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Glebe reconnected post-iso through picnics and exhibitions

LOCALS

ELAINE LAFORTEZA

GLEBE: On Thursday, June 17, members of the Glebe community gathered at Glebe Café to launch a special photographic exhibition. The event was hosted by the Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion at the University of Technology Sydney in partnership with Megan Fletcher, current Chair of the Forest Lodge and Glebe Coordination Group (FLAG) and Tom Psomotragos, a photographer with over 20 years' experience and a local Glebe resident.

The Exhibition brought key members of the community, such as Aunty Kathryn Dodd Farrawell and Deputy Lord Mayor, Jess Scully, who noted that the photographs provided a "time capsule" of a unique time in history; a time when community members gathered after Covid-19 inflicted restrictions faced during 2020. Elaine Patterson, Area Manager for the City of Sydney, remarked that events such as these were testament to the community's strength after months of social isolation.

In early December 2020, the Social Impact Team from the centre conveyed a call out



Pop-up picnics throughout Glebe were photographed and showcased recently in pop-up exhibitions, which celebrated the resilience of Glebe residents during earlier phases of the pandemic. Photos: Tom Psomotragos

for groups to come together through Covid-safe picnics. Jointly called We Are Glebe, seven pop-up picnics took place in the beautiful pocket parks of Glebe: MJ Doherty Reserve, Ernest Pedersen Reserve, the Library Corner, Foley Park and St James Park. The picnic groups reflected Glebe's diversity with mums,

carers and bubs, artist groups, patrons from the Have-a-chat café/Glebe Computer Project, St. Helen's gardeners, Treehouse regulars and other Glebe community members. Mr Psomotragos took photographs on both days of the picnics. From June 17, these "time capsules" have taken centre stage in different areas of Glebe:

St. Helen's Community Garden, Glebe Café and the Old Fire Station. For around two weeks, the photographs were available in these pop-up exhibition spaces. The picnics and the exhibitions were supported by the City of Sydney's Love Glebe Community Grant funding initiative. Sharing the We Are Glebe photographs amplified the love of and for

Glebe: reconnecting community after isolation. During this current resurgence of Covid-19 cases, this reconnection is important to hold on to in order to celebrate the resilience of the Glebe community. **Dr Elaine Laforteza is Social Impact Practitioner with the UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion.**

Waterloo South taking shape

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

THE Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) has released its assessment of Waterloo South.

As it was the Council proposal, with three towers on McEvoy Street, which was submitted for assessment, a modified Council proposal will go to public exhibition in coming months. DPIE has asked for more work on the proposal before it is exhibited. The Minister established an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to advise DPIE and assess the commercial viability of the proposal. The IAG assessed that

Council's proposal for 20 per cent affordable housing in addition to 30 per cent social housing was not viable under LAHC's requirement's to self-fund. The IAG modelled a viable option that could deliver up to 10 per cent affordable housing. This model has been adopted in the DPIE determination and, if viable after further testing, would deliver a 30/70 split of the combined social (at least 847 units) and market housing (1,976 units) with 237 units of affordable housing constructed and owned by a Community Housing Provider. This would deliver 27.7 per cent social housing, 7.7 per cent community housing-owned affordable housing and 64.6 per cent market housing.

The IAG recognises the density is very high for a residential precinct, but concludes it is necessary for the project to be viable. It stipulated that to accommodate the proposed density, the precinct must be developed with the highest urban amenity and design quality, including design excellence. On built form the IAG and DPIE propose to reduce some heights on the mid-rise buildings to provide better solar access by moving 160 units into the proposed cut-out areas in Council's planned high-rises. These gaps were for wind mitigation so a different wind solution is needed. There is much interesting information in the Independent Advisory Committee and the Gateway Determination reports. The IAG report reveals that LAHC's social housing units will not be the same size as market houses so



IAG model view of LAHC and private properties. Image: Waterloo South IAG Final Report May 2021

30 per cent of these units will not be the same as 30 per cent of the gross floor area. It also revealed that LAHC included affordable housing in its 30 per cent social

housing rather than in the 70 per cent market. **The documents can be accessed through DPIE's Waterloo Estate website.**



Wild sights delight



Truth Museum



Overcoming fears

South Sydney Herald



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TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

COVID-19 UPDATE

The situation in Sydney has progressed rapidly over recent weeks. As has been the case now for over a year, it is essential that we stay up to date with the latest NSW Health guidelines and follow any restrictions that are in place.

The coming weeks will be tough but together we can get through it. Let's each play our part and keep our community safe.

Stay up to date with latest health advice by scanning here:



COVID-19 DISASTER PAYMENTS

The Federal Government's COVID-19 Disaster Payment of up to \$500pw for the 7 LGAs in metropolitan Sydney will kick in from 1 July.

The payment is \$500 a week for people usually working more than 20 hours a week who are now no longer being paid. For those working less than 20 hours per week, it's \$325.

You may be eligible if all of the following apply:

- you can't attend work and lost income on or after day 8 of a COVID-19 lockdown
- you don't have access to appropriate paid leave entitlements through your employer
- you're not getting an income support payment, a state or territory pandemic payment, Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment or state small business payment for the same period
- you do not have more than \$10,000 of liquid assets

ELECTORATE OFFICE

While Sydney is under stay at home orders, my electorate office will not be open to the public. My electorate office provides support with Centrelink, Veterans' Affairs, Medicare, Immigration, NBN and other federal matters - **please contact us via phone or email anytime for assistance.**

Justice of the Peace services will not be operating from my office while Sydney is under stay at home orders.

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

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Bush Balance in Alexandria offers children the chance to take beneficial risks which help them problem solve and learn how to keep themselves safe outdoors. Photos: Bush Balance

Bush playgroup brings city children back to nature

EDUCATION

AMY CHENG

ALEXANDRIA: Young children are venturing to the bush and learning to take beneficial risks, thanks to Bush Balance that meets at Sydney Park.

Founder of the all-weather playgroup for children aged between 0 and 8, Deborah Wood said that outdoor play provides children with natural learning.

"As our playgrounds become safer ... children just aren't getting an opportunity to learn that if they stand on a rock it's going to wobble and they're going to have to keep their balance," she said.

"[O]utdoors ... your eyes are drawn upwards when you hear a bird, so your eyes look further than if you were indoors and that's good to develop your eyesight."

Ms Wood, who is an early childhood teacher with 15 years' experience, believes it's important for children to take risks.

"Risky play allows children to develop skills ... if we give children too many rules, they don't get to develop... it's taking a risk that's beneficial to help them learn how to problem solve and learn how to keep themselves safe without risking major injury."

To ensure the safety of children, Ms Wood relies a lot on carer supervision.

Each session begins with storytime, Acknowledgement of Country and a short safety briefing, followed by unstructured play where each child gravitates towards an activity that appeals to them, with options to paint, work with tools, use a magnifying glass or play with a bucket of water. She also challenges the children to think for themselves by asking questions.

"If one child starts to climb a tree that's very small and bendy, instead of saying 'Get down from there,' we'll say, 'Can you feel the tree moving when you put your foot on it, that looks very bendy to me,'" she said.

Bush Balance began in August last year. Ms Wood, who also works as a private nanny, found herself stuck in lockdown with nowhere to take the children she was caring for.

With playgrounds closed down, she began looking for patches of bush. It was a hit with the children, so she is currently looking to expand to more areas in Sydney.

Term 3 begins on July 20.
Book at www.bushbalance.com.au

Deadly things happen in Redfern

LOCALS

RAYLENE

I am a proud Wiradjuri woman, mother and grandmother. I was eager to enter the world. As my mother was walking home, she went into labour and an hour later I was born on a bench on Redfern Street, Redfern.

We lived in the Gilmore building and my grandmother lived across from us in the McKell building. I attended the Poets Corner Preschool which was located at the back of the building where I lived.

I remember a lady who worked at the church across the road on Young Street. She had lovely snow-white hair. Cathy. I used to visit the church from time to time, I think for Sunday School but definitely fun times.

I vividly recall one day after the kindy day, it was time to be

collected, and at the gates, at the exact time that I was ready to exit, a lady was about to enter the gates with a chihuahua dog and as I bent down to pat the dog, the lady said, "Don't touch the dog!" and in that very moment the dog jumped up and bit my upper lip.

I was then taken across the road to the doctor's on Young Street, where I had stitches in my lip.

As a young mum I didn't even think twice about enrolling my son into Poets Corner Preschool as I knew he would be well cared for.

I'm heavily active in the Aboriginal community and Redfern area, working in Aboriginal education and still living here.

I often drop off donations to the kindy and engage in supportive learning with the students.

It brings me so much joy to see all the positive changes and improvements that have been made to the Poets Corner Preschool since being a 4 year old.

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Start-up easing affordable housing search for tenants

URBAN DESIGN

SSH

AS Sydney's housing prices soar and rental rates rise, finding rental homes within budget is becoming increasingly difficult. Not just for people in dire straits, such as people out of work or battling the poverty line – now, also for people who have a good job and a decent income, like essential workers, or people working in retail and hospitality.

Suddenly, finding a “normal” apartment on a “normal” income is inexplicably hard.

ASTOUNDINGLY, there are vacant affordable properties in Sydney, even as demand surges – partly due to lack of public awareness of what “affordable housing” is. It’s a class of housing with rent 20 to 25 per cent lower than the standard market rate, mainly provided by community housing providers for people on low to moderate incomes – unlike social housing, which is generally provided by the government for people on very low incomes, often on the brink of homelessness.

Even for those who are aware of (and eligible for) affordable housing, tenants often have a long and frustrating road to finding a home.

In response to this problem, Australian start-up WelcomeMat has been created, in collaboration with peak industry bodies and community housing providers. The online platform matches a tenant’s application to rental homes for which they are eligible, replacing the older, slower system of a tenant making an individual application directly to each housing provider.

“Many Australians struggle with the burden of applying to many different properties in their search for an affordable rental home, slowing down the system despite staggering demand in Sydney,” said Mark Khoo, Co-founder and CEO of WelcomeMat.

“WelcomeMat is helping relieve the stress and frustration that tenants often face in their housing search. Digitally streamlining the process is speeding it up significantly, and helping create a more equitable housing system. Everyone deserves to find the right home for themselves and their family.”

Seung Hoon Ha is grateful to WelcomeMat for assistance. “Because my work and uni commitments are in the CBD, it was difficult for me to find a property within my budget without a long commute; in the private rental market, it was almost impossible.



Seung Hoon Ha on the rooftop balcony of his property which overlooks Victoria Park in Chippendale says he is grateful to WelcomeMat for helping him to find an affordable tenancy closer to work. Photo: Supplied

Through WelcomeMat, I did a quick search for affordable rental properties, and before long I was in a new home that’s much cheaper than most apartments in the area. It also means I have more time to focus on my personal life, having cut out hours each day that I previously

spent on my long commute to and from Western Sydney.”

Rose Thomson, CEO of Churches Housing Inc., the peak body representing faith-based providers of affordable housing in NSW, says access to safe and secure housing is a basic human right. “The significance

of a secure place to live for human dignity, physical and mental health, and overall quality of life, is critical.

We’re delighted to work with WelcomeMat to address this problem and help Australians to quickly and easily find an affordable home.”

SSH



Historian and Inner West Council Citizen of the Year Chrys Meader (centre) says we should preserve history because it honours our ancestors. Photo: Inner West Council

‘History is more than just dates’

HUMAN AFFAIRS

AMY CHENG

COLLECTING information about historical events is like a treasure hunt for this year’s Inner West Council (IWC) Citizen of the Year.

Chrys Meader, a historian, has worked on the histories of Enmore Theatre, Henson Park and Vicars Woollen Mill in Marrickville.

“It’s like a treasure hunt. Sometimes you don’t find gold, but many times you do,” she said.

Ms Meader was very surprised when she was nominated for citizen of the year and even

more surprised when she won.

“I was almost reduced to tears. Yes, I was speechless actually, and usually I’m not lost for words,” she said.

“I’ve been working on the history in the area for decades and I really enjoy talking to people about the history of the area.”

Ms Meader believes it’s important to preserve history because it honours our ancestors.

“Sometimes we think ‘Oh well, that’s the past, we can forget about it’ but I think it’s necessary to understand the past,” she said.

Enmore Theatre was one of her great passion projects.

“It’s been passed down from family to family to family and



The Cooperative’s performances of Puccini’s *Tosca* at Pitt Street Uniting Church on June 17 and 19 drew large audiences. Rebecca Moret (pictured) played the lead role. The youth opera company received \$2,867 in pay-as-you-see entry donations at the door and online, which it will donate to two First Nations-governed organisations working for justice reform – the Aboriginal Legal Service and Change the Record. For productions, bookings and donations, go to www.thecooperativeopera.org. Photo: Andrew Collis

always with that community feeling for it, and that’s really what attracted me to Enmore,” Ms Meader said.

She believes it’s one of the great icons of Sydney, not just the Inner West.

“It’s adapted to its community, it never lost sight of the fact that there was a community surrounding it,” Ms Meader said.

“It wasn’t just a building where they showed vaudeville or a building where they showed movies and other events, it really engaged with its community.”

History is about more than just dates, Ms Meader said.

“You can say WWI veteran, 1914 to 1919 ... [but] when you start looking at the individual stories of these people who went, it actually

gives you a feeling more so than the dates and why they went to war and what happened to them.”

Ms Meader also urges people to keep a record of their life stories.

“We need to, I think, tell everyone they’ve all got to document their own history – the history of their streets, the history of their house and the history of their park,” she said.

SSH



Jenny Leong MP
STATE MEMBER
FOR NEWTOWN

We can get through this together

As Greater Sydney heads back into a lockdown of sorts to deal with a new outbreak of COVID-19 in our community, it is so important that we take collective responsibility and do what we can to limit the spread. In addition to adhering to all the advice from NSW Health, let's all stay safe by staying home if we can, checking in regularly on our loved ones and supporting our local businesses with takeaway and delivery where possible.

As the situation evolves, it's important to stay up to date with the latest information on restrictions. You can always find the most up to date information at www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules

If you have questions about these restrictions or need support during this time, please feel free to contact us on 9517 2800 or newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

We know that some people will be doing it tougher than others, and our office will be advocating strongly for financial support for those who need it – particularly casual workers, those working in industries where working from home isn't an option and small businesses.

If you require specialist assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you may find this information helpful.

National Coronavirus 24hr Helpline: 1800 020 080

Service NSW 24hr Helpline: 13 77 88

Mental Health 24hr Helpline: 1800 011 511

Disability Services Helpline: 1800 643 787

Domestic violence helpline: 1800 656 463

Link2Home Homelessness hotline: 1800 152 152

Tenants' Advice line: 1800 251 101

Remember - wear a mask, if you have symptoms get tested, and be sure to follow the NSW Health advice to keep yourself and our community safe. And if you are eligible for a vaccine - then register and get vaccinated!

Together, we can get through these difficult times.

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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Recycling robot could help solve soft plastic waste crisis

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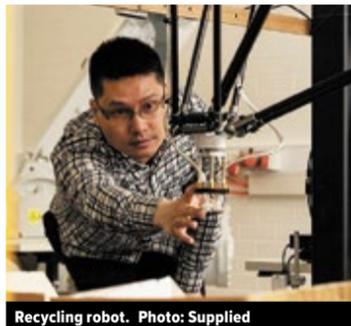
DESPITE an improvement in plastic recycling in recent years, landfill is a growing issue. Soft plastics like cling wrap and plastic bags are a major contributor to the problem, with 94 percent going to landfill in 2016-17.

Soft plastics lack adequate recycling methods as they easily entangle in waste separation machinery, leading to mechanical failure and contamination of other recyclable materials such as paper. Because of this problem, current recycling methods rely on the manual sorting of soft plastics, an often repetitive and unsafe task.

Working alongside industry partners as part of a federal government Cooperative Research Centre Project grant, researchers from the Centre for Internet of Things (IoT) and Telecommunications at the University of Sydney are developing a unique method to increase recycling of soft plastics – by creating a smart, automated robotic system that uses AI to sort recyclable waste.

The team includes Professor Branka Vucetic, Professor Yonghui Li, Associate Professor Wanli Ouyang, Dr Wanchun Liu and Senior Technical Officer Dawei Tan from the School of Electrical and Information Engineering.

“The recycling robotic automation system will use artificial intelligence and computer vision to learn how to identify different forms of recycling waste,



Recycling robot. Photo: Supplied

effectively learning how to ‘see’ and ‘sort’ waste, to create separate waste streams and maintain soft plastics’ purity so they can be recycled,” said IoT expert, Professor Branka Vucetic.

“Soft plastics are a big contributor to landfill and have long been a challenge for the circular economy and waste management sector, as they have lacked an adequate and safe sorting method. Using the latest IoT techniques, we have created a custom robot to solve this issue,” said Professor Yonghui Li.

“Between 2018 and 2019, Australia generated 2.5 million tonnes of plastic waste, which included soft plastics: only 9 percent was sent to recycling while 84 percent went to landfill. We aim to drastically switch those percentages by developing a solution that allows for most soft plastic waste being recycled,” said Dr Wanchun Liu.

The researchers are working with waste management companies, iQRenew and CurbCycle, technology developers Licella, Mike Ritchie and Associates, and Resource Recovery Design to develop the system.

The system will be integrated into iQRenew’s material recovery facility as part of CurbCycle’s soft plastic recovery program,

an Australian initiative that involves the household collection of recyclables that are segregated into bags prior to placing them into their kerbside recycling bin.

“Not only does our project divert household soft plastics from going to landfill; by creating a solution for the collection and sorting of waste with our industry and research partners, we’re also creating a sustainable supply chain that takes rubbish from households to end markets,” said Associate Professor Wanli Ouyang.

After being separated from other waste, the soft plastics will be used for various purposes, including advanced recycling into oils and other valuable chemicals using patented Catalytic Hydrothermal Reactor technology (Cat-HTR™) created by Licella Holdings.

Licella was founded by Professor Thomas Maschmeyer from the Faculty of Science alongside Licella CEO, Dr Len Humphreys, and has been supported by the University of Sydney for 14 years.

“This highly innovative materials handling process can help extend the range of the Cat-HTR conversion technology to now include increasingly challenging waste streams, highlighting the benefit of close industrial and academic collaboration,” said Professor Maschmeyer.



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof. Stephen Garton.
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‘You are home, Dimitris’

MUSIC

SSH

NEWTOWN: More than 350 mesmerised people swayed, clapped in time and sang along with internationally-acclaimed Greek singer and musician, Dimitris Basis in his second collaborative concert with Newtown High School of the Performing Arts (NHSPA).

“You are home,” NHSPA Principal Sharon Roberts said to Mr Basis after a standing ovation affirmed the stellar performance on June 8 – her remark summing up the closeness sparked at his first concert with the students in 2019, which had made him a cherished member of the NHSPA family.

Fifty-eight students from the NHSPA orchestra, 37 from the school’s specially formed choral ensemble, and four NHSPA alumni accompanied Mr Basis to pay tribute to 200 years of Greek music and the inspirational musicians that had shaped it.

Other musicians performing on the night included George



Acclaimed Greek singer Dimitris Basis said performing with the students and teachers at NHSPA has been a career highlight. Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones

Doukas (guitar and musical arrangements), Thanasis Pylarinos (bazouki) and Paul Meader (bass guitar), George Karantonis (singer) along with staff members Ynping Mak (choral director), Deborah McGowan (violin) and Philip Podreka (clarinet).

Musical Director Emlyn Lewis-Jones received a warm embrace from Mr Basis who said that, despite their inability to speak each other’s language, the pair had formed a deep connection through their love for and performance of fine music.

Concerts with the talented students and teachers at NHSPA, he said, were firmly embedded in his heart and soul and cherished as career highlights.

Mr Basis’s silky and commanding voice led the

audience through 22 songs which charted the history of Greek music over last 200 years and the Greek people’s struggle for freedom and independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Festival committee member and careers advisor for NHSPA Ula George said that while Covid-19 had disrupted plans for NHSPA musicians to travel to Athens in 2020 to work with Mr Basis and young people studying at the Athenian Conservatoire, the plan had not been forgotten and would be revisited when borders opened and travel was safe again.

“We will ride on the coattails of tonight to give us energy – and do whatever we can to ensure the students get there! Their love of Greek music, so evident tonight, will blossom in its ancient birthplace.”



Localisation can help restore the planet

EDITORIAL

SSH

A greater appreciation for Indigenous cultures, a growing desire for connection to community and the natural world, and a shift towards farmers' markets and community gardens are all indicators of a rising worldwide movement for localisation that is realigning our priorities with our deeper human values, as well as with the needs of the planet.

This shift is necessary according to Helena Norberg-Hodge, pioneer of the local economy movement and director of Local Futures, The International Alliance for Localization and World Localization Day (WLD) on June 20.

"From climate change to species extinction, from pollution to plastics, the global food system is the single largest contributor to the destruction of our

planet," she says.

"Strengthening local economies is a win-win-win strategy, simultaneously restoring environmental health, building community and securing livelihoods."

Localisation is about supporting local shops, local farms and farmers' markets and local businesses. It's about keeping money within the community, and investing in where you live – financially, emotionally and practically.

Central to this year's WLD efforts was a worldwide Local Food Feast campaign held in June with hundreds of feasts taking place across the globe to illustrate the transformative power of local food systems.

In Australia, to show their support for localisation people held food feasts, took part in seminars, and attended talks featuring Indigenous leaders addressing the challenges in transforming industrialised societies into mature civilisations

that care for Country and care for each other.

Local Futures is a non-profit organisation with offices in the US, the UK and Australia. Its mission is to renew ecological, social and spiritual wellbeing by promoting a systemic shift towards economic localisation.

While the localisation movement is (naturally) decentralised, it says, the need to act together is critical.

The Local Futures website provides a host of ways people can change their practices now to build momentum for bigger community projects and collective action – from shifting five of your regular food purchases to a local farm or producer to growing plants that attract and support pollinators, other insects and wild birds.

Take a look.

SSH

#WorldLocalizationDay
www.worldlocalizationday.org
www.localfutures.org/programs

Show us your true faith, Scott

FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

WHEN our prime minister, Scott Morrison, first took office, he told us in the early days that he was a Pentecostal Christian.

The fact that he did this made me think that he believes that we should be told this by a prime minister or, at least, if the person concerned is religious. In announcing his Christian faith, he implied that his political life would express that faith.

Now, we might well ask him how this faith has determined the way that he has acted, or not acted, in relation to the life of the Tamil Murugappan family?

Given that, at the centre of our Christian faith, is the commandment to "Love our neighbours as ourselves" how has our prime minister given life to that as he sees before him the intense suffering of this family, especially that of one of their children?

One of his cabinet members has, at last, allowed the family to join

together again – but with no apparent influence from the prime minister. Also, there is nothing, as yet, to suggest that the family will now be allowed to return to their home in Biloela, the birthplace of their daughter.

There should be no delay in arranging this, given that all of us took over this land from its people without permission or any true respect for its owners – the Indigenous Aboriginal people.

Show us your true faith, prime minister, and tell us what it means to love our neighbours as ourselves.

SSH



Yumi Stynes and Dr Melissa Kang spoke to hundreds of young people as well as to experts and stakeholders in the field of consent education, rape prevention, domestic violence prevention and researchers into sex education while writing their new book *Welcome to Consent*. Photo: Supplied

Navigating consent? Grab this new guide

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

IN May, the NSW Attorney General announced reform of consent laws in NSW, including a model of affirmative consent. This Q&A reveals why tweens and teens of all genders, as well as their parents, should read *Welcome to Consent* a new guide to navigating consent by adolescent health experts Yumi Stynes and Dr Melissa Kang.

What motivated you to write *Welcome to Consent*?

Melissa (M): It was evident to me through my work at Dolly Doctor for over 20 years, and also through my work as a doctor seeing young people and as a researcher looking at sexual health, that many attitudes and understandings about consent and sex were deeply gendered. This was true for me as a young person, but hadn't changed over the generations, which is a real concern. Despite young people having more access to information about sex, more understanding about diversity and more understanding of the importance of gender equality in society at large, the early and formative aspects of adolescence can have a huge impact on growing up feeling positive about sex and relationships. Consent is fundamental to that because it's about respect, rights and personal agency.

How important was it to include quotes from younger people?

Yumi (Y): Consent learning is incredibly powerful when it's peer-to-peer. Kids hearing about experiences from people their own age has a far greater impact than a couple of adults talking about research and back

when they were kids! We found that it is incredibly vivid to hear about what real people have experienced, including real teenagers (we spoke to hundreds) – and that lived experience helps colour in the nuance and detail when it comes to consent.

What three messages about consent would you most like young people to take away?

M: 1. Your body belongs to you and nobody else, ever. 2. Trust your gut instinct: if it doesn't feel right, don't do it – take five, walk away, or say no. 3. It's good to practise communication in all sorts of situations – especially those that feel less risky. Having "practice conversations" in a low-stakes environment – around something that's not about sex – can prepare you to assert your boundaries in a calm and thoughtful way.

How does your book address parental fears about new territories like sexting, and online hook-ups and flirting?

Y: Teens are already in this world, whether we like it or not. The best thing we can do is withhold judgement, support them when they need it, and offer best-case-scenario examples for how to conduct themselves in these spaces. We can also keep them informed of their legal rights. Sending nudes is way more common than we'd like to think, and we need to not freak out if we discover this has happened with one of our kids. The worst thing to do for our kids is force them to keep secrets because we can't handle it.

SSH

Welcome to Consent: How to say no, when to say yes, and everything in between Yumi Stynes and Dr Melissa Kang, Hardie Grant, \$19.99

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

Barnes brings catchy country music to Paddo

MUSIC

TESS RIDGWAY

COUNTRY music star Casey Barnes is Tasmanian born and now living on the Gold Coast. He came to fame after appearing on Australian Idol in 2009 and last year was nominated for an ARIA for Best Country Album.

Barnes creates catchy country ditties with a pop enthusiasm, optimism and fun. Barnes brings country music to a mainstream audience, in a similar vein to Keith Urban. He is known for his memorable live performances that have a sense of spectacle and a good dose of humour.

He is currently touring his latest single "Come Turn Me On," a playful party-starting song about missing home. The tour is sweeping the east coast from urban cities like Brisbane, Sydney, and the Gold Coast to smaller/ (suitably) country locales including Gosford, Townsville, Gympie, Mareeba and Shepparton.

Set to play in Sydney for the first time in two years, Covid restrictions sees his Paddington RSL show on July 9 postponed to September 2.

I like the new video clip "Come Turn Me On" especially that it ends with you getting into a truck! Love the big nod to country. What inspired that song?

So glad you like the clip! I have to do a special shout out to my wife Michelle here as she came up with all of the creative direction behind the video. We wanted it to be high energy and lots of fun to compliment the song and really enjoyed shooting this one! I did a heck of a lot of co-writing throughout Covid last year and teamed up with two amazing songwriters in Nashville to write this track. It's all about missing the one you love and being excited to get back home.

You are known for your great high-energy live shows, what makes for a good show?

I think the most important thing is a connection with your audience. Over the last few years,

we've spent a lot of time focussing on the live show, how to make it the best that it can be. A lot of that has involved writing and releasing the right songs as well. It's a real buzz now we're back playing shows again and having the crowd sing all the words back. Last year was pretty tough not being able to tour so we're extremely grateful to be back doing what we love again.

You have toured a fair bit – even across the United States pre-Covid – what was your favourite show? Or a favourite town to play to?

Always hard to single out a favourite show as we've done some absolute rippers over the last few years. My first real big break opening for Bryan Adams for A Day on the Green is one that I'll never forget as that really kick started everything. When it comes to a favourite town to play, it's hard to beat a home town show on the Gold Coast, and one of our favourite festivals is Groundwater Country Music Festival, which is held here every year. It's always a huge buzz and keeps getting bigger and better!



Country music star Casey Barnes is touring his latest single to the east coast, including a show in Paddington. (See details at www.paddorsl.com.au) Photo: Supplied

What makes a perfect song?

It's a bit like what makes for a perfect live show ... it's all about the connection between you and the listener. Whether it's an upbeat track or a ballad you've got to be able to tell a story and draw the listener in ... keep their attention. I always like to create certain "moments" within a song that do that – combined with lyrics that people can relate to.

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

I've always been a huge fan of both Elton John and James Taylor since I was a little kid growing up listening to their records. But if I had to pick one song, maybe a beautiful stripped back acoustic version of "Fire and Rain" ... just acoustic guitar, vocals and cello. That'd be pretty special.



Window shopping on King Street, Newtown. Photo: Andrew Collis

Music and more in store

MUSIC

MENILA MOINEAUX

WHETHER you descend down a narrow, dimly lit and more-than-slightly hazardous staircase, or step through a glass and wood door which jingles and creaks as you push it open, a soundscape of niche yet widely appealing tunes and a comforting smell of musty cardboard welcome you.

A myriad of people wait to greet you, having wandered in that same door from any and all walks of life, each with a lively individual story (which they'll no doubt share), unfold, as you carefully flick through the precise mess of treasure upon treasure.

They're an increasingly rare find, and all the more of a gem when

happened upon, but you've found yourself in a record store. Yes, those do still exist in Sydney, and, one might even argue, amidst both a resurgence of interest in vinyl and an enduring set of regular patrons who've been going to their favourite stores for decades, they're surviving and thriving. Yet, as any art-dependent business must, record and CD stores rely on new interest and new customers who will one day become that set of regulars. And what better a time to discover that new world than on Record Store Day?

Held each year, between April and November, Record Store Day began in 2007, as a celebration of independent "bricks and mortar" recorded music specialists. Typically, Record Store Day coincides with new releases, and while each store will

celebrate in a unique way, many will feature live performances, sales or special events. This year, Record Store Day is spread across two dates – June 12 and July 17.

This writer claims a bias, having spent many genuinely fascinating and highly enjoyable years behind the counter of a specialist music retailer, seeing firsthand the excitement upon each customer's face as they stepped into the new world of the record store for the first time, or the delight in each regular's eyes as they unearthed a long out-of-print disc or raced in to grab a copy of the latest release. Nonetheless and all bias aside, the physical record store truly is a treasure trove; head into your local this Record Store Day or, really, any day, and find out.

www.recordstoreday.com.au



Detail from one of the diverse artworks included in the Pride Sydney/TAP Gallery. Photo: Alice Anderson

Pride Month show depicts diversity

ART/EXHIBITIONS

ALICE ANDERSON

AS part of Pride Month, Pride Sydney and TAP Gallery put on an art competition allowing artists from all backgrounds to display their works with a chance of winning a prize.

This year's Pride theme "Diversity, Equality and Inclusion" with its tagline "Creating the future together" drew a lot of artists to get involved and to vie for the \$1,000 in prizes. The judge was Yves Hernot, Knight/Chevalier of the Order National of Mérite (Culture), and the show ran from June 7 to June 24.

The People's choice winner was

April White who created a great painting that had a modern feel to it and showed the intersectionality most members of the LGBTQIA+ community have experienced. The winner of the show, Jim Anderson (no relation to Alice Anderson), won with their wonderful mixed media piece called "Equality the Long March" which showed multiple figures bushwalking while being overseen by an angel-like creature.

Having art shows which are inclusive and accessible and where a variety of artists can show their works is very important. Support your local community art projects by visiting, buying the art if you can, and through donations.

www.tapgallery.org.au

The Reviews



Bangarra ensemble, *SandSong* – Sydney Opera House. Photo by Daniel Boud

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper

SandSong
Bangarra Dance Theatre
Choreographers: Stephen Page,
Frances Rings
Sydney Opera House
June 10 – July 10, 2021

SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert is Bangarra Dance Theatre's first new full-length work for three years, and in keeping with their unique signature style it combines authentic storytelling, superb technique and a powerfully emotive performance.

The stories that come to the stage in *SandSong* come from the Kimberley region and have been sourced from a First Nations culture that has existed for 60,000 years in a land that is almost two million years old. These remote communities underwent some of the darkest moments in Australia's history as governments blundered their way through "native affairs" policies and exploitative individuals or companies took control of the land.

Consequently, the performance begins by delivering a shock – harsh sounds and a grim dark backdrop – to its comfortably seated audience. For a few minutes they experience a sense displacement and disruption undergone on a massive scale by people abruptly uprooted from a way of life that had sustained them and the land for thousands of years. Uncomfortable facts are set before us – a compulsory truth-seeing.

In seconds, we are taken back into that dream world we have anticipated. The backdrop reflects the gold of the sun, the red of the desert dust and the rolling motion of the full Bangarra ensemble – and the circle inscribed beneath their feet – invoke the cycle of unfolding seasons that sustained life. A shy young woman and an uncertain young man are inducted into their respective roles and their place affirmed: a traditional dance for women images the ritual of providing, the man's traditional dance tells a story of rightful possession of the totem or keeping order.

This lovely image of an established way of life carefully calibrated to maintain a balance between people and land is threatened. The women dance, representing coolamons, looking to be filled but food is scarce and their tentative gestures and

movements suggest fragility. The suggestion of disaster is strengthened by the burning bundles of spinifex carried by the men who seem to be concerned about the health of the land, and the elders sensing catastrophe begin to leave.

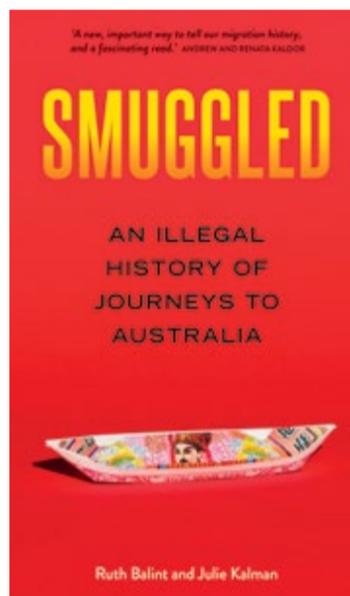
That catastrophe is the arrogance, ignorance and greed of the invaders. A painful scene shows the auction of men, and their heavy chains and struggling movements convey the servitude, the debasement and grief of all the displaced. The living seasonal cycle has been replaced by a relentless and deathly cycle of work – with barely enough rations – but the land itself will rescue them from the dark times. The welcome voice of Vincent Lingiari is heard, a voice that reminds them that the land is their land, and that they want to live on it their way.

Many of the young, growing up without culture, fall into despair. Nevertheless, in a touching interlude, a lost young man can still be reconnected with the code of life handed down through his ancestors and is restored by the spirit of the land, who ritually and lovingly cleanses and heals him. Pride reawakened, a lost and abused peoples reunite and revive. Rituals can be recovered as tenderly conveyed in the woman's traditional potato dance, and painting Country restores them to homeland, community and family.

In the ultimate scene the ensemble comes together to affirm their belonging, and separating into groups, they fold gracefully into each other, serene and breathing in accord with the spirit of their land. We are left with the conviction that the ancient knowledge of People and Country can be dispersed, but it can never be lost. *SandSong* itself is living proof created by Bangarra in consultation with Wangkatjunga and Walmajarri Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders from the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert Regions.

The choreography of *SandSong* is always mesmerising, the visualisation by turns delicate, haunting, violent or terrifying, and the dancers' flexibility, dedication and sensitivity almost beyond imagining. Bangarra's mission, it seems, is truth-telling and their chosen way of telling it guarantees that audiences both national and international will receive it gratefully.

» theatre@ssh.com.au



Book Review by Catherine DeMayo

Smuggled – an illegal history of journeys to Australia
Ruth Balint and Julie Kalman
New South \$34.99

Australia's Immigration Minister recently warned that one false move could put our nation under siege from the shadowy people smugglers who are poised and ready to strike. If we allow the "Biloela four", the Tamil family who remain in immigration limbo, to settle here, warned Alex Hawke, this would "absolutely" restart the boats.

"The people smugglers are there, they watch developments closely, they take account of any decisions we make," he said. "The trade in human misery means lost life ... and a loss of social cohesion."

Yes, the people smugglers, those opportunistic merchants of misery, will quickly fill their boats if these four people get to stay in Australia. It is people smugglers' marketing techniques, not persecution, terror and genocide back home, that are to blame for desperate asylum seekers taking to the seas. As the authors of *Smuggled* put it, "...the evil people smuggler has become the bogeyman of the Western world, rivalled only by terrorists and paedophiles, and demonizing people smugglers has become something of a sport among politicians."

Authors Ruth Balint and Julie Kalman are associate professors, at the University of New South Wales and Monash University respectively. They are also both the children of European refugees and have taught and researched extensively on migration issues.

Sadly, the wrong people will probably read *Smuggled – an illegal history of journeys to Australia*, those who suspect the issue isn't as simple as what is typically presented by our leaders. This book relates dozens of accounts of people who have managed to make a new life for themselves after fleeing persecution – thanks to people smugglers. Their stories make clear that paying someone to help you flee a regime intent on killing you does nothing to diminish the strength of your claim for refuge.

Forged birth certificates, bribed border officials, children hidden under bags of flour – and

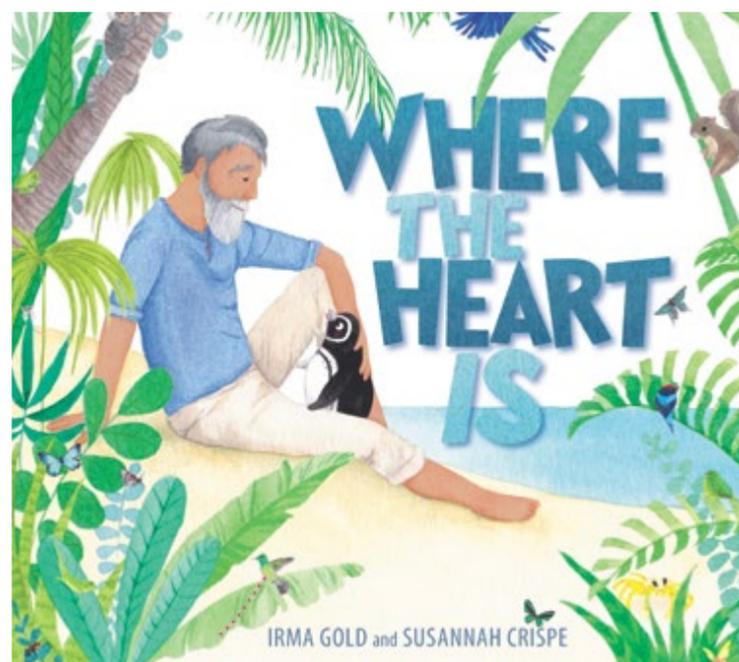
many more illegal acts – allowed thousands of Jews to escape Nazi Germany's death camps. (Several of the Jewish refugees interviewed for this book stressed that anyone trying to help Jews escape would, if caught, be shot along with the Jews.)

The late Les Murray (the soccer commentator, not the poet), owed his life to a people smuggler. As an 11 year old named Laszlo Urge, Murray fled Hungary in 1957. In 2011, he returned, in the hope of saying thank you to Gyula/Louis, who had led him and his brother across the Iron Curtain. (Gyula had

died, but Murray managed to pay his respects to his son and grandson) More recently, refugees from Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Burma escaped persecution, torture and likely death through the intervention of people smugglers.

Yes, sometimes smugglers lie to, cheat, exploit and endanger desperate people. And yes, they do make money from those who have few choices. But as the stories in this book testify, people smugglers also save lives, and sometimes risk their own in the process.

» books@ssh.com.au



Book Review by Marjorie Lewis-Jones

Where the Heart Is
Irma Gold and Susannah Crispe
EK Books, \$24.99

The backstory to this heart-warming book is a beauty.

Author Irma Gold was inspired by a newspaper piece about an oil-drenched Magellanic penguin chick that washed up on an island outside Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and was rescued by an islander named Joao who named him Dindim.

The close bond the pair formed meant Dindim spent eight months of every year with Joao then swam an extraordinary 8,000 kilometres to the Patagonia coasts of Argentina and Chile.

Enter illustrator, Susannah Crispe, who had travelled through South America and been taken by local fishermen to the Islotes de Peñihuil off the coast of Chile where she'd spent a magical time watching Magellanic penguins going about their day in amongst Humboldt penguins, ducks, gulls, shags and terns.

She'd also spent several weeks exploring Brazilian beaches and islands and decided Ilha Grande, Joao's home, was by far her favourite place in the region with its pristine beaches and flourishing jungle.

"I completely understand why Dindim returns to the island every year. I would too, if I could!" she says.

For us, now, the best part of the backstory is that Gold and Crispe found one another and

collaborated to bring Dindim and Joao's incredible story to life. Their clever partnership has created a winsome and wonderful book that children aged 3 to 7 should connect with and cherish.

Crispe's illustrations are fresh but never overwhelming; her use of watercolour and digital collage conveying a tenderness that supports Gold's eloquence.

The end papers are divine and I also found the plates that feature Dindim bonding with his penguin buddies in the rookery and then swimming away again compelling. The pages on which the penguin-related action is shown in three segments are ingenious in that they reveal time passing without beating the reader over the head with it.

The Teachers Notes emphasise touchpoints for learning, which include: discussing the oil spill that almost kills Dindim; increasing the awareness of the dangers faced by Magellanic penguins (a near-threatened species); and exploring how to respect wild animals and their habitats.

One suggested activity is to "act like a penguin with large motor movements including flapping wings, twirling, waddling, jumping, rolling into a ball, and sliding on your tummy" which I think sounds excellent.

Where the Heart Is offers insights into the comfort to be found in friendship, and the strong bonds that can form between humans and animals. A rare bird of a book: light and deep in equal measure.

» books@ssh.com.au

Wellness sessions by local Swedish siren



Carina Grace. Photo: Supplied

STEVE TURNER

DYNAMIC Surry Hills singer and wellness teacher Carina Grace has been studying and practising various wellness and healing methods for 30 years.

Carina, originally from Sweden, was a finalist on 2020's *The Voice* and has been entertaining audiences in Sydney and beyond for many years. She intuitively uses her incredibly healing voice in "sound healing" sessions, where she incorporates sound bowls, guided meditation,

breathing techniques and astrological discussions into her classes. Simply lie down, relax and harmonise your body. Carina conducts regular classes at inner-city venues. For more information go to Facebook and look up the page "Swedish Siren".

Aussies gear up for Wimbledon

Ash Barty is locked in as the No. 1 seed at Wimbledon. All 32 seeds in the men's and women's draw followed ranking order, leaving Barty at the top of the women's field which will not feature world No. 2 Naomi Osaka. Barty withdrew from her second-round match at the French Open due to a hip injury but appears to be back on track, with vision of her training on Wimbledon's social media accounts appearing regularly.

Alex de Minaur has earned the men's No. 16 seed, carving what should be his easiest path to the second week at the All England Club in his career. Nick Kyrgios, ranked 55, is also preparing for a slice of the Wimbledon pie. A successful tournament will see him progress further in the world rankings.

Blues improve on perfect

Rugby league reporter John Lanzky lodged the following reports on Origin games 1 and 2.

Townsville, June 9, NSW 50 def. Qld 6: In all the years

I've watched Origin footy I've never seen NSW play better. The coordination among players was A1. It's very hard to name a player of the match. They were all excellent. Souths' players Mitchell, Cooky and Murray all played above their weight, which was great to see. The defence was 100 per cent. If NSW play to this standard, well, the shield is ours again. Coach Fittler was criticised last year. He has proven himself in Townsville and will be coach now for as long as he wants.

Brisbane, June 27, NSW 26 def. Qld 0: I did not believe the Blues could improve on perfect, but after watching this game I now know that anything is possible. Again, don't ask me to name a standout player. They were all outstanding. Lattrell Mitchell's intercept and length-of-the-field try was magnificent. He anticipated where the ball was headed at least two plays beforehand. Tommy Turbo's try-saving tackle on Dane Gagai was something to behold – one for the Origin highlights reel forever. Keeping Queensland to 0 for the first time, and at Suncorp, what else needs to be said! Wherever it is played, Origin 3 is an opportunity for NSW fans to show their support for arguably the best Blues team ever. I predict NSW will take the series 3-0. Let's keep the Maroons scoreless again!

Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

Well, my dears, here we are again in lockdown or Stay at Home, as the premier is now calling it. This time it is because of cases of the more contagious and virulent Delta variant of Covid-19 showing up in people around the City and suburbs. It seems that masks may be mandatory for some time to come, so make sure your mask covers your nose. I've seen so many people with masks under noses and under chins. Don't forget this deadly virus is airborne and it gets up your nose.

Cinemas, theatres and galleries

Most entertainment venues, clubs and pubs are closed until at least July 9. Check with them individually for further details or through the Service NSW app.

ABC iview and SBS On Demand

Lots of wonderful programs are on these free streaming services to keep you and your family entertained while staying at home. Not to forget all their fantastic music programs and superior news services.

ABC 'You Can't Ask That'

Congratulations, Dorothy McRae-McMahon, loved seeing you as part of *You Can't Ask That* in June. This is such an interesting and inclusive program, and I love how many diverse lifestyles, views and people are represented. You can catch up on

ABC iview Season 6. Dorothy was also interviewed recently by FBI Radio's Mia Hull for a program that aired on June 3. You can listen here: www.fbiradio.com/945fm/programs/out-of-the-box

SSH Cartoon Show has been postponed

Due to the Covid lockdown SSH *Cartoon Show* was postponed (we will celebrate mid-show on a date TBA), and the show has been extended until July 31. Artworks by norrie mAy-welby are available for view on Instagram @orchardgalleryau, and items can be ordered via the form available at: www.bit.ly/2Twopmw

Subscribe to SSH

Subscribe to the SSH Update on the website www.southsydneyherald.com.au for more news during the month. Our donate button is still active on the front page if you can help to support the continued excellence of the paper.

As always, take care of yourselves and others during this difficult time, and especially give thanks for all those frontline and service people working to keep us safe and healthy.

Until next time,
Pat Clarke

volunteers@ssh.com.au

SSH



SSH Cartoon Show

Artworks by norrie mAy-welby
Curated by Catherine Skipper
Now until July 31

Due to Covid lockdown the **SSH Cartoon Show** opening is postponed (date TBA), and the exhibition has been extended until July 31. Artworks by norrie mAy-welby are available for viewing on Instagram @orchardgalleryau, and items (including original drawings, prints, t-shirts, aprons and ceramic mugs) can be purchased via an online order form: www.bit.ly/3jzvKwl

All proceeds in support of the Orchard Gallery and SSH.

The Orchard Gallery
56a Raglan St Waterloo
@orchardgalleryau

Blak & Blu

Annual pen on paper art prize

Blak & Blu invites artists from South Sydney and beyond to submit drawings on A4 paper using black and/or blue pens.

The paper should be at least 300gsm and the work should comment in some way on a social issue – observations within the landscape.

There will be a \$1,000 prize, as well as formal commendations and opportunity to have work included in an exhibition at the Orchard Gallery, opening September 11 (2-4pm) as part of the Sydney Contemporary art fair.

Please send submissions by post to Blak & Blu, PO Box 3288 Redfern NSW 2016. Closing date for submissions is Friday August 6.

Blak & Blu, inspired by 19th-century Aboriginal artist Tommy McRae, is sponsored by Redfern-based Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas.

www.blakdouglas.com.au
@orchardgalleryau