.com.au/](http://www.mca.com.au/).

### November – November 1-30, 2020

This is an annual month-long celebration of the moustache to highlight men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and

depression in men. Organised by the Movember Foundation, you can get more information at [www.au.movember.com/](http://www.au.movember.com/).

### Lung Health Awareness Month – November 1-30, 2020

This month is used to promote lung health and focus on the impact of lung disease in the Australian community. Lung diseases take many forms, including asthma, bronchitis, mesothelioma, tuberculosis and lung cancers. Lots of information on lung health is available at [www.lungfoundation.com.au/](http://www.lungfoundation.com.au/).

### Cana Farm Christmas Cakes

This is my annual reminder that Cana Farm Christmas Cakes at a cost of \$28.50 and other goodies are available in time for Christmas. Take the worry out of gift giving and check out all the gorgeous goodies on offer, as well as helping a worthy charity: [www.canafarm.com.au](http://www.canafarm.com.au) or 0478 595 725.

### Don't forget our SSH Celebrate Community virtual fundraiser

Friday December 11 from 7pm-8.30pm. More details on page 4 and online.

### The first Tuesday in November

Not only is this the day of the Melbourne Cup (since 1861), by the time this issue is published, the outcome of the US presidential election will be known. All eyes will be on America, with hopes for a peaceful outcome.

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

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