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New mural celebrates local connections

ART

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

DARLINGTON: Annandale-based artist Sharon Billinge has been collaborating with Darlington and Redfern locals to create a vibrant new mural to be completed in early May.

It's her most satisfying project to date, she says, partly due to its "serendipitous nature" but also because of all the hurdles she's had to overcome – like working through Covid, finding a new wall when the first site became untenable, getting the development application approved, battling days of torrential rain when she should have been painting, and suffering a death in her family while racing to complete the mural on time.

In 2020, Covid threw Billinge a curve ball. Like many artists whose work is community based and involves face-to-face contact, many of her projects were put on hold.

At this critical point, she received funding for the mural project from the Sydney City Council Creative Fellowships Fund, established last year to help keep arts and creative professionals working during the pandemic.

Billinge's grant application was based on her trying to find ways of connecting to community, that wouldn't be face-to-face and would therefore be Covid-safe.

"It was serendipitous to get a contact for a person at Sydney Uni who had a huge history of the area," Billinge says. "That was it then, it all opened up like a box."

Billinge got to know Auntie Beryl Van-Oploo and the women who've lived for 20 years in the house where the new mural is now situated. She also met one of their neighbours, an Indigenous artist* who helped her with scaffolding and other storage – "another beautiful part of the project, just to get to know him".

The final design of Darlington Incorporated pays tribute to the range of youth support and education available in the suburb including The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre, Sydney University and Yaama Dhiyaan hospitality training college, previously located across the road from the mural site.

It does this by featuring three main portraits. Auntie Beryl Van-Oploo who set up the hospitality courses that operated out of Yaama Dhiyaan and which specialised in Indigenous culture and cuisine, and

who currently works at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence; Dame Marie Bashir former Chancellor of Sydney University and Governor of New South Wales; and students from The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre, which provides a range of programs for children, young people and families.

Billinge ran a workshop with some students from The Settlement to design personal symbols to be included in the work.

"A large part of my practice is trying to give people ownership of public space," she explains.

"As part of that, I wanted to be able to give these kids at The Settlement the chance to walk past part of the neighbourhood and say, 'That's my idea. That's what I did. And someone thought it was important enough to put there.' So, there'll be lots of those symbols hidden in the mural."

Much of Billinge's work is female-based and disrupts the "vacuous, staring-off-into-space, female faces" found in many murals. Her aim is to put character back into women's portraits – showing women "in possession of themselves" and not subject to the male gaze.

Auntie Beryl and Dame Marie Bashir embody such self-assurance as do the three girls



Work in progress for Darlington Incorporated – a new mural on Wilson Street by artist Sharon Billinge. Photo: Lord Mayor Clover Moore via Facebook

from The Settlement featured.

Working on the mural has been a great experience for Billinge because the Darlington community is so genuine, vocal and inquisitive.

In these last few weeks, as Billinge has been putting the finishing touches on the mural, the weather has been perfect.

For the women who let her use their wall she has incorporated an image of their beloved westie terrier, Billy, who is the

true boss of their house.

At 8am each morning a small rainbow has appeared on the wall above Auntie Beryl's head. Is it a sign that the mural was meant to be, and that it will be called "Auntie Beryl's mural" from here on in? Let's see.

The launch of Darlington Incorporated is at 372 Wilson Street, Darlington, on May 8 at 1pm along with an art exhibition by *Mark Trehwella.

Everyone can sing!

LOCALS

ANDREW COLLIS

WITH One Voice (WOV) Redfern-Waterloo launched in 2019. Last month, after a 12-month Covid-induced hiatus, the community choir resumed in-person weekly rehearsals at Redfern Town Hall. A joyous occasion.

Choir co-ordinator Robin Miles said: "Pre-Covid, we had an average of 35 people attending our rehearsals each week – from the local community, the inner city and inner west – and a membership of 75.

"Ninety per cent of our members are socially disadvantaged or socially isolated and have lived experiences of trauma, violence, abuse, poverty and homelessness."

In 2020, WOV Redfern-Waterloo maintained connection among members via Zoom catch-up sessions and a weekly live stream of songs by conductor Mary Kiani. Thanks to a grant from the City of Sydney and assistance from Counterpoint Community Services, choir members were offered counselling, IT support and singing lessons (remote and face-to-face).

"Social interaction and singing have clear positive benefits



Mary, Bettina and Andrew enjoy rehearsals at Redfern Town Hall. Photo: Andrew Collis

to people's health outcomes and wellbeing and we want our members to stay well and connected," Ms Miles said.

Choir member Michael said: "For many years I believed I couldn't hold a note. That now has changed for me. Before, I was

embarrassed to sing, but the choir has enabled me to learn how to sing. I am getting better as each week goes on, even the online support has been great for me."

Fellow member Diane really missed singing each Monday night. "I felt as though something

I truly love was missing and I suffered for it," she said. "When the marvellous Mary contacted me about a lesson I immediately felt the excitement in my heart, and that one lesson has made such a difference to me. Mary is an inspiration. She always believes in me and gives me the courage to keep practising to improve my singing."

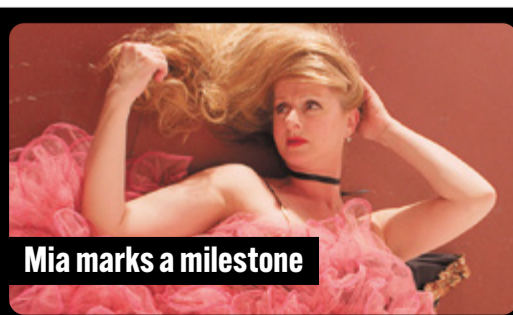
WOV Redfern-Waterloo is grateful for the ongoing sponsorship of Launch Recruitment and the support of key donor Rebecca Wallace and her team.

The choir rehearses at Redfern Town Hall on Monday nights, from 5.30 to 7pm.

Enquiries welcome. Contact Robin Miles: robin@socialequityworks.com www.facebook.com/WOVRedfern



Celina aids bushfire survivors



Mia marks a milestone



Lofty lifts off



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TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

YOUTH SURVEY

Young people are affected by decisions in every part of government. Labor wants young people to have a real say in Australia's future.

We want to hear about your priorities and the solutions you want to see. That's why we have created an online space dedicated to these important conversations. Scan the QR code below to be taken to our survey. At the end of the survey there will be an opportunity to sign-up to continue the conversation with key Labor policy makers.



ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VETERAN SUICIDES

The Government has announced that it will recommend to the Governor-General the establishment of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The Royal Commission will examine the systemic issues, past deaths by suicide of Australian Defence Force members and veterans, and the experience of members and veterans who may continue to be at risk of suicide.

The Royal Commission needs to be fully independent and have strong and broad Terms of Reference.

It needs to look at the role of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and ex-service organisations in defence and veteran suicides, and the impact on defence and veteran families.

The Commissioners appointed must be of the right standing and be independent from the ADF in order to ensure trust and confidence in this process.

We encourage veterans and families, and everyone in the defence and veteran communities to provide feedback on the Terms of Reference and have their say.

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

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Reuse, recycle - care for community

LOCALS

MELINDA KEARNS

WATERLOO: At the base of the Turanga building at 1 Phillip St, a busy bustle of community service takes place every Friday morning under the helpful eye of volunteers Naomi, Di and Anne.

The Waterloo Recycling Workshop, serving the local community since 2008, is run by Counterpoint Community Services (with thanks to Housing NSW for use of the garage) and provides a range of valuable services.

All shelving and fixtures were built from recycled timber by John English, who had a mission to fix and repurpose things for the community, giving furniture new life by crafting a new leg for a table or a chair when it was required rather than sending the item to the tip.

The space has grown since it began, with Naomi sharing the same belief in fixing and reusing everything she can. She "hates waste" and "wants to stop things going to landfill".

The garage is a treasure trove of objects, providing for people's needs with furnishings, towels, blankets, kitchenware and even entertainment with some books and DVDs. All objects are donated or are picked up off the streets.

Brian, who had just moved into the area, was looking for some new things for his flat, whereas Maggie, living in Turanga for 44 years, had used the Workshop to source many of the objects in her home, which she had renovated. Maggie used upholstery samples that she found in the workshop as the basis for a blanket, showing ingenuity and creativity.

The garage is filled to overflowing with expressions of care for the community. Anne, Di and Naomi help their visitors and customers find the things they need and suggest things they might like.



Brian purchased some new things for his flat. Photo: Melinda Kearns

The Workshop also serves as a place of social outreach, so that the people who live in the surrounding buildings can meet and socialise safely. Naomi, Di and Anne know the locals who visit them regularly and show interest in their lives, offering help and a sense of community.

The Workshop has commemorated the most important times in people's lives, both of sadness and celebration. When local Maggie turned 80, the Workshop organised a party onsite replete with cake, candles, music and red carpet. Some years back, it also hosted a memorial service in the community room at the Matavai building for one member of the community who hadn't had a funeral.

The Waterloo Recycling Workshop accepts donations on Friday mornings from 8.30am to 11.30am excluding clothing, white goods and electrical. If you have something that someone else could use, something you no longer need, please pass it on to the Workshop, where it will live again through the care of Naomi, Di and Anne to enrich someone else's life.

For more information phone Naomi on 0407 576 098.

Investment needed in Aboriginal and social housing

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

THE Redfern Waterloo Aboriginal Affordable Housing Campaign has renewed its call for Aboriginal housing and employment in Waterloo South saying the government has "no commitment to affordable housing for the Aboriginal community that has long called this area home".

The campaign is asking people to head to its website, sign its petition, call your local MP and follow the campaign on Facebook and Instagram for messages about the campaign from local MPs and organisations. In short, they want everyone to support the push to keep Aboriginal people in Redfern and Waterloo.

Council recently met with some resident groups to explain its planning role for LAHC sites in Waterloo, Eveleigh and Glebe. Glebe community groups were very vocal about the impacts, asking why these government sites are delivering private housing on government land when there is a great need for social and affordable housing.

In the ten years to 2013, NSW sold on average 2.5 public housing units a day to keep LAHC running. Communities Plus replaced that with renewal, selling off 70 per cent of redevelopments. To increase social housing, government has to rediscover investing directly in new social and affordable housing rather than expecting a market-driven solution to solve market failures.

This page is sponsored by AC Law Group in memory of Trevor Davies, the *South Sydney Herald's* founding editor and a friend to all in the community.

AC Law Group - your criminal lawyers contactable 24/7 on 8815 8167 or visit www.aclawgroup.com.au (AC Law Group has no editorial influence on the content of this page).



Uniting urges 'bold' reform of drug laws

HEALTH

CATHERINE DEMAYO

EMMA Maiden of Uniting contends that "our current drug laws are harsh, punitive, judgemental, discriminatory, isolating, out-dated and, dare I say, un-Christian".

Ms Maiden is Uniting's Head of Advocacy and Media: Mission, Communities and Social Impact. She was speaking at a forum organised by Engadine Uniting Church in April.

At the forum, the Hon. Mark Speakman, NSW Attorney General, provided an update on possibilities for drug law reform currently before Cabinet. (Despite setting an initial deadline of a response by the end of 2020, he said more time was needed, and a response will be made this year.)

Ms Maiden commended the NSW government for its willingness to consider changes to our drug laws, particularly a less punitive approach to people found in possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use. Yet Ms Maiden urged the Attorney General to avoid replacing current laws "with a system that is *barely better*".

In 2016, the Synod of the Uniting Church of NSW and the ACT passed two resolutions relevant to drug use. One was the support of decriminalisation of possession of small amounts of prohibited drugs. The other was to increase investment in drug and alcohol treatment services. Uniting and a range of other organisations launched the Fair Treatment campaign in 2018 to work towards these aims.

In 2019 and 2020, two inquiries into drugs heard numerous submissions and made their own recommendations.

In November 2019, in a report on drug deaths at music festivals, Deputy State Coroner Harriet Grahame recommended pill testing, a ban on sniffer dogs and a reduction in the number of strip searches. (There were six deaths of young people at music festivals in two years from drugs.)

Last March, the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice' released its report, with 109 recommendations.

Jackie Fitzgerald, acting executive director at the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, told the "ice" inquiry that Sydney's CBD and inner-southern suburbs had the highest rate of "ice" possession in the state. (While the state's highest, this has remained relatively stable for the last decade. Several regional areas, such as Coffs Harbour and Grafton, have lower overall, but rapidly increasing, rates of "ice" possession.)

A major sticking point in the government's response to the "ice" inquiry has been how to deal with people caught with a small amount of illicit substances for personal use – one of the two key issues in the 2016 Synod resolution.

At the meeting in Engadine, Attorney General Speakman explained that while the government's response had yet to be finalised, Cabinet was looking at alternatives to decriminalisation.

He referred to these as "depenalisation" and stressed that the focus would still be on treatment and diversion, rather than punishment. (This would not be unique in NSW, where a cannabis cautioning scheme has operated since 2000 allowing police the option of simply cautioning those found with small amounts of marijuana.)

Under a depenalisation regime, low-level offenders could be diverted to treatment programs rather than the criminal justice system, he suggested. Fines and the requirement to enter treatment programs could replace more stringent punishments. Initial offences would be treated more leniently than subsequent ones.

Ms Maiden considers this approach flawed: "Our preferred model would be to not apply criminal or civil sanctions at all – no sentencing, no fine, no community service orders. The Uniting Church ... supports the decriminalisation of the possession and use of small amounts of *all* drugs."

She added, "We do not support the legalisation of drugs. We believe they should remain illegal but that criminal penalties should not flow from possessing small amounts of all drugs for personal use." Until this happens, she contended, the fear of punishment will prevent users from seeking help.

Ms Maiden pointed out that fines are inherently inequitable because they hit disadvantaged people hardest. She also urged that all illicit drugs should be treated the same in terms of decriminalisation.

She invited the Attorney General "to be bold in modernising our drug laws and reform".

Asked what church members and others concerned about the issue of drug law reform could do, Ms Maiden suggested three things:

Pledge your support for the Fair Treatment campaign at www.fairtreatment.org/. Visit your State MP – with other concerned community members, if possible. The Fair Treatment campaign team can help you prepare. Email us at advocacy@uniting.org. If you or a loved one have an experience of drug dependency you are willing to share, contact the Fair Treatment Campaign at advocacy@uniting.org.

Tens of thousands to join call for sustainable future

ENVIRONMENT

NATASHA ABHAYAWICKRAMA, KAYLA HILL AND ISAAC HEMSWORTH-SMITH

IN the past 18 months, we've endured a lot. We've witnessed some of the worst bushfires in Australian history, had our lives ground to a halt by a global pandemic and watched in horror as unprecedented flooding gripped regional NSW.

The climate crisis is here, and we are already living through the impacts. Extreme weather events are becoming regular, heatwaves are increasing in severity, and month after month temperature records are being broken. Yet despite all this, the Australian government refuses to set emission reduction targets, and continues to subsidise and give handouts to the fossil fuel industry.

As we enter the recovery phase from Covid-19 and work to rebuild our economy, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create renewable, fair and sustainable jobs to carry Australia into the future. Despite this, the Morrison government is pushing ahead with a gas-fired recovery. They are increasing subsidies to the gas industry to ramp up exploration and extraction of gas, risking



On May 21 school students are striking to tell the Morrison government it must stop embarrassing the country by throwing money at coal and gas, and fund fair solutions to the climate crisis. Photo: SS4C

locking in polluting gas energy for decades to come. This will only worsen the climate crisis.

Gas will not move our country forward. As well as the gas industry generating among the lowest number of jobs in the energy industry, a gas-fired "recovery" will push us further into the climate crisis. Renewable energy is the cheapest form of energy generation available, offers clean jobs that will fast-track solutions to the climate crisis and will revive Australia's economy for many years to come, setting us up for the future.

On May 21, concerned for their future, school students from across the country, together with

unions, First Peoples, frontline communities and businesses are striking to demand that the Morrison government "Fund Our Future, Not Gas".

It is time to listen to and resource Indigenous-led solutions. It is time to fund clean jobs that support communities. It is time to transition the economy and communities to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

May 21, 12pm, Sydney Town Hall (youth-led service beforehand at Pitt Street Uniting Church, 10am for 10.15am start). See you there! Find out more about SS4C and the May 21 strike by visiting www.ss4c.info/may21

Write a poem, grow a forest!

ENVIRONMENT

SSH

ZETLAND-BASED Red Room Poetry has partnered with the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan (the Garden) to create a new prize that encourages young people to use their words to make positive climate action through poetry.

For every poem entered in the POEM FOREST Prize, a native tree will be planted at the Australian Botanic Garden to help restore habitat for critically endangered plants and animals.

All submitted poems will be published and go in the running for \$5000 worth of prizes.

Project lead and Red Room Artistic Director Dr Tamryn Bennett says, "The POEM FOREST Prize is about valuing the words of young people with tangible action. During the School Strikes for Climate, we heard from young people across the world how deeply they feel for nature and the climate and yet we've seen little in the

way of real action from leaders.

"This new prize aims to draw attention to the voices of young people, recognise them with real, genuine environmental outcomes and raise awareness about how we can all play a role in caring for Country. To protect the future, we need to connect young people with nature in a way that nurtures creativity, sparks inspiration and fosters action."

Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Denis Ora says,

"Every tree in the new forest has been chosen and nurtured from seed by our botanists and horticulturalists. Planted onto a site that includes remnants of critically endangered woodlands and rainforests that once stretched across the Sydney region, it connects powerfully to young people's passionate aspirations for a sustainable future."

Young poets will be inspired through POEM FOREST commissioned poets, Bundjalung-Gumbayngirr man Dakota Feirer, youth ambassador and slam poet, Solli Raphael, poet and author

Jane Gleeson-White, and Djap Wurrung community activator Arika Waulu. Each has been asked to write on their personal connections with nature.

The prize's high-profile judges are Holly Ringland (ABC Back to Nature, *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*), Bruce Pascoe (*Dark Emu, Young Dark Emu*), Solli Raphael and Dr Cathy Offord, world-renowned scientist behind PlantBank and the Wollemi Pine cultivation.

Since the 1980s, the Garden has been working to restore the fragmented Cumberland Plain Woodland that once covered most of western Sydney and the POEM FOREST will include its three grand tree species: Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus teriticornis*), Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) and Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*). The goal is to plant 22,000 trees in three years.

Submissions into the POEM FOREST Prize close on September 17.

For information and resources for students, teachers and communities see redroompoetry.org/projects/poem-forest/.

Ethical use of quantum technologies in the spotlight

SPONSORED

STEPHEN GARTON

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has awarded the Centre for International Security Studies (CISS) \$800,000 over two years to develop accords for the ethical use of quantum technologies.

Announced by the Honourable Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the grant is part of the Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership which promotes a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. "This is the moment to address the social, ethical and geopolitical implications of a quantum future," said CISS Director Professor James Der Derian.

The Quantum Meta-Ethics project will be led by Prof. Der Derian, in partnership with a team under the direction of Dr Rajeswari Rajagopalan at the Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The two organisations will be joined by leading experts from the Indo-Pacific region, including: quantum physicist Shohini Ghose, global strategy advisor Parag Khanna, and political scientist Nisha Shah. The project will build upon the work of Prof. Der Derian's existing research Project Q: Peace and Security in a Quantum Age, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Over the next two years, Quantum Meta-Ethics will initiate conversations about what determines ethical or unethical behaviour, good or bad practices, productive or destructive applications of emerging quantum technologies. The project will bring together academics, business leaders, government and military representatives, legal and policy



Prof. James Der Derian. Photo: Supplied

experts, to develop world-first quantum accords that will inform international governance of quantum technologies.

The potential benefits of quantum innovation stretch across multiple sectors, including new drug development and discovery, assisting the creation of provably secure communications systems, modelling of financial markets and building quantum sensors.

If realised, quantum computers promise to revolutionise information technology by solving problems beyond the scope of classical computers in fields as diverse as medicine, finance, artificial intelligence and logistics. "But there are also new dangers ahead," said Prof. Der Derian.

States, tech companies and universities are already jostling for quantum advantage, which could have serious societal and geopolitical implications. A quantum race is heating up in the Indo-Pacific region, in vital security areas of encryption and decryption, surveillance and targeting, and most alarmingly, weaponised artificial intelligence.

"From the nuclear, space and information technology races,

we have learned, often too late, what can happen when ethics, norms and governance lag behind," Prof. Der Derian said. "It is time to apply the lessons learned from those races but also to recognise the unique qualities of emerging quantum technologies. No single technology, event or state will define the quantum future; nor can any single ethical framework be applied to all actors and all quantum technologies across all stages of development.

"Rather than proposing a formal set of universal rules, the project will seek a consensus among stakeholders on ethics, best practices and progressive applications of quantum technologies. As a theory of reality and enabler of new technologies, quantum increasingly touches everything." SSM



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof. Stephen Garton.
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Jenny Leong MP
STATE MEMBER
FOR NEWTOWN

Waterloo redevelopment offers once-in-a-generation opportunity to address housing needs

It's no secret that NSW has record high numbers of people experiencing rental stress, or waiting for public or social housing or sleeping rough. Prior to COVID-19, NSW was short of some 200,000 social and affordable homes with another 60,000 households on the waiting list for social housing.

Every day our office is contacted by people who are finding it almost impossible to find affordable housing and by people who've been on the approved public housing waiting list for five years or more. All these people are doing it really tough. There's simply no end in sight unless the government makes a solid commitment to buying, building and properly maintaining many thousands of social homes every year for the next decade which is something all the housing experts have recommended.

Right now the government has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver a significant boost to public and affordable housing in Sydney.

The government has submitted plans to redevelop the first section of the Waterloo Estate, Waterloo South, but these plans seek to turn 70% of this redevelopment over to developers to build and sell private dwellings. This is simply outrageous. Public land is publicly owned and selling it off with the excuse that it's the only way to fund essential public housing infrastructure is not acceptable. This public land currently supports some 2,000 public homes and the NSW Government says they aim to more than double this number on the site but here's the catch – they're planning to keep the same number of public housing units, add a few affordable housing units and simply privatise the rest – using their 30-70% Communities Plus formula.

The people living in Waterloo make up a strong, diverse, and caring community, and they deserve much better than this.

I'm calling this proposal out for what it is – an appalling theft of publicly owned land which The Greens believe must remain with 100% public and affordable housing on it. We need to also ensure that this development supports at least 10% dedicated Aboriginal affordable housing dwellings as called for by the Redfern Waterloo Aboriginal Affordable Housing Alliance and supported by key organisations including the City of Sydney Council. It's important to recognise that this entire development is happening on stolen land – Gadigal Land.

This is about priorities and choice. Like healthcare and education, housing is something that everyone needs – shelter is essential.

Waterloo, as it stands now, shows us that it is possible to have significant state investment in public housing for the public good – and this can be done again – it would signal a new era of housing stability, security and innovation in how we conceive, build and sustain housing for everyone.

Jenny Leong, MP for Newtown

If you have a question or are keen to be involved, send a text to 0421 665 208 with your name, suburb and message and we'll give you a call or you can email newtown@nsw.greens.org.au

Authorised by **Jenny Leong MP**, funded using parliamentary entitlements.

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What a difference a bridge would make

It would take four minutes to walk across the railway on a bridge between Carriageworks and the western end of South Eveleigh's Locomotive Workshop. Currently that trip takes 20 minutes. It would drop to about 15 minutes when the Southern Concourse is not closed, if you have your Opal card to avoid the \$200 fine.

Alexandria and Darlington could be 15 minutes closer. In 2024 when the Metro comes to Waterloo, students from the Bankstown line will get off at Waterloo to go to Sydney University. They could take the route shown. What a difference a new bridge could make for the entire community.

Transport for NSW could deliver the previously proposed bridge in its North Eveleigh plan if convinced that its southern concourse is not sufficient. Mirvac agreed a bridge could be built on their land when they purchased South Eveleigh.
Image: Cracknell & Lonergan Architects for REDWatch

Faith in friendship

FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

TWENTY-FOUR years ago, there was an Active Women's Exercise Class. When it closed down, the women concerned decided to share morning tea with each other on the second Saturday of each month.

Amazingly, this group still exists and the only people missing from it are two people who died and two who moved to live down the south coast of New South Wales.

Over the years, members of the group have been active in caring for each other in all sorts of ways. If people are away, someone has kept an eye on their house, or fed a pet.

When my partner was dying, they prepared a list of people who took it in turn to sit with her and hold her hand in the hospice where she was in care. They did this so I could rest and be comforted – just being

with my partner regularly, but not every or all day. We cared for each other whenever there was some need.

As a Uniting Church Minister, and a person who worked in a national role before I retired, I observed the relationships between people in many congregations around the country. I was sad to see that some of them were fundamentally occupied with competing for power or judging each other.

Undoubtedly, if they experienced the life and relationships within our morning tea group, they could have learned much about being more truly faithful to their calling as the people of God, who are invited to love each other and the community around them.

The true followers of Jesus Christ could be setting an example for those around them to lift their hearts with hope and justice and true compassion. Let us pray that we can be witnesses to this profound calling. SSH



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

Sorry? Then let's fix it

GUEST EDITORIAL

KARLY WARNER

APOLOGIES are hollow if you keep doing the very thing you said "sorry" for.

On May 26, Australia will mark Sorry Day. We've been observing this day for 23 years, and it's been 13 years since the historic apology to the Stolen Generations in parliament.

All those apologies and yet more and more Aboriginal children have been taken from their families and communities over the last two decades.

Nationwide, government authorities remove Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids from their homes at 10 times the rate of other, non-Indigenous children. Our kids are taken away younger, they stay in the damaging out-of-home care system for longer, and they are less likely to be returned

to their families than their peers. Looking at this shameful situation, you might wring your hands and say: "But how can we fix it?"

I have good news for you: Aboriginal people have several solutions.

Many of these solutions are in the *Bringing Them Home* report, published in 1997. Sorry Day commemorates the date this report was handed down in parliament. It's freely available online; I encourage you to read it and honour the testimony of those brave Stolen Generations members who shared their stories.

More recently, the *Family Is Culture* review delivered damning findings into the treatment of more than 1,100 Aboriginal kids who were taken in a single year in NSW. Its recommendations echoed many of those in *Bringing Them Home*, emphasising the importance of early intervention, family support services, and

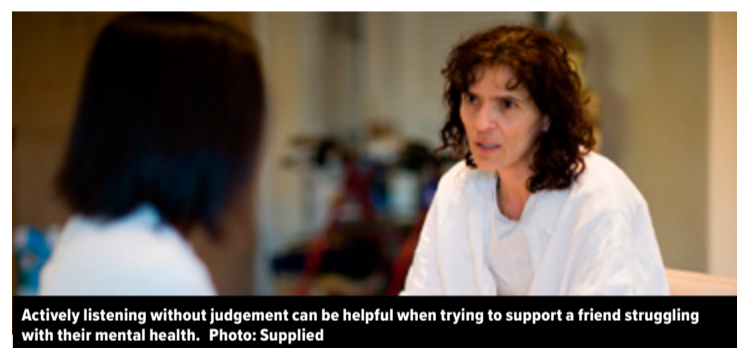
accessible and culturally informed courts.

The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT runs a children's care and protection law practice, supporting families to navigate those courts and the complicated legal system.

We desperately want to help more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families keep their kids at home, but we are limited by inadequate funding. If you would like to take positive, meaningful action this Sorry Day, you can donate to ensure together we have an even greater impact – www.alsnswact.org.au.

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person concerned about authorities getting involved with your kids, please call us – we are here to help. We are on 1800 733 233. SSH

Karly Warner is a Palawa woman and CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT. Artwork: Charmaine Mumbulla.



Actively listening without judgement can be helpful when trying to support a friend struggling with their mental health. Photo: Supplied

Mental illness - what to say, and what not to say

HEALTH

MERRYIN

HAVE you ever had a friend react badly when they were feeling depressed, and you told them to try and "look on the bright side?" Or you told someone with anxiety that they didn't have anything to be worried about, and that it would all be okay – and they snapped at you? The dos and don'ts around what to say to someone struggling with mental health concerns or illness are sometimes a bit tricky to figure out and can have negative consequences for the individual if the wrong thing is said.

So, as someone with lived experience with multiple mental illnesses, I am hoping to give you a brief idea of what you can say and do that WILL be helpful. The first thing, and probably the most important thing that you can do is to simply listen. Ask "do you want to talk about it?" If they say yes (which they might not), actively listen without any judgement. It might seem to be a small issue to you, but to the other person it might feel huge. Secondly, ask the person what you can do to help. These two things are the best things to do and say

when reaching out to someone. And something important NOT to do is to make comparisons or try to downplay their suffering (usually the good old "it can't be THAT bad" or "other people have it worse").

Something that is important to add, is that mental illness is called invisible for a good reason. You cannot gauge how well someone is doing by how they appear to you, someone with depression might not look down, someone with anxiety might not look worried, an eating disorder sufferer might look perfectly "well" to you or someone with OCD might not have obvious compulsions. Mental health concerns are complex, and to tell someone that they do not LOOK depressed/anxious etc. just makes the person feel like you do not believe their pain. And believe me, something we all want is to be believed. SSH

Editor's note: It can be overwhelming to know where to start when talking to someone about mental illness. There are a number of organisations that provide advice and support to the family and friends of people with mental illness. Good Australian-based resources include The Black Dog Institute (www.blackdoginstitute.org.au), Beyond Blue (www.beyondblue.org.au), and SANE Australia (www.sane.org).

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

Women changing male-dominated music production industry

MUSIC

AMY CHENG

IT'S a rarity to see a woman working in music production, but one organisation is looking to change that.

Music Production for Women (MPW) is a global movement, community and online education platform looking to encourage and empower women to take their first steps in the industry. It was founded in 2019 in East London by artist and producer Xylo Aria.

"You don't see that many female producers. Immediately, your mind can't understand why. It feels like an abnormal thing," she said.

"Women think that about themselves and men think that about women, so it makes it all round a space that is hard to break into."

One of the biggest challenges women face when entering the industry are the power dynamics, according to Ms Aria.

"I think people feel that they can treat you in a way that they probably wouldn't in the normal world," she said.

"You can be asked to do things that you might not feel comfortable to, [such as] having a writing session at a time that you think is not appropriate."

"And I think that's really challenging to go into any session with and just be yourself, and be your creative self, when you're



Hannah Coombes (left) features in a mini-documentary with British-Nigerian producer, performer and educator Mel Uye Parker that shows how women can empower themselves and each other in the field of music production. Photo: Supplied

unsure of someone else's agenda, so that can be a challenge to work around and overcome that."

Ms Aria has been working in music production for close to four years and began dabbling in it 10 years before that. She was named one of the Top 50 East London Innovators of 2020.

However, starting out was not so easy.

"I just had no idea as to where to go, and every space was just so heavily male dominated," she said.

"I just felt like it wasn't really a place for me, but I had to push through because I couldn't see an alternative because working with other male producers for me wasn't working."

Through her work, she realised that she wasn't the only one feeling this way.

In February, Ms Aria collaborated with Liina Turtonen of LNA Does Audio Stuff to produce a mini-documentary, taking the viewer into the journey of a woman's first steps into music production.

"We realised that so many people feel this way, and there's a lot of power in knowing that you're not alone," Ms Aria said.

She hopes the documentary will help other women see that they can do this too.

"You don't have to have a technical background, you don't have to have grown up around technology or something," she said.

Antonia Gauci, an engineer, mixer, producer and artist based in Sydney, has been working in the industry for over six years. Her studio is based in Marrickville.

"It's not a secret that it is male



Marrickville-based music producer Antonia Gauci encourages women who want to enter the industry to get their foot in the door and take a step. Photo: Rik Saunders

dominated ... Finding people to look up to was hard, especially people who were the same gender as you," she said.

Ms Gauci thinks the work of MPW is "fantastic".

"It's such an encouraging platform for people who might not want to be around too many people ... It's a safe nurturing environment which is inclusive and awesome," she said.

Ms Gauci has worked hard to avoid being defined by her gender and wants to be respected for her work.

"I always made sure that I was an engineer and great at being an engineer, rather than just focusing on the gender part of it," she said.

"My gender shouldn't be the talking point. My job description

is the same thing. An actor is an actor. An actress is the other thing but they're still an actor."

Her advice to women wanting to enter the industry is to get their foot in the door and to take a step, even a small step, such as recording themselves, is a good start.

"You gotta start somewhere, so why not just try and give it a crack? Because you might create something amazing," she said.

MPW is looking to start a platform for people to hire producers and mixers.

"It doesn't have to be women only but people that we know are either women or allies, and we personally know have a good experience working with others," Ms Aria said.

Hitting the HiWay for some hops and Holy Soul

MUSIC

STEPHEN WEBB

ENMORE: The Holy Soul, like most bands, haven't played much in the last 12 months, let alone somewhere where their fans can stand together with a drink in hand. So there was a definite party atmosphere at HiWay this night.

HiWay is a relatively new bar in Enmore Road, a few doors down from the Enmore Theatre.

I killed some time before doors opened by stopping in at Hopsters, Australia's first cooperative brewery, and Nigerian restaurant Little Lagos.

Most of the customers in Hopsters seemed to be members. Beers on the blackboard menu included craft brews such as Cool Kids, Socks & Thongs, Hang Loose Juice and Cthulhu black IPA.

I ordered the hottest stew at Little Lagos, Ayamase, with locust beans, green bullhorn capsicum,

habaneros and onions (may contain fish bits, cow leg "Bokoto", cow skin "Ponmo" and tripes "Shaki").

Probably too brave a choice. The manager wondered why I wasn't sweating. Sadly, the African beers were sold out so I had to rely on a Grifter pilsner to put out the fire before heading to HiWay and its small but balanced drinks list.

The Holy Soul, "heroes of the underground", have been kicking around for 20 years, recording with and supporting cool stars on the fringe of the rock firmament.

This night they were introducing fans to songs from their forthcoming album *Get Old!*, produced by Robyn Hitchcock. In the mix were also songs from their 2015 album, the well-reviewed, Gareth Liddiard-produced *Fortean Times*.

Supporting acts were Luke O'Farrell (from the Laurels), with some interesting distorted shoegaze, and Mope City (good name), who seemed too uncomfortable and not taking it seriously enough to be truly mope.



The Holy Soul played at HiWay in Enmore on April 10. Photo: Lyndal Irons Photography

Judging by this night's songs, The Holy Soul have developed a liking for melody, harmonies and a '60s feel — the Kinks sometimes came to mind.

Yet they never veered too far from their familiar avant-rock, "garage psych", as in new single "747", propelled at HiWay by powerful drumming from Kate Wilson.

"Get old!" could be a sensible recommendation.

HiWay, previously known as the Hideaway Bar, is a small venue (100+ capacity) with standing/dancing room close to the stage and seats closer to the entrance for less entranced listeners. Soon it will be partnered by the Bikini cocktail bar.

Relaxation and meditation videos are projected onto the walls behind the performers and a mirror ball hangs from the ceiling.

Check out HiWay for emerging bands. And returning legends like The Holy Soul.

The Holy Soul played at HiWay, Enmore, on April 10.

The Reviews

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



The Boy in the Field
Margot Livesey
Harper Collins, \$26.99

The Boy in the Field is the ninth novel by the Scottish-born Margot Livesey and was nominated by the *New York Times* as one of 2020's 100 Notable Books.

Set in Oxfordshire, the novel begins, rather abruptly: "Here is what happened one Monday in the month of September, in the last year of the last century. Matthew, Zoe and Duncan Lang were walking home from school." Zoe – known to be the observant one – spies something in a field. The something is the gravely injured Karel, bleeding heavily and surrounded by flies, and the siblings comfort him and summon help.

Karel survives, and recovers, at least physically. The Lang children, though, are changed by the experience, and not in predictable ways. Each pursues an obsession, and asks questions that may never have otherwise occurred to them.

Duncan, adopted as an infant, begins to dream about his birth mother, and determines to find her.

Matthew forms a brief alliance with Karel's brooding, abrasive brother as they attempt some amateur, clumsy sleuthing, hoping to find the perpetrator.

Zoe obsessively pursues a relationship with a much older university student, while a shock revelation causes her to question her parents' relationship.

As the police investigation drags on, the Lang siblings take turns narrating events from their point of view. On one level, this is a whodunit and the crime's eventual, and somewhat anticlimactic, resolution, is a backdrop to the more significant interior life of the three protagonists. An epilogue revisits the Langs years later, and is perhaps the book's weakest link.

In just over 300 pages, this book touches on good and evil; absolute truth vs white lies; the meaning of family; trust and deceit; the kindness of strangers; the destructive nature of jealousy, and more. Thanks to Margot Livesey's light touch, these weighty themes never weigh the story down.

» books@ssh.com.au

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



The Courier
Director: Dominic Cooke
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Merab Ninidze, Rachel Brosnahan
Genre: Bondish

Benedict Cumberbatch clearly wants to be the next, or perhaps the first, James Bond. He's now starred in three spy thrillers, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (2011), *The Imitation Game* (2014) and now *The Courier*. Each film was set decades ago, so perhaps he's pinning his hopes on a James Bond prequel series set before Ian Fleming wrote his first Bond film, *Casino Royale*, in 1952.

If *The Courier* is any guide, then Cumberbatch's Bond will be a bit of a reluctant hero and a traditional

cloak-and-dagger type spy but more cloak and less dagger. There won't be any womanising and not a lot by way of gadgets, but he will dress well, speak poshly and know his way around Eastern Europe. The plot will be simple and insightful and the performances will be solid.

Bond films, of course, are totally fictional, even if Ian Fleming drew on some of his knowledge of the spy game from his planning and oversight of two intelligence units during WWII.

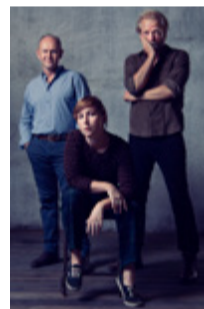
The Courier, though, is "based on a true story". Cumberbatch's Greville Wynne really was a businessman recruited by MI6 during the Cold War to undertake Soviet Union intelligence gathering activities. And Oleg Penkovsky (played by Merab Ninidze) really was a high-level Soviet official who passed on nuclear missile secrets to Western agents, including Wynne, and paid the ultimate price.

The Courier won't interest my kids. It's nothing like *Mission Impossible*, Bourne or, of course, Bond. The truth is rarely as interesting as the imagination of film studio and marketing executives looking to maximise profit. But it is more important and deserves to be told, even if my kids won't listen.

Rating: Three code words.

» film@ssh.com.au

Theatre Preview by Catherine Skipper



Ulster American
Seymour's Reginald Theatre
Opens May 13, 2021

Talking to Harriet Gordon-Anderson as she walks to rehearsals at 8.30am for Belfast-born David Ireland's hard-hitting play *Ulster American* is an invigorating

experience. Despite the crackle of a mobile her voice conveys an energy and resoluteness that fits the challenging role of Ruth Davenport, a playwright from Northern Ireland, who engages in combat with an Oscar-winning American actor and an ambitious English director.

Gordon-Anderson is accustomed to challenges. Her last role was as the complex Prince of Denmark in Bell Shakespeare's production of *Hamlet* for which she had to learn to fence. It took months, she said, and she discovered muscles she never knew she had. Eventually she came to enjoy it – the control it demanded and the necessity to remain always alert.

Her challenge in *Ulster American* was to master the complexities of the distinctive Northern Irish accent with its Ulster Scots influence. While Gordon-Anderson was thankful for the guidance of her dialect-coach, Linda Nicolls-Gidley, she spent many hours listening to podcasts and watching TV series like *Derry Girls* created by Northern Irish writer, Lisa McGee.

As Gordon-Anderson says, Ireland's darkly satirical *Ulster American* is "so right for our times". As we watch the struggles of our own elected representatives to come to terms with a post

#me-too environment, a play which

reveals "the deep, the monstrous hypocrisy" of men who while claiming to acknowledge the importance of women's views at the same time shut down their voices, is devastatingly relevant.

Ruth, Gordon-Anderson, admits is "no saint". She is polite, says Gordon-Anderson, "until she isn't" and as the stakes rise, fights back with the modern weapons at her disposal. The actor feels deeply uncomfortable and troubled by what is revealed about the three characters when ambition and ego are threatened. Not only is there a deep disconnect between the men's avowed feminist attitudes and their unconscious privilege but assumptions about national identity also come in for a savaging.

One of the functions of performance, Gordon-Anderson says, is to challenge the audience by provoking them to question themselves and society and David Ireland has a proven record in achieving provocation to "bone shaking proportions". At the same time, when Gordon-Anderson first read the play she laughed out loud many times, and this is in part Ireland's secret – a combination of somewhat guilty laughter and laying bare our most appalling behaviour.

» theatre@ssh.com.au



Poets Corner Art Group members Elle, Paula, Tamara and Grace are very happy to be meeting in person again at Our Place on Morehead St in Redfern. The group meets every Friday from 1-3pm. Enquiries and new members welcome. For more information contact Elle at The Factory Community Centre on 9698 9569 or email officeadmin@counterpointcs.org.au. Photo: Andrew Collis



The new Romeo's Food Hall IGA at South Eveleigh also features a takeaway dining menu with in-store wood-fired pizza oven and a served carvery. Photo: Supplied

Romeo's Food Hall arrives in the heart of South Eveleigh

SPONSORED

GRANT JONES

FAMILY-OWNED independent supermarket retailer Romeo's is renowned for innovation and creativity, and it has brought that focus to Romeo's Food Hall South Eveleigh.

This new supermarket, which opened on Thursday April 22, is an amazing state-of-the-art concept which showcases the Romeo family's passion for amazing ranges, an array of cuisines and a variety of cultures.

In addition to all the essentials that you have come to expect from Romeo's 14 other outlets across NSW, this new Romeo's Food Hall IGA features a takeaway dining

menu with in-store wood-fired pizza oven and a served carvery.

The store offers a full, fresh line-up with in-store fishmonger, butcher, in-store sushi chefs and walk-in cheese room with a selection of the world's finest gourmet cheeses. There is also Romeo's customary range of fresh local fruit and vegetables which is all set to create an elaborate, fresh food market feel.

In addition, this remarkable store is home to dozens of niche products from many local producers, as well as fresh Australian flowers and other gourmet produce which is sourced worldwide to cater to the most discerning of shoppers.

An extensive in-store liquor department complements the store's array of produce, which will be ideal

to cater for any home entertaining. An added bonus is free two-hour carparking for all Romeo's Food Hall IGA South Eveleigh shoppers via validation at the checkout.

Romeo's Food Hall IGA, at the beautifully restored Bays 3-4a of the Locomotive Workshop, 2 Locomotive St, Eveleigh is open 7am to 9pm, Monday to Sunday. Parking via 2 Central Avenue.

For more details, go to romeosretailgroup.com.au or southeveleigh.com.au

This article is an advertorial sponsored by South Eveleigh. For more details, go to southeveleigh.mirvac.com

Ko back on top

STEVE TURNER

LYDIA Ko recently ended a 1,084-day victory drought at the Lotte Championship at Oahu in Hawaii. The comeback was a feel-good win for anyone who loves golf. When it was over, Ko said she took inspiration from recent drought-ending victories by Jordan Spieth (1,351 days) and Hideki Matsuyama (1,344 days).

“That kind of gave me a little bit of hope saying maybe I could follow that trend,” said Ko, who won the Lotte Championship by seven strokes and now owns 16 LPGA titles. The 23-year-old Kiwi’s last victory came on April 29, 2018, at the LPGA Mediheal Championship. The winningest teenager in the history of the LPGA looked sharp and focused during Lotte.

Ko credits instructor Sean Foley with helping to resurrect her confidence. “I just keep trying to point her inwards,” said Foley, while walking around Augusta National. Since reconnecting with trainer Craig Davies, Ko has gained 15 pounds of muscle. Davies said she goes at it so hard in the gym that they have to tell her to scale back.

Dealing with online racism

Two men have been charged by NSW Police for racially vilifying South Sydney Rabbitohs star



Lydia Ko. Photo: Supplied

Latrell Mitchell via social media. Mitchell informed the NRL’s Integrity Unit of the offensive messages he received in late April, with the league governing body escalating the incident to police. Police arrested a 22-year-old Taree man and a 25-year-old Lake Munmorah man – charging the pair with using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence. The duo will be bailed to appear in NSW courts

this month.

The abuse toward Mitchell came in the aftermath of receiving a four-match suspension for a dangerous contact charge during a match against the Wests Tigers. Rabbitohs CEO Blake Solly backed Mitchell’s decision to inform the NRL about the vilification and hoped other players would do the same in the 23-year-old’s position.

Volunteers’ News

PAT CLARKE

I hope, like me, you love these autumn days, with sunshine and the colour of autumn flowers. Did you manage to catch the Pink Supermoon on April 27? I did, it was large and bright but not pink from my view. For you sky watchers there will be a Super Full Blood (Red) Lunar Eclipse starting at 6.47pm on May 26, and ending at 11.49pm.

Iranzamin at the Powerhouse Museum until August 8

This is a wonderful collection of beautiful, useful, decorative and religious artefacts from Iranzamin (the Land of the Persians). Chief Executive of the Powerhouse is Lisa Haviilah who will be well known to locals for her outstanding leadership at Carriageworks. As part of the Powerhouse’s revival, it is now open on Thursday nights. All exhibitions are free. Check the website for Powerhouse Late events on www.maas.museum/whats-on/.

Head-on Photo Festival from Saturday May 4 to Sunday May 19

At Paddington Reservoir Gardens and other venues across Sydney, enjoy free photo exhibitions from 900 artists. There will be workshops with experts. www.whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/programs/head-on-photo-festival

Domestic Family Violence Prevention Month May 1-31

With current conversations and TV programs about this topic, it is a timely reminder to raise awareness and promote a clear message in

the community that Domestic and Family Violence will not and should not be tolerated. Contact www.domesticviolence.com.au

National Volunteer Week May 17-23

This is Australia’s largest annual celebration of some six million volunteers across the country. I’m sure most of us know a volunteer or volunteer ourselves in some capacity. It’s time to say thank you to these wonderful, selfless people. An especially big virtual hug and thank you to all our SSH volunteers – we wouldn’t be such a quality community newspaper without your talents and hard work.

Dates for your diary in June

Wednesday June 2
ABC TV’s *You Can’t Ask That* will feature our faith editor Dorothy McRae-McMahon as part of a group being asked the hard questions, from 9pm.

Saturday June 26

SSH Cartoon Show at the Orchard Gallery with artworks by norrie mAy-welby, 5pm-6.30pm. Those of you who read the *SSH* regularly will be aware of the brilliant, witty and biting cartoons of norrie mAy-welby. Norrie will have her own show of hand-drawn original and digital prints, applications on mugs, aprons, t-shirts, fridge magnets and tote bags. There will be something for everyone. We hope to see you then, but more details in the June issue.

Until next time,
Pat Clarke

volunteers@ssh.com.au

SSH



NEIGHBOURHOOD HUNT

THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD? JOIN US IN A TREASURE HUNT WITH GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON TO PARTICIPATE, YOU CAN FORM A TEAM OF UP TO 3 MEMBERS, TAKE SELFIES WITH AT LEAST 1 OF THE MEMBERS WITH THE DESTINATION DESCRIBED IN YOUR TASKS SHEET. THE FASTEST TEAM TO FINISH ALL TASKS, TAG US ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND REPORT BACK TO OUR CENTRE WINS



1ST PRIZE:\$200 2ND PRIZE:\$150 3RD PRIZE:\$50 AND SOME CONSOLATION PRIZES

FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION; PLEASE COME IN AND HAVE A CHAT WITH OUR STAFF AT 67 RAGLAN STREET WATERLOO OR 73 GARDEN STREET ALEXANDRIA

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NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE WEEK

#CommunityIsEverything

MAY 2021

EVENT PROGRAMS

- 6th May 2021 18:00 to 20:00
Factory CC, 67 Raglan St.
7th May 2021 13:00 to 15:00
Our Place, Redfern
10th May 2021 to 21st May 2021
Factory CC, 67 Raglan St
10th May 2021 11:00 to 12:30
Factory CC, 67 Raglan St
Opening 15 May 17:00
15th - 21st May 2021
The Orchard Gallery
56a Raglan St.
22nd May 2021 11:00 to 14:00
Waterloo Green
26th May 2021 11:30 to 13:30
Factory CC, 67 Raglan St.
- REDWatch: Health Equity - why is it important?
Fiona Haigh works on Primary Health care and Equity issues for UNSW and Sydney Health
My Neighbourhood Art Day
Channel your creativity for a chance to be included in the My Neighbourhood Art Exhibition
Counterpoint Neighbourhood Hunt
How much you know about your community - Redfern and Waterloo. Join in the fun hunt!!
Cost of Living Workshop (Russian)
NSW Government is helping ease the cost of living with more than 70 rebates and savings.
My Neighbourhood Art Exhibition
An art exhibition by residents for residents and everyone else... Join us in celebrating our local community talents.
Redfern and Waterloo Pet Day 2021
City of Sydney and Counterpoint is hosting this event for social housing resident and their furry families.
Appreciation Station (by invitation only)
Recognising and celebrating women who have given support and strength to our community.
And other activities...



For more info, kindly contact us,
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