

the South Sydney Herald

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One&All is here to help and heal

HUMAN AFFAIRS

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

SYDNEY'S first all-inclusive community hub for disabled and abled individuals aims to "elevate all" says its founder/director Romy Wolman in this Q&A.

Why is it important to offer a consortium of choice for all abilities under one roof?

A critical problem faced by differently abled people in the Sydney community is a lack of social spaces and opportunities for people to feel uplifted and form fulfilling connections with others. Our one-of-a-kind programs are built for everyone to shine and express themselves in their own way. So, gathering all abilities, backgrounds and a range of ages under one roof facilitates authentic community engagement and connections that teach not only our participants, but also our staff, volunteers and facilitators, to truly value, learn from and respect people from various walks of life. Through inclusive and community-led creativity, fitness, social enterprise, therapy and more, One&All facilitates important bonding experiences and conversations that help to break the stigma and create positive perceptions surrounding disability and mental health.

How is One&All fostering positive change in the perception of disability and mental health?

By building a multifaceted and diverse community of participants, volunteers, facilitators, support workers and staff of all abilities at One&All, we have been able to watch and learn from one another, communicate authentically with each other and expand our empathy and respect as a community.

We have a centre that raises the bar in disability services, in a beautiful well-equipped modern space with all the bells and whistles; a hub that integrates community with participants to ensure that we normalise disability; and workshops which involve each individual and allow them to be self-expressive, as opposed to providing a caring/babysitting service. Everyone who enters One&All leaves



The One&All hub in Rosebery offers one-of-a-kind programs shaped to enable everyone to shine and express themselves in their own way. Photo: Ofer Levy

with a genuine appreciation for difference. These new positive perceptions in disability and mental health that we nurture at One&All are then shared with the broader community.

Who is one person One&All is helping to flourish?

Laura, who has Down Syndrome, is our wonderful participant turned in-house barista, running her own coffee stall inside the hub called LC's Café. One&All has given her the opportunity to put her barista course certification, strong ambition and excellent work ethic into practice through social enterprise, by selling delicious coffees to anyone at the hub, thus creating a vocation for her and allowing her to generate her own income. Her independence and passion have flourished tremendously since opening her café and she has positively changed the perceptions of the One&All community.

How do you help and heal through the creative process?

All our workshops and daily activities are embedded with therapeutic qualities, supported by our in-house art therapist and support workers who ensure the healing aspects of each workshop are satisfied. Our creative workshops allow participants to communicate non-verbally, to express and explore feelings in various creative ways, including painting, weaving and clay making, all while putting the mind at ease. Our music workshops heal by improving self-expression and confidence, reducing stress and lifting moods. Our movement workshops help our participants feel connected

to one another through group achievement, on top of releasing endorphins, which is fundamental for improving mental health.

Why Rosebery?

We were fortunate to have been donated our amazing premises, which comprises a 400sqm space in Rosebery with an outside area and the most fantastic layout. We have modified the space to accommodate a meditation/therapy treatment room and a ceramics studio. Our outdoor area incorporates our vegetable garden and will further enable our retail store and market days. Rosebery is central and gave us the opportunity to launch our first centre, which we hope to expand to other locations.

What do you most hope for One&All in 2022?

We aim to grow our community, introduce new and innovative workshops every eight weeks and foster a space for social enterprise and authentic community engagement. As our hub becomes more well known, we will increase the days we run and offer services. We have also found that most of our participants are looking to form relationships, so we are introducing monthly mixed ability social events as well as fun dating programs.

We would like to partner with suitable organisations that can collaborate on helping and healing our society, and form partnerships with corporates aiming to get involved at a grassroots level in social responsibility and making a difference.

One&All
5-11 Mentmore Ave, Rosebery
To volunteer, donate or partner
register at www.oneandallhub.org

Meet your new councillors

POLITICS

SSH

MORE than half of the councillors elected in the Covid-delayed poll on December 4, 2021, are new to the City of Sydney Council.

Four of the 10 councillors have been re-elected including:

- Sydney's longest serving Lord Mayor, **Clover Moore**, who has held the office since the March 2004 re-amalgamation of the City of Sydney and South Sydney councils, where she represented the Redfern Ward since 1980.
- **Robert Kok** (Clover Moore Independents) first elected in 2008, Deputy Lord Mayor 2011-12.
- **Linda Scott** (Labor) first elected in 2012, Deputy Lord Mayor 2018-19.
- **Jess Scully** (Clover Moore Independents) first elected in 2016, Deputy Lord Mayor from September 2019.

The six first-term councillors are Yvonne Weldon (Unite for Sydney), Shauna Jarrett and Lyndon Gannon (Liberal), Sylvie Ellsmore (Greens), Emelda Davis and William Chan (Clover Moore Independents). Amid lots of Council inductions, getting access to their new Council emails and trying to recruit staff, two of the new councillors found time to introduce themselves this month.



Sylvie Ellsmore (Greens)

I grew up in Glebe and live in Darlington with my partner and dogs. I've worked for environmental organisations, government, and as a native title lawyer, and managed community organisations. I

currently work at the University of Sydney, connecting academics and researchers with community projects.

As a councillor representing Newtown on Marrickville Council, I worked with local community groups and residents to build new community spaces and affordable housing, and to increase local green spaces. I am a volunteer karate teacher at Jin Sei-Ryu Karate-Do and a founding member of the Redfern, Eveleigh, Darlington, Waterloo Watch (REDWatch) residents' action group.

Sydney is a beautiful, but contested place. A very wealthy city, but one of the least affordable. My priority for Council is to work with our diverse communities to build on the city's strengths, pushing Council to take bolder actions – particularly around the climate crisis, and the loss of public and affordable housing.

Communities know what they need – my role is to support their voices. This is particularly important when our city is being hit with massive state developments that will grow the local population by 50 per cent over the next 20 years, without plans for the new parks, schools and other supports our growing communities need.



William Chan (Clover Moore Independents)

As a registered architect, I have over 10 years of experience designing for social inclusion and climate action across our city. I'm dedicated to co-designing with our community to ensure that no one is left behind by Covid-19.

I've seen first-hand how Sydney's nightlife has been decimated by the state government's lockout laws and now lockdowns. Local businesses from Chinatown to Kings Cross want greater certainty around late-night trading.

Continued on page 2



'Witty, fearless, humane'



Rich Kids review by Catherine Skipper



Local Stories Live uplifting



South Sydney Herald

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TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

**LABOR'S PLAN TO HELP KIDS
BOUNCE BACK AFTER COVID-19**

While the past two years have been difficult for all Australians, our kids have gone through a particularly tough time. They've missed out on time with friends in the playground, excursions, camps and school formals.

That's why Labor has a plan to deliver \$440 million to schools for upgrades, and mental health support, as part of a new plan to help Australian kids bounce back after COVID.

Our plan includes \$240 million for a Schools Upgrade Fund to improve ventilation and air quality by buying air purifiers, upgrading heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, building outdoor learning spaces and replacing windows and doors so they can let fresh air in.

We will deliver a \$200 million Student Wellbeing Boost for more school counsellors and psychologists, and extra funding for camps, excursions, as well as sporting and social activities that improve kids' wellbeing.

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

Scott Morrison was warned way back in September by the Australian Medical Association that Australia needed a comprehensive rapid test strategy, but the Prime Minister refused to do his job.

It is unbelievable how late Scott Morrison left it to order RATs, and once again it is Australians who are paying the price for this Prime Minister's incompetence. The slow response on Rapid Antigen Tests is the latest example of Scott Morrison's failure to plan and take responsibility.

Right now, Australians still can't find RATs let alone afford them. Labor has called on the Morrison Government for free rapid tests. PCR tests are free for everyone through Medicare. RATs should be too.

Labor believes that nobody should be denied a Covid-19 test because they can't afford one.

ELECTORATE OFFICE

My electorate office provides support with Centrelink, Veterans' Affairs, Medicare, Immigration, NBN and other federal matters.

**If you require assistance, then please don't
hesitate to call us on 9379 0700 or email
Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au**

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

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**More trees and sunlight give
Waterloo South four towers**

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

**THE exhibition of the planning
proposal for Waterloo promised
in January has not occurred.**

Tenant and agency representatives who attended two Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) workshops in early December have a pretty good overview of what will be proposed. DPE asked attendees not to release the slides and details of the presentations. Instead DPE released a summary of the sessions with some questions and answers from the workshops. This article is based on those documents. The exhibited proposal may differ as it was not final in December and the summary blurs some details.

DPE has mainly adopted the City of Sydney's scheme for Waterloo South with a number of significant changes to the proposed building heights and footprints to retain 24 additional trees and allow more sunlight into future homes, courtyards and streets.

Nine additional trees along McEvoy Street are retained with building layout changes. Trees on the corners of Wellington and Pitt Streets, Wellington and Gibson Streets and Gibson and Kellick Streets are also saved.

To meet the approximately 3,000 homes required in the Gateway conditions, there are changes to building locations and a tall building at the corner of Kellick and Gibson Streets is additional to the three towers in the City's plan.

DPE said its consultant confirmed the feasibility of the plan, including up to 30 per cent social and 5-10 per cent affordable housing. None of the studies and assumptions are public. The 3,000 allows for a 10 per cent bonus for meeting design excellence through design competitions, as well as minimising wind impacts and noise.

The left turn in and left turn out intersection of Pitt at McEvoy Street remains.

In response to concerns about Pitt Street becoming a rat run, DPE said the "planning proposal does not include changes to traffic outside the area".

Bike paths are proposed along George and Wellington Streets, with West Street made wider and a footpath to allow people to walk from the dead end of Mead Street to McEvoy Street. The large park to the north of the site would be zoned public recreation – which also allows playgrounds or community facilities. There is still a smaller park to the south.

DPE has talked to local agencies and the Waterloo Redevelopment Group about how best to include face-to-face interaction with tenants during the public exhibition. If the exhibition period starts before the current Omicron Covid 19 surge subsides, DPE may push the face-to-face elements back to later in the exhibition. A physical model and copies of documents will be available on the estate.

DPE has had to manage a number of potential conflicts of interest in handling Waterloo South. The Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), the proponent, was already part of DPE. Another part of DPE, that normally handles state significant DA exhibitions, is acting in the place of Council to do the studies and the exhibition. This work needs to be checked by yet another part of DPE that handles Gateway planning proposals and approves exhibitions.

In addition, Minister Stokes, who originally took the planning proposal from Council to give it to DPE, is no longer the planning minister; he went with Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport into the Transport cluster. Stokes was replaced as Planning Minister by a returning Anthony Roberts who now also holds Melinda Pavey's old Housing Minister's responsibility that includes LAHC. Minister Roberts promoted the head of LAHC, Mike Cassell, to be his new head (Secretary) of DPE.

SSH

Meet your new councillors

Continued from page 1

I'm working with local small businesses to continue implementing our Nightlife Development Control Plan of reinvigorating our city.

I believe housing is a right and will bring my urban planning practice to the Council table. Key city-makers deserve to live and work locally. I'm prioritising affordable housing, mixed tenancy and a diversity of housing stock. Through innovative planning controls and community land trusts, we can deliver more equitable and inclusive environments. I'll continue to fight for social and First

Nations' housing at Waterloo, and in securing public amenity improvements at Blackwattle Bay.

Having facilitated the City of Sydney's 2050 Citizens Jury, I know our community is demanding a regenerative future. We will continue to green our city by increasing parklands by another 14 hectares, growing tree canopy cover by 50 per cent by 2030, and investing into local solutions by incubating sustainable and circular start-ups.

SSH

**The SSH hopes the other new councillors
will also take up the offer in future
months to introduce themselves
and what personal expertise and
experience they bring to their role.**

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New program supports life beyond a dementia diagnosis

HUMAN AFFAIRS

SSH

AN innovative program launched last October aims to assist the estimated 60,000 Australians diagnosed with dementia each year to understand the next steps and change outdated perceptions of living with dementia.

“When I was first diagnosed, I felt lost and so overwhelmed. I didn’t know where to turn,” said Bill Yeates, who was diagnosed with dementia in 2019.

“The Forward with Dementia program is really important as it guides people and their carers on their next steps,” he added. “It gives them hope and will also reduce some of the stigma and stereotypes about living a life with dementia.”

Forward with Dementia aims to improve the diagnostic experience, post diagnosis support and connections for people with dementia and their carers.

It was jointly planned and developed by leading researchers from UNSW Sydney, the University of Sydney and University of Wollongong in collaboration with colleagues from Canada, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom.

“In the past, people were told nothing could be done. They may have been given some medication, asked to return



Forward with Dementia offers people diagnosed with dementia and their doctors practical and positive support. Photo: Supplied

in six months, told to get their affairs in order and warned about driving. And that was it! Those days are over ... or they should be! We can do a lot better,” said Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty, Project Leader and Co-Director of UNSW Sydney’s Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA).

“People with dementia can live positively for many years. There are treatment strategies and we need to spread the word and assist diagnosticians and other health workers to improve their practice. By working together, we can help set people newly diagnosed with dementia on a better path.”

Program resources, developed with the help of people living with dementia and their carers, include a website

(forwardwithdementia.org/au) to guide people in the first year following diagnosis. The website offers information, advice and tools, and shares experiences and strategies used by people with dementia and their carers.

“It provides the information newly diagnosed people with dementia said they wanted and needed, but struggled to find after diagnosis ... practical advice like how they could get rehabilitative treatments and maintain their independence,” said Professor Lee-Fay Low, Professor in Ageing and Health at the University of Sydney.

Website tools include a checklist of questions for people to ask their doctor, suggestions for how and when to share their diagnosis with family and friends, and planning tools to achieve their

goals and overcome barriers caused by dementia symptoms.

To get the message out across the country, the program includes a national social media campaign.

“Campaigning is important to change community beliefs about dementia. We need to shift perceptions and help people to understand there is a life to live beyond a dementia diagnosis,” said Associate Professor Phillipson, Principal Research Fellow from the University of Wollongong. “Lifestyle strategies and health and care services can effectively support people to move forward with a better quality of life.”

Forward with Dementia has also developed an educational video and tools for doctors which include a diagnostic checklist and information and resources they can provide to newly diagnosed patients.

The Forward with Dementia program was funded by the NHMRC and the European Union (EU) Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND), a global research initiative aimed at tackling the challenge of neurodegenerative diseases. Key collaborators include Dementia Australia, Dementia Alliance International, Alzheimer’s Disease International and the World Health Organisation. SSH

Follow the social media campaign at:
 Twitter: @ForwardwithDementia_AU
 Facebook: @ForwardwithDementiaAU
www.forwardwithdementia.org/au



Hundreds of community members marched around Newtown on November 19 last year in support of the Better Read than Dead workers. Photo: Rose Gosper

Action yields results for Better Read than Dead staff

HUMAN AFFAIRS

SSH

Sustained industrial action by staff at Better Read Than Dead has led owners to agree to an Enterprise Agreement which was signed on December 10.

Paul Wilson’s story for the December 2021 issue of the *South Sydney Herald* ‘Better Read than Dead staff continue to negotiate rights’ revealed how staff of the Newtown bookshop had been trying for more than a year to secure better working conditions with help from the RAFFWU (Retail and Fast Food Workers Union) and strong support from locals and Australia’s literary community. The new Enterprise Agreement delivers the following:

- Conversion to permanent ongoing employment for all members engaged on a casual basis who wish to convert. A minimum four weeks consultation over major changes, six weeks’ notice of any redundancy, rights to redeployment and severance pay rights.
- Full restoration of 100 per cent penalty for work on Sunday from July 2022.
- Workers to be paid a base rate \$1 per hour more than the Award minimum after a year’s service.
- Full suite of health and safety clauses, policies and rights detailed in the agreement.
- Twenty days paid domestic violence leave for those experiencing or supporting those experiencing domestic and family violence, and 26 weeks paid parental leave. SSH

South Sydney’s generosity restores sight to two-year-old boy

HUMAN AFFAIRS

SSH

LAST year, the South Sydney region generously donated more than \$2,400 to help The Fred Hollows Foundation continue its sight-restoring work in some of the world’s poorest communities.

Seventy people from the region have also signed up to become regular supporters of The Fred Hollows Foundation – allowing it to continue Fred’s legacy of ending avoidable blindness.

Thanks to The Foundation’s generous supporters, thousands of people like two-year-old Tiek, from Bokeo Province Lao PDR, have had their sight restored.

At three-months old, Tiek’s parents noticed something wasn’t right – his eyes were clouded, and he wasn’t behaving like other children.

“When he started to crawl, he was behind the other kids because he couldn’t figure out the directions – he tended to crawl backwards,” his mother Kene said.

The clouds in Tiek’s eyes worsened until his parents heard



Support from the people of South Sydney has enabled a Laotian eye doctor trained by the Fred Hollows Foundation to perform several surgeries to restore sight to Tiek who lives in the Bokeo Province Lao PDR. Photo: The Fred Hollows Foundation

about a Fred Hollows Foundation eye camp near their village.

They rushed to have his eyes examined by Foundation-trained Dr Sonchai Heuangvilai – Bokeo’s only eye doctor.

Tiek was diagnosed with

congenital cataracts, a genetic disease that can cause blindness when left untreated.

He would need two surgeries – first to remove the cataracts from his eyes, and second, to replace his clouded lenses with

intraocular lenses. The surgeries took months of careful planning given Tiek’s young age.

Shortly after his second birthday, Tiek had his second surgery, which enabled him to see clearly for the first time. It was a weight lifted off the shoulders of the whole family, who expressed their thanks to everyone involved in restoring Tiek’s vision. “I am speechless, I can’t thank enough the doctors, nurses and their team for helping my grandson,” Tiek’s grandmother said.

“Tiek is finally able to see his family. When he grows up, I hope he wants to become a doctor. Thank you again for helping my son to have a bright future,” Kene said.

Founding Director of The Fred Hollows Foundation Gabi Hollows said: “Our generous donors are at the heart of the Fred Hollows family and helping people like Tiek wouldn’t be possible without the support of people from South Sydney.

“Your donations have helped us transform the lives of those living with avoidable blindness.” SSH

www.hollows.org

Meat eating link to inflammation, worse gut health and MS

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

EATING more meat, having less of a carbohydrate-digesting bacteria in the gut and more pro-inflammatory immune cells in the blood, all link with multiple sclerosis (MS), an international team has found.



3D image of nerve damage in MS. Image: Supplied

Increasingly, evidence suggests that bacteria living in our gut can affect our immune system; and what we eat can affect the bacteria in our guts. MS is particularly prevalent in the mid-latitudes including the United States and Australia, suggesting that geography and potentially local diet has some effect.

The complex study of 49 people aimed to tease out the exact relationships between diet, immune response and MS by using advanced multi-OMICS, a biological analysis approach combining multiple datasets.

The work was published in late January in *eBioMedicine*.

MS is an autoimmune disease in the brain, affecting fewer than three million people worldwide, but it costs \$28 billion annually in the US alone. MS is an autoimmune disease in which the body attacks the insulation surrounding its nerves. When the insulation is damaged enough, the nerves begin to misfire and malfunction like wires with frayed insulation. But what triggers the body to attack the insulation in the nervous system in the first place is unknown.

Corresponding author Associate Professor Laura Piccio, initially from Washington University and now with the University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine and Health, collaborated with Dr Yanjiao Zhou at the University of Connecticut (UConn Health) School of Medicine to study the gut microbiome, immune systems, diet and blood metabolites in 25 MS patients and 24 healthy controls.

"This is the first study using an integrated approach to analyse the interplay between diet, gut microbiome, the immune system and metabolism and their contribution to disease pathogenesis and progression in people with MS," said Associate Professor Piccio.

Dr Zhou from the United States said the team found a number of gut bacteria associated with MS and severity of disability of MS patients; they also found increased autoimmune markers and signature metabolites in MS.

"But what is really interesting is how these systems connect with each other, and how diet is involved in these connections," Dr Zhou said.

The strongest systemic linkage the researchers found involved eating meat.

Their analysis linked higher meat consumption to a decrease in the population of *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron* in people's gut ecology. *B. thetaiotaomicron* is associated with digesting carbohydrates from vegetables. This was found across all participants, including the healthy "control" group.

Higher meat consumption, which was observed in the MS patients, was also linked to an increase in T-helper 17 cells in the immune system, and an increase in S-adenosyl-L-methionine (SAM) in their blood.

In the cohort of subjects the researchers studied, the healthy control group averaged just 28 grams compared to

those with MS who averaged more than double at 70.9 grams daily. For the purposes of this study, "meat" is defined as red and white meat but not fish or seafood.

Associate Professor Piccio said the findings, while novel, were not unexpected. "It is increasingly suggested that meat should be eaten in moderation for several reasons, including that it is high in saturated fats and that it can promote the production by the gut bacteria of substances with potentially detrimental effects on our health," she said.

The longitudinal study assessed participants at baseline and six months and involved three years of research.

A direct relationship between meat eating, the gut microbiome, peripheral immune profile and the other factors was not shown. However, the pattern of all the factors was suggestive that, in MS, something goes wrong with people's gut bacteria that dissociates them from the immune system – leading to heightened T-helper 17 cells and autoimmune attacks on the nervous system – and it tends to be associated with meat eating. ^{SSN}



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof. Mark Scott.

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February is REDFEB – heart awareness month – and Heart Research Australia (HRA) is encouraging people to wear red and donate money for research. For more information and to donate, visit www.heartresearch.com.au/. Photo: Supplied



Jenny Leong MP
STATE MEMBER
FOR NEWTOWN

Greens launch NurseKeeper campaign for nurses and paramedics

With nurses and paramedics across NSW at breaking point and many resigning in recent weeks, it's unacceptable that the Government is supporting businesses with Job Saver but not providing financial incentives for exhausted frontline healthcare workers.

Senior health staff are quitting in droves and thousands of nurses have been furloughed due to Covid. If the Government does not act fast to retain nurses and paramedics then mass resignations could see our whole healthcare system come undone.

The Greens are calling on the NSW government to immediately introduce NurseKeeper, a plan to retain and reward nurses and paramedics during this emergency.

Nursekeeper includes:

- an immediate bonus of \$5,000 to all nurses and paramedics working in the public health system in NSW to act as an incentive to stay for those currently considering resigning from the profession.
- a 'pandemic payment' of at least \$60 per shift, in line with the initiative taken by the Victorian Government.
- a further \$5,000 in 12 months' time as an additional retention measure and gesture of gratitude.

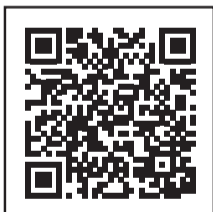
Our State's health system was understaffed and under-resourced even before the pandemic.

Nurses are being pressured to work 18-hour shifts for days in a row caring for more patients than they can handle.

Our nurses and paramedics are on the frontline of the pandemic – in Emergency Departments and Intensive Care Units that are overflowing with Covid patients. They are caring for us and helping people survive, but they are human and they can only take so much.

Every time a nurse resigns it's a sign this government has failed to provide adequate support to our health workers. Let's keep our nurses. Let's keep our paramedics. Let's keep pushing for fair wages and conditions. It's the best way to show our gratitude for those who have been going above and beyond during this crisis.

Sign the petition for NurseKeeper here:



Jenny Leong

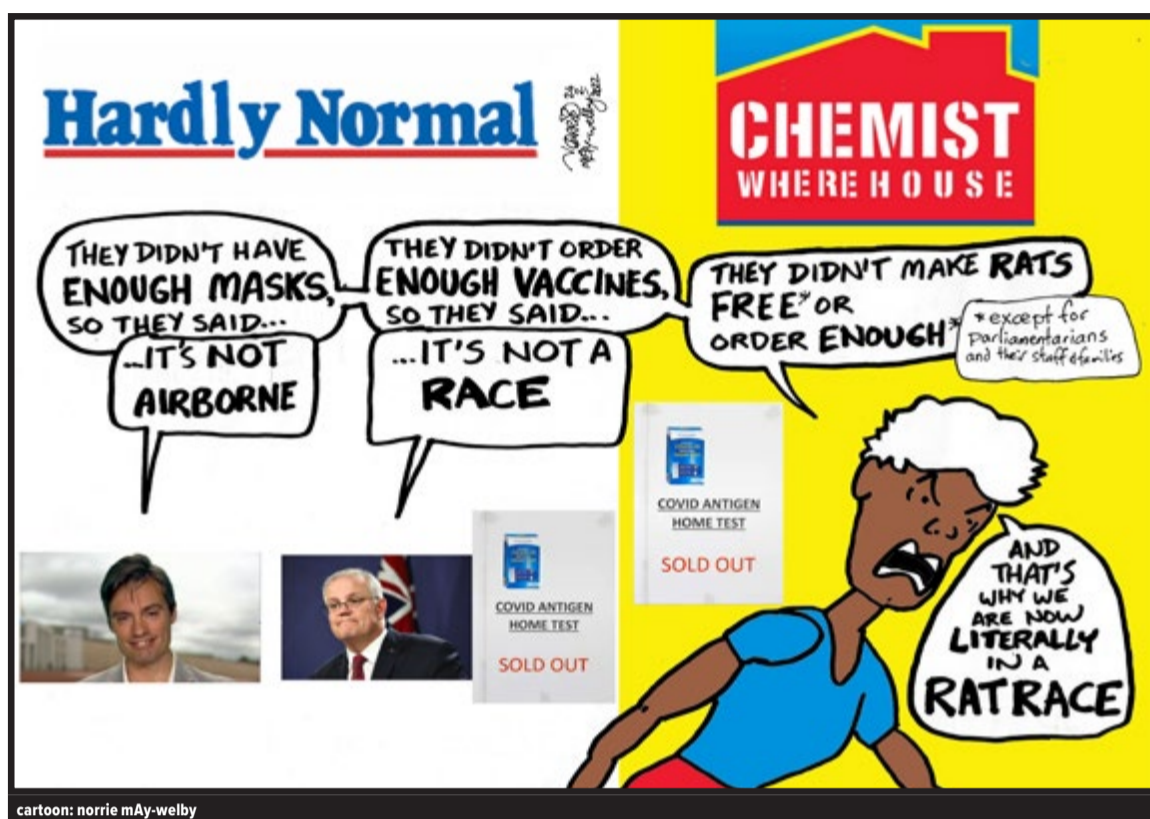
Jenny Leong, MP for Newtown

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

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cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

Restful park in need of restrooms

EDITORIAL

SSH

SO many of us enjoy Redfern Park – a place of safety and refreshment, exercise and recreation. During the pandemic, we’ve come more keenly to appreciate the park and facilities as central to our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

Where better to meet with friends for a picnic? Where better to sit and talk, run or play? Where better to walk the dog, or commune with the bats and birds?

We love the plants and trees, pedestrian paths and lawn,

intuitive play sculptures, historic fountain (beautifully restored), “Russell Crowe” skatepark (recently upgraded), basketball practise area, playground for young children, the grandstand and hallowed turf of the sports oval.

As wonderful as it is, though, there’s opportunity for improvement. The public toilet facilities, for instance, are seriously inadequate – just the one comfort station for hundreds of daily visitors and users.

The location of the lavatory, right beside the Park Café on Chalmers, is also far from ideal.

The SSH is aware that staff at the Park Cafe are often abused by people demanding the Council-

owned facilities be opened or cleaned. For cafe patrons, of course, a mess in the bathroom is both unsightly and unhygienic.

It’s good to know that discussions regarding adequate facilities have commenced. Cafe owners will meet in person with City of Sydney representatives this month to consider improvements, including additional public toilets, which must be accessible, well serviced (regularly stocked and cleaned) and in a safe, well-lit location.

The City is responsible for the care and control of more than 50 public toilets. It is essential that the design and management of facilities keep pace with community needs and standards.

Yabun - in person and online

FIRST PEOPLES

ANDREW COLLIS

GADIGAL LAND: January 26. A day of mourning and survival, anniversary of dispossession and violence for First Nations people. This year marked the 20th anniversary of Yabun (“song with a beat”), the largest one-day celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in Australia.

Due to Covid restrictions, Yabun 2022 was staged in Victoria Park (market and community stalls, food, dance and more) and in the Everest Theatre at the Seymour Centre (live music). The festival was live streamed from yabun.org.au and broadcast on Koori Radio (93.7FM).

Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor, a Gadigal-Yuin elder, activist and educator, gave the Welcome to Country.

Musical performances were of a typically high standard, showcasing talent across many genres.

The Donovans, formed in Mt Druitt in 1984, delivered sparkling country rock, including classics by Harry Nilsson, Charlie Pride, Alan Jackson, Johnny Cash, Eric Clapton and Marcy Levy, Ada Habershon and Charles Gabriel.

Lead singer Michael Donovan paid tribute to inspirational Aboriginal country artists – Jimmy Little, Roger and Buddy Knox, Warren H. Williams, Vic Simms, Col Hardy and Troy Cassar-Daly – before inviting band members Shalina and Jaleesa to sing the Donovans’ own “Burning Bridges” and “The Promised Land” (in honour of the late Mick and Aileen Donovan). Ashley Donovan (lead guitar) and Robbie Graham (drums) played with passion and precision.

Marlene Cummins is an activist, actor, broadcaster, and fine jazz-blues musician (saxophonist and vocalist). Her renditions of Georgia Lee’s “Yarra River Blues” and Mavis Staples’ “When Will We Be Paid” were stunning. Acknowledging the

50th anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy protest, as well as earlier resistance to colonialism, Aunty Marlene’s “Pemulwuy, the Mighty Aboriginal Warrior” (accompanied by guitarist Rex Goh) was a standout.

Uncle Vic Simms, Nadeena Dixon and Johnny Huckle (Sounds of Freedom – Stolen Generations survivors and descendants), then Uncle Col Hardy kept the good tunes coming.

Country singer-songwriter Loren Ryan from Tamworth impressed. Her composition, “Little Darling”, a solo acoustic song about messy relationships and domestic violence, was a moving set closer.

Wollongong-based techno dance-pop outfit, Pirra, brought high energy and fresh synth-and-bass arrangements. Vocalist Jess Beck, a proud Luritja woman, is a dynamic performer. The set closer mashed Jefferson Airplane’s “Don’t You Want Somebody to Love” with Yothu Yindi’s “Treaty” to great effect.

The Stiff Gins, rapper Kobie Dee and R&B duo Shakaya set sometimes confronting

Interfaith relationships enrich us all

FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

IT may be time for us to change the heading of this column to “interfaith”.

For some time after it began, it was indeed a faith column focussed on Christianity.

Then we began inviting people of various faiths to share ideas about life from the perspectives of their own faith. This seemed especially appropriate, given the multicultural nature of the Australian community.

Even though the *South Sydney Herald* is published by the Uniting Church parish in the Redfern/Waterloo area, we believed that many different faiths had ideas about God and life which enriched our life together.

We still do.

The South Sydney Uniting Church and the wider Uniting Church value relationships with people of other faiths and cultures, and affirm the place of interfaith dialogue in creating and sustaining a culture of peace and harmony.

These relationships are vital in assisting us to support, encourage and reach out to each other when there are issues and challenges in particular communities.

Over several years of my life, when I was working around the World Council of Churches in international aid, I visited 33 countries.

In doing that, I received glimpses of people of many different faiths and experienced unexpected gifts.

I could see that, if I was open to receiving those gifts, my understanding of the nature of God would deepen and widen.

While I did not need to believe everything related to every faith, I recognised things which I felt I could believe and that lifted my heart and soul.

If the Faith Column in our paper includes articles by people beyond the Christian faith, our readers can decide how they view them and choose what they might add to their lives.

We pray that we may all gain respect for each other as we do that.

Are there other improvements you'd like to see in our park? Let us know your thoughts. Email editor@ssh.com.au

Support recovery efforts in Tonga

On January 15 a large underwater volcano erupted off the coast of Tonga causing a tsunami. The eruption was one of the biggest to hit Tonga in the last 30 years.

Act for Peace are working closely with the Tonga National Council of Churches to help respond to needs (restoring communications, providing emergency shelter, supplying drinking water and non-food items such as tarpaulins and seeds to replant crops damaged by volcanic ash).

Donate here: www.bit.ly/3s5t45



Bunna Lawrie of Coloured Stone. Photo: www.beat.com.au

stories and social commentary to music – acoustic with harmonies, beats and rhymes, pop melodies. All gave assured and exciting performances.

Bunna Lawrie’s Coloured Stone formed in Ceduna in 1977. Their desert reggae sounds as vital as ever. With Declan Kelly behind the kit, the band played favourites “River of Love” and “Dancing In the Moonlight” as well as newer songs from soon-to-be-released album *Poisoned Planet*, “Dancing On the Ocean” (for the whales), “I Found My Way Home”, and hymn of praise and cosmic participation, “It’s Gonna Be All Right”.

Again, Yabun had it all. The Corroboree Ground dancers (Gomerioi Dance Company, Buuja Buuja Butterfly Dance Group, Koomurri, Yaba Kerker Otaba, Ngaran Ngaran and Gawura Cultural Immersion) and Speak Out panelists engaged people of all ages via media ancient and contemporary. Props to emcees Sean Choolburra and Medika Thorpe.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land. Support the event by purchasing a 20th anniversary t-shirt designed by Nungala Creative: www.yabun.org.au

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

Local makers star in smart phone film fest

ART

SSH

WORKS from Redfern, Camperdown and Alexandria film makers have been chosen to feature in Australia's hit international smartphone film festival, the SmartFone Flick Fest (SF3), now in its 7th year.



(Left) Eedi Mar-Young of Alexandria worked with Grace Li and Isabelle Glass on *The Last Stall*, which is a finalist in the SF3 Kids category. (Right) 'Lockdown meets break down in Camperdown' is how Steve McGrath describes his SF3 film *Day 62*. Photos: Supplied

Camperdown filmmaker Remy Brand's *Cold Water Therapy* is among the frontrunners of 15 finalists to receive an award at the festival's Gala Finals ceremony and screening at Sydney's Palace Chauvel Cinema in Paddington on Saturday February 26.

There were more than 300 entries for short films and 18 feature length films entered from countries all over the world. Of these, more than 70 will feature online with curated programs for the Gala Awards final, feature film and SF3 Mini screenings, SF3 Kids and SF360 categories.

The record number of SF3 Kids entries have been whittled down to the best 25 shorts by filmmakers 16 and under – to be screened at the Actors Centre in Leichhardt on Sunday February 27. Among the finalists are Eedi Mar-Young of Alexandria with *The Last Stall*.

Thirteen-year-old Eedi worked with friends Grace Li and Isabelle Glass on the film, which is the first they'd ever made.

"Myself and Isabelle (Izzy) were friends from primary school and we met Grace at the NIDA workshop," Eedi said.

"We shot mostly everything in one day. The next day, Izzy came wearing something different, so they had to shoot everything again! Ha ha!"

"We asked each other what jobs we wanted to do. We each chose and there were no clashes. It just flowed."

All three worked on the script, with Grace as director, Eedi editor, producer and actor and Isabelle also acting in the film.

"Sometimes other people would come into the bathroom whilst we were filming and we were like arrrrrrrrrr!" Eedi said.

Sydney's 2021 lockdown meant the SF3 Mini category (formerly the "Iso" Award) came into its own for films 3 minutes or less. With a theme of "RISE" – these movies partnered with the United Nations Association of Australia.

Local filmmakers featured include *Fanny* by Reid McGown of Redfern and Steve McGrath of Camperdown for *Day 62*.

Mr McGrath told the *South Sydney Herald* how Covid affected filming of his work.

"I had scheduled to shoot my most ambitious and daring film ever as my 2021 submission to SF3, with an actual cast and crew, on the first day lockdown began in NSW. It was to be shot on location in an Illawarra rainforest infested with snakes, spiders, feral deer, mosquitos and leeches. I had packed more salt (to get the leeches off) than actual film equipment to take to location.

"Instead, I ended up making a film in my kitchen where the greatest danger would be that my toast would burn.

"During the first dark days of winter lockdown, I began writing a dramatic and psychological study of life in lockdown as a documentary. Then I suspected that every other film maker would be doing the same thing. I also feared that, once lockdown ends, people will be so over lockdown they will be out doing freedom and won't have time to sit through a film about lockdown.

"On precisely day sixty-two of lockdown, instead of a complex drama I decided to make a short comic take on mental health during lockdown. *Lockdown meets break down in Camperdown*."

"I also seized the day and called it *Day 62*.

"I'm not sure if that's what Robin Williams meant when he said 'Seize the day' but I had nothing else to seize.

"*Day 62* is an expressionistic mind opera without words. It's about breakfast being the most important part of the day, especially when you have it at lunchtime.

"Whilst I didn't have to endure leeches and brown snakes in my kitchen, filming with a mobile phone is not without its hazards. Several takes were ruined by text messages from Craig Kelly, claiming that if I voted for his party, lockdown would never interrupt my freedom again. I replied; explaining that his texts were interrupting my lockdown.

"In the midst of the global emergency while scientists worked overtime to make the world safe, I was able to make breakfast and art merge."

One Punch feature filmmaker and AFTRS graduate Darcy Yuille of Melbourne said SF3 was a top tier festival for smart phone films internationally.

"To be included in the official selection and have my film screen for a live audience is a huge honour."

The festival offers over \$50,000 worth of prizes, including mentorships, classes, memberships, apps, lenses, mics, phones, tablets and more.

SF3 will be live on screen in-cinema in Paddington and Leichhardt over the weekend of February 26-27, 2022, plus online until March 13.

To book, visit www.SF3.com.au and view the "sizzle reel" here: www.youtu.be/l8azellc6qI



Blak & Blu prize joint winner Jo Tracy. Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones



Blak & Blu prize joint winner Gloria Liang. Photo: Marjorie Lewis-Jones

Blak & Blu art award draws passionate responses

ART

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

FOUR prize winners were chosen from 19 finalists in the inaugural Blak & Blu art award for ink on A4 paper announced on December 11.

Gloria Liang and Jo Tracy were named joint winners of the *Blak & Blu* award for their intimate drawings, depicting life during the Covid-19 pandemic and Sydney's 2021 lockdown.

Artist and multiple Archibald Prize Finalist Kathrin Longhurst, who judged the award, said she'd found it difficult to choose winners because all of the artists had poured so much passion for social justice into their entries.

The \$1,000 prize money (for the adult award) was split between the joint winners who had responded to the theme authentically, she said, exposing the vulnerability felt during Covid times.

Ms Longhurst said she had awarded highly commended to Grace Wilkinson because her drawing of Waterloo Library in lockdown showed she had familiarised herself with her subject matter – observing, studying and then translating this for others to connect with.

The youth award, sponsored by Parkers Fine Art Supplies, went to Luke Higgins who was not present at the ceremony because he was at an entry level artist workshop at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Continued on page 7

All smiles at Sydney Summer Streets

FESTIVALS

SSH

REDFERN: Redfern Street attracted happy people with smiles on their faces when the street was closed to traffic as part of Sydney Summer Streets on January 23.

Redfern Convenience Store manager Hazem Sedda said on Instagram that lots of people had walked into the store "just to say thank you for what we have been doing for our community in the past 20 years of trade".

Mr Sedda said people also thanked the store for sourcing

Rapid Antigen Tests for an affordable price when they'd been impossible to find elsewhere.

"If makes me feel really proud when my community is so thankful," he added. "It makes all the hard work and long hours turn into rest as long as you all continue to always smile."

The council of the City of Sydney (CoS) has worked with local businesses to transform village high streets into spaces for walking, shopping and dining throughout January and February 2022.

The next Sydney Summer Streets street closures will be in Crown Street, Surry Hills on February 6 and Glebe Point Road,



Photo: Bob de Freitas

Glebe, February 12, Harris Street, Pyrmont on February 19 and Green Square plaza on February 19.

The Crown Street and Darlinghurst Road events are funded by the NSW government's The Festival of Place.

The aim of Sydney Summer Streets is to help residents and businesses to reconnect, celebrate and use the street as a shared community space. CoS provides music and areas for people to linger and businesses offer outdoor dining and retail displays.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said Summer Streets is a natural extension of the outdoor dining program that has been in place since the beginning of the pandemic.

"Waiving footpath dining fees was one of the first things we did when the pandemic hit Sydney. We wanted to relieve financial

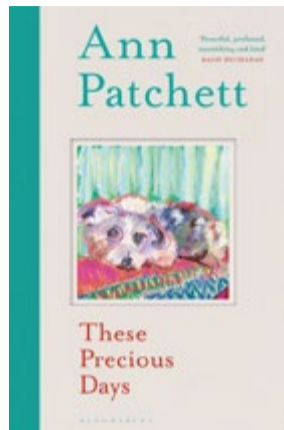
strain where we could, and help businesses operate under the social distancing requirements.

"Almost two years later, expanding outdoor dining remains an essential part of what we're doing to support business through these challenging times. People want to get out of the house and enjoy what Sydney has to offer, safely. We're now closing off entire streets and hope the extra space will give people a safe way to support local businesses and re-engage with their community."

For more information about Summer Streets, visit www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/business-support-funding/join-us-sydney-summer-streets

The Reviews

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



These Precious Days
Ann Patchett
Bloomsbury, \$29.99

Ann Patchett, whose *The Dutch House* was reviewed in 2020 in this publication, has produced a series of essays on a broad range of topics. She tackles de-cluttering; Christian service; Snoopy's influence on her writing; her "three fathers"; her husband's obsession with flying (planes); her decision to remain childless and the flack she often gets for her choice, and her friendship with a terminally ill woman whose last "precious days" provide the book's title.

While Patchett published her first novel in 1992 (*The Patron Saint of Liars*), it was her prize-winning 2001 *Bel Canto* that established her literary reputation. (She is also the owner of independent bookstore Parnassus Books in Nashville, Tennessee.)

Patchett has written a collection of essays that resonate with love. It is love, along with friendship, kindness and

generosity (both material and of spirit), that pervades these essays.

"The Worthless Servant" introduces us to Charlie Strobel, a priest who devotes his life to serving homeless people. It all started, Strobel tells Patchett, when he made a peanut butter sandwich for a homeless man who knocked on the rectory door; he then realised that homeless men slept, in freezing weather, just outside that door.

Strobel decided that what the congregation, bishop and neighbours thought was a problem to worry about tomorrow. "So I invited them [the homeless man] to spend the night, and they've been with me ever since," he tells Patchett.

Patchett goes along for the ride when Strobel, whom she considers a living saint, delivers a cooktop to two formerly homeless men about to move into a new home, and she also helps raise funds for Strobel's foundation.

In *These Precious Days*, Patchett tells the story of how asking Tom Hanks to record the audiobook of her novel *Commonwealth* led to a friendship with Hanks's assistant, Sooki Raphael. When Raphael is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Patchett's husband links her with a clinical trial in his hospital and they open their home to her while she undergoes treatment. Then the Covid pandemic prolongs her stay for months. Their friendship deepens further, with Patchett becoming increasingly aware of how precious each day is. Meanwhile, the terminally ill Raphael rediscovers her calling as an artist.

Whether you are a long-term Patchett fan, or are just meeting her for the first time, *These Precious Days* is a gem of a book, moving without being saccharine.

Patchett observes, "The trouble with good fortune is that we tend to equate it with personal goodness, so that if things are going well for us and less well for others, it's assumed they must have done something to have brought that misfortune on themselves ... We speak of ourselves as being blessed, but what can that mean except that others are not blessed?"

While she never boasts, Patchett's own generosity shines through. I finished this book knowing I would never be a "living saint" like Charlie Strobel but inspired by the many examples of openhearted kindness described therein.

» books@ssh.com.au

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



Wudjang: Not the Past
Bangarra Dance Theatre
Director: Stephen Page
Writers: Stephen Page,
Alana Valentine
Roslyn Packer Theatre
January 14 – February 12, 2022

While *Wudjang: Not the Past* is director and choreographer Stephen Page's most personal work, it is also a

work that demands collective ownership of difficult truths as the way forward into de-colonisation. The monstrous excavating machine that hangs over the stage like the sword of Damocles conveys the enormous capacity of the industrialised West for the destruction of the connection between earth and sustenance, between a land and its people.

The narrative of *Wudjang* takes us on two journeys. The first is initiated by bones found during an excavation and reclaimed by Yugambah man Bilin. The bones belong to his ancestor Wudjang, the word for "mother" in the Language of the Mununjali clan of Ygambah Country, the land of Page's ancestry and birth. We follow Wudjang, danced by an always authoritative and charismatic Elma Kris – accompanied by a very other-worldly and beautiful Lillian Banks as Gurai, or Wonder – on her journey through colonisation to her return to Country where she and Bilin belong.

A second journey tells the story of Bilin's niece, Nanahng (a touching Jess Hitchcock), as she journeys from fearful reluctance to accept her ancestral connection to Wudjang. Nanahng's maternal ancestral line, powerfully referenced through the commanding presence and vocals of Maren (Elaine Crombie), advises her to "Ngay binangmah nyuhmba" ("Watch, listen, learn") and know that the bones are not, as the young woman says "only bones" from the past. Uncertain of her place, Nanahng is vividly depicted as caught in the coils of white society rejecting the pain of the past as "not her shame, not her ask".

Vignettes of past shame are varied in impact. The planting of the claiming flag by the inept, foolish figure of the white

man Duggai (Justin Smith) is comical in that the ground resists him and "the million white sheep" of pastoral times roll about sycophantically, knocking and butting each other oblivious to the true nature of the land. Their inanity is underlined by a short but electrifying performance by Beau Dean Riley Smith as the black sheep intended to warn them that they are intruders. Resistance is fuelled through cultural rites that revive and strengthen the spirit of Wudjang.

However, it is only after the traumatic massacres of the past are fully revealed in the agony of flesh and Maren displays the power of her rage against the violation of women that Duggai feels shame. In confessing it, he liberates Nanahng from her fear. She opens herself to the spirit of Wudjang and the two stories merge in a rather Hollywood tableau. We feel that the rightful resting place of Wudjang's spirit is within the young, who can use knowledge of cultural ways to reconnect with a still living past and create a hopeful future:

"While the land is here we are
While the land still breathes ...
We will never leave."

While there is much praise for *Wudjang* in bringing together 17 accomplished dancers, five strong actors, four talented musicians and mixing the world of the song cycle with the energy of dance, its greatest strength is the use of Mununjali Language. Language has power in itself – a magic. In listening to the spoken word, to its sibilants, its rhythms, its patterns, we absorb a feeling, a reverence for Country about which and through which Page is telling both his own story and our story.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Picture books are superheroes for your child's development

EDUCATION

KAREN HENDRIKS

ONE of the best things you can do is read picture books to your child.

As a parent you are your child's first teacher and picture books are windows to different worlds outside of home.

Sharing books creates special bonding moments and gives comfort and security to a child as you both connect. If it's bath, bed, book and sleep you have an established bedtime routine. A book can soothe a child who is unwell, upset, or out of routine.

Choose picture books that you love that match your child's age and stage of development. Libraries are a wonderful place for a child to choose books and participate in story time sessions and it doesn't cost anything. A home library allows books to be at



'Picture books show a child how language works, how sounds are strung together to make words and how words work together in sentences to create stories.' Illustration: Sam McNair

little fingertips and then your child can choose the picture books they wish to read anytime. This gives a child a sense of empowerment and control in their world.

By reading to a child it allows their concentration span, listening and language skills to develop. Books foster eye development as a child looks and focuses.

Fine motor skills are refined as a child points and page turns.

Whether in rhyme or prose, picture books show a child how language works, how sounds are strung together to make words and how words work together in sentences to create stories.

A child will point to words and mimic reading. This is one of the first stages in becoming a reader. A child knows to scan from left to right, where to page turn and gains new vocabulary. Your child will adore surprising you with the new words they've learnt.

Characters in picture books are real to young children and they will mimic characters and try new things they've learnt. They might fly in a rocket to space or build a zoo or bake a cake as their curiosity about the world is sparked.

Did you know that a child who has been read to is set up for

much greater success later in life? Their vocabulary is much higher than a child who has never been read to. A young child's mind is like a sponge and the optimum time they absorb things is when they are very young.

Reading picture books together means firm favourites will be imprinted into childhood memories forever and you will be a special part of them.

Australian picture book authors and illustrators are incredibly talented and there is a treasure trove of choices available from authors, libraries and bookshops.

Karen Hendriks is an Australian picture book author. She will be hosting a series of talks about picture books with international award winning children's author Michelle Worthington starting in February through Daisy Lane Publishing, see www.daisylanepublishing.com

Blak & Blu art award draws passionate responses Continued from page 6

Luke's artwork and its message that "we are all the same on the inside" was both beautiful and optimistic Ms Longhurst said.

Redfern artist Blak Douglas, who co-devised *Blak & Blu* with Andrew Collis, said he was proud to be launching the award which was "all about the ink" – and especially the kind of ideas that come to you while you're "waiting for the pasta to boil"

or "at the pub doodling on a coaster".

He said everyone can draw and with great freedom in our formative years as children. However, when we get to school, we are taught to conform; draw a certain way and colour within the lines.

"It's kind of corrupting ...

"The beautiful thing I've seen in our entrants to the inaugural *Blak & Blu* is the diversity and the

freedom of their efforts that I would not employ when constructing a drawing because I've been corrupted to create the way I do.

"It's been an honour and a blessing."

Blak Douglas also praised the work of 19th-century Kwatkwat (north-eastern Victoria) artist Tommy McRae who had inspired him to establish the *Blak & Blu* award. "Here's a man that was handed

a diary by a colonist of the era ... to have a crack at drawing Western style. It's just remarkable. This is the first Aboriginal person to draw with ink on paper."

Andrew Collis said that while the Orchard Gallery in Waterloo had been operating for 13 years, *Blak & Blu* was the gallery's first art prize.

"I personally found the *Blak & Blu* prompt to be very inspiring and a

therapeutic practice. It meant keeping our eyes open and our hands busy during a very challenging time.

"Art matters in diverse modes. In protest. Descriptive and expressive modes. Satirical. Whimsical.

"Art mediates between us, between reality and possibility."

In 2022 the *Blak & Blu* award will seek entries mid-year for a September launch and award ceremony.

Paddington Markets reimaged for locals

DANIELLE HEMSWORTH-SMITH

FOR nearly 50 years Paddington Markets have been the beating heart of Paddington's progressive, creative and inclusive community. Despite the last two years being possibly the most difficult in their history, this time has been an opportunity to refocus and return the markets to their original ideal, reimaged for today's local community.

Starting in 1973, Paddington Markets were the brainchild of the late Reverend Peter Holden, a visionary young minister who had just returned to Sydney after helping to organise the legendary Woodstock music festival. For him, the markets were a way to contribute to the creativity Paddington had on offer as it developed a new bohemian identity from the recent migration of artists to the area.

Over the years the markets have been a launching point for many local artists, who have gone on to attain international repute. This extraordinary legacy was acknowledged by the 2020 installation of a mural on the side



Paddington Markets are refocussing on what is most important – supporting and enhancing opportunity for the local community. Photo: Supplied

of the church hall by local artist Stephen Ormandy.

The pandemic has been difficult for the Paddington Markets, but the Paddington Uniting Church community has used this period as turning point. While

navigating the complexities of ensuring the markets are safe, we have also worked hard to refocus the markets on what is most important – supporting and enhancing opportunity for the local community.

In addition to the local designers, artists and vintage stalls who have played such an important role in the markets over the years, a wide variety of new and emerging creative artists are being strongly encouraged to share

their art through the markets.

The brand-new growers market allows locals to source their weekly fresh food in the open air. It includes highest-quality seasonal fruit and vegetables, as well as artisan gourmet produce, sustainably sourced meat and seafood, fresh flowers and plants.

The vision for Paddington Markets in 2022 is that it becomes a weekly destination for all, not only to shop, but also to meet friends, to learn, to create and ultimately to be challenged to be an active part of the community and world we share. This year will see a range of new initiatives including the Paddington Soapbox – an opportunity for young and emerging creatives to play music, read poetry and perform; vinyl record fairs; vintage and fair trade pop-up events; and a range of social justice showcases.

Paddington Markets run from 10am-4pm every Saturday at 395 Oxford Street Paddington. They are part of the mission and ministry of Paddington Uniting Church. **SSH**

The Rev. Danielle Hemsworth-Smith is the minister at Paddington Uniting Church. paddingtonmarkets.com.au



Alexia Putellas with Jennifer Hermoso in Zurich. Photo: Paudal (www.paudal.com)

Putellas pips Kerr for top soccer honour

SPORT

STEVE TURNER

BARCELONA'S Alexia Putellas recently pipped Aussie Sam Kerr to win the FIFA Women's Player of the Year award. The 2021 Balon d'Or winner is the first Spanish player in history to win the Best Player at FIFA's World Player of the Year awards for either men's or women's soccer.

Putellas beat off the challenge of Sam Kerr (Chelsea) and teammate Jennifer Hermoso to win. The Barcelona forward added the prestigious award to her collection, following her Balon d'Or success in November of last year. The 27-year-old captained her side to treble success, winning the Women's Champions League, the Spanish League and Copa de la Reina last season.

On an individual note, Putellas ended her season as the highest-scoring midfielder in Europe with 26 goals in all competitions, leading her to win the UEFA Women's Champions League Midfielder of the Season award.

Cristiano Ronaldo was the star guest at the awards, presented mainly as an online ceremony hosted at FIFA headquarters in Zurich, to collect a special prize for breaking the all-time scoring record in men's internationals.

Morgan wins Australian PGA Championship

The comparisons to Greg Norman were impossible to ignore recently at Royal Queensland as Jed Morgan, a fresh-faced kid with flowing blond hair, defeated the field to win by a record margin in just his fourth professional golf event.

The 22-year-old Queenslander won the Australian PGA Championship by a record 11 shots, beating the previous best eight-stroke margin Norman managed in back-to-back wins in 1984-85.

Morgan's 22-under total was also the equal lowest score-to-par since the event moved to stroke play in 1964, with nobody younger winning it since then. Rounds of 65, 63, 65 and 69 at his home course were filled with fist-pumps and cries to the thousands who attended the first major Australian golf tournament in more than two years.

SSH

Volunteers' News



PAT CLARKE

Lunar New Year 2022 – until February 13

This is Year of the Tiger (the Water Tiger) in many Asian communities, and as always Sydney is putting on a show with style. There are Lunar Lanterns (always popular with children) along George Street, the Airship Orchestra (until January 30) at Tumbalong Boulevard until 9.45pm, as well as artworks in and around Haymarket and Chinatown.

Local Stories Live!

Friday December 11 was the stage for our second virtual fundraiser. Thanks to all participants and especially artists Toby Martin and Boy Torch (we are currently editing clips of these brilliant musical performances). It takes quite a bit of planning to put such a Zoom event together as locals with no studio etc., but our team came through with an evening of fun and games, and a bit of fundraising. You can donate towards our fundraising for this year's issues online at www.southsydneyherald.com.au/local-stories-live

Congratulations Allison Forrest

Our very popular distribution co-ordinator from 2020-21, Allison, has graduated as a Deacon from United Theological College, and has been offered a placement as Minister at Toronto Uniting Church

(on Awabakal land, Lake Macquarie). Allison's ordination ceremony, planned for February 5, has been postponed due to Covid restrictions. Allison, we wish you every success at Toronto, and hope to have news of your ministry from time to time.

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras 2022 (United We Shine) – Friday February 18 to Sunday March 7

The Mardi Gras Parade this year will again be at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and tickets are on sale now.

Covid-safe restrictions apply, and a full program and tickets can be found at: www.mardigras.org.au www.ticketek.com.au

Belvoir Unwaged Performance Program 2022

Always in our February issue I publish the Belvoir Unwaged Program for our theatre-loving volunteers and readers for the coming year. Unwaged performances for 2022 are on Thursdays at 1pm and to claim your ticket visit the Belvoir Box Office from 11am on day of the performance. Pensioner, Health Care Card, Vets Card with photo ID (MEAA and Equity cards also accepted).

At What Cost – Feb 10

Opening Night – Mar 10

Wayside Bride – Apr 28

Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes – Jun 23

Tell Me I'm Here – Sep 8

Looking for Alibrandi – Oct 13

The Jungle and Sea – Dec 8

Memorial for Terry Irving – 2.30pm February 15 at Redfern Park

A memorial service to remember and give thanks for Bundjalung man Terry Irving will include music by With One Voice Redfern Choir. Park Café on Chalmers (thanks to Elly and Peter for hospitality). All welcome.

Until next time, keep safe by wearing your masks covering your nose as well as your mouth, practising physical distancing and washing your hands regularly. **SSH**

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