

the South Sydney Herald

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A performance by Shyamla and Sarangi from Bindi Bosses preceded the panel discussion on 'Gender Equality in the Context of Climate Change' at the New Beginnings Festival on March 19. Photo: Stephen Webb



School Strike 4 Climate organised strike action on March 25, as part of a #GlobalStrike calling on world leaders to stand for #PeopleNotProfit and protect the futures of young people, First Nations lands, and the safety of all. Photo: Andrew Collis

Climate change is not gender neutral

ENVIRONMENT

STEPHEN WEBB

CURRENT events such as conflict, Covid-19 and intensifying climate emergencies are resulting in increased inequalities and risks for women, according to a United Nations panel discussion in Sydney last month.

Settlement Services International (SSI) moderated the live discussion during its New Beginnings Festival at the Australian National Maritime Museum on March 19 to coincide with the United Nations 66th Commission for the Status of Women (CWS66).

The panel focused on how global communities can achieve gender equality and empowerment for women and girls in the context of climate change.

Carmen Ghaly, International Protection Advisor at SSI, said climate change disproportionately affected communities experiencing vulnerability, often exacerbating existing inequalities.

"Globally, women are more likely to be impacted by the climate crisis," she said. "Eighty per cent of people displaced by the climate crisis are predicted to be women."

Torres Strait Islander Solwata Wagadagum and Daureb Kosker woman Regina Turner said, "Right now Torres Strait Islanders are

on the frontline of the climate crisis and urgent action is needed to ensure that we can remain on our homelands."

She said advancing seas were already threatening homes, as well as damaging fresh water supplies.

Betty Barkha, a PhD candidate researching planned relocation and displacement in Fiji, said, "When I was in Kiribati, there was a four-year-old who very joyfully said that, 'It is so good that the sea is coming closer to our home; we don't have to go out so far to swim anymore,' and I just thought the innocence of this joy, not knowing that the sea level rise will take over your home."

While acknowledging women bore disproportionate burdens when it came to climate impacts, Ms Ghaly said SSI recognised that women also played a critical role in crafting the solutions – in both prevention and response.

"The role of women in leading the discussions on climate change has already seen a great response in increasing the participation of other women to take action."

"We aim to challenge gender inequalities in our engagement on climate change by committing to embrace local leadership and working to support women to participate as key environmental actors; engaging in decision-making processes and advocating for better access."

The discussion was introduced by South Asian fusion arts

Climate action now!

ENVIRONMENT

JAMES MCEWEN

THE Sydney School Strike 4 Climate (SS4C) rally on Friday March 25 was held outside Kirribilli House. Other rallies took place across these lands now called Australia, and globally.

Strikers asked the community to join with them to demand:

(1) Net zero carbon emissions by 2030, which means no new coal, oil or gas projects, including the Adani mine; (2) 100 per cent renewable energy generations and exports by 2030; (3) Funds for just transition and job creation for all fossil-fuel workers and their communities. James McEwen, 13, was among the protesters.

For many years I have been marching at protests because I am concerned that our government is not doing anything to protect our future from the terrible impacts of climate change. We've seen those impacts with the flooding in Lismore and the awful bushfires two summers ago.

On March 25, I was outside Kirribilli House where the prime minister lives, protesting with over 3,000 other students. I was behind the stage when the organisers asked if anyone wanted to speak on the microphone. I wanted to make a point to Mr Morrison and ask him to do something about our

ever-decreasing future. When I stood on the stage, I was shaking with fear, but this is what I said:

"As I'm up here today I am terrified of what is happening to our climate and the fact that our government is doing nothing about it. Instead of funding renewables they are funding oil and gas plants that are destroying our future. Now, I just want to say the man in that building is not going to do anything unless we as a society rise and vote for a new government that cares about our future."

It was short, but I hope it was powerful, that people listen, and that they act!

If you care, please join a climate action group like SS4C, or if you are a parent, there's Australian Parents for Climate Action. And if you're old enough to vote, please look for representatives who are serious about climate action! SSH

company Bindi Bosses presenting the debut of SIGNS, expressing the devastating effects of, and intersections between, climate change, colonisation and rising temperatures in Western Sydney.

The choreography was created in collaboration with Ella Havelka – a descendant of the Wiradjuri people, former Bangarra Dance company member and the first Aboriginal woman to join The

Australian Ballet – and was set to spoken word by Boori Monty Pryor, an award-winning multidisciplinary Birri-gubba and Kungandji author, performer and poet. SSH

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NEWS

news@ssh.com.au
Phone Lyn 0400 008 338

ADVERTISING

adverts@ssh.com.au

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 3288
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distribution@ssh.com.au

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TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

THE BUDGET

The Morrison Government has just delivered its last Budget before the federal election. It was a Budget focussed on helping the Liberals cross the line at the election, not the future of our nation.

Scott Morrison thinks that giving you a few hundred dollars just before an election will make up for years of low wages and ever-increasing cost of living.

Australians have suffered during the pandemic, bushfires, and floods. Everywhere I go people tell me life is getting harder not easier.

Aged care in particular has deteriorated under the watch of the Morrison Government.

Too many Australians are being stranded in soiled beds, denied adequate help to shower and eat, or are missing out on basic wound care and medication management.

A LABOR GOVERNMENT WILL SOLVE THE CRISIS IN AGED CARE.

Labor believes that the elderly citizens who built this country deserve an aged care system that genuinely looks after them and makes sure they get good, healthy, nutritious food.

That's why Labor will ensure that nursing homes have a registered nurse 24/7. Labor will ensure that nursing home staff have the time they need to properly care for residents, and we will back a real pay rise for aged care workers.

Labor will ensure better food for residents with mandatory food and nutrition standards, and we'll make sure every single new dollar goes towards care. The days of residents going without decent food and clean clothes will come to an end under a Labor Government.

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

Justice of the Peace services are once again operating from my office. This service is available by appointment on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. **Please call us on 9379 0700 to make an appointment.**

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

1A Great Buckingham St, Redfern NSW 2016

T: 9379 0700 E: Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au



Waterloo South - for the local community?

URBAN DESIGN

ANDREW COLLIS

WATERLOO: Last month, the NSW government's redevelopment proposal for Waterloo South was placed on exhibition (until April 29).

Since the redevelopment was first announced in December 2015 the process has been slow and frequently disrupted, leaving tenants hurt, confused, sceptical and exhausted. Despite "relocations" being a priority concern for tenants there is still no Waterloo-specific relocation policy. Community Development Project Officer with Counterpoint Community Services, Adam Antonelli, finds this "very disappointing".

Thanks to input from the City of Sydney as well as community groups, the revised plan sees fewer towers and more mid-rise dwellings than initially proposed. Efforts will be made to retain significant trees and to increase the overall tree canopy.

Still, planning approval would see a vastly denser precinct of over 3,000 dwellings on (current) public land with 7.5 per cent affordable rental dwellings.

Counterpoint has helped organise three workshops to facilitate community submissions. Geoff Turnbull, co-spokesperson for REDWatch, led a workshop on the history of the redevelopment. A second workshop unpacked the current proposal. And on April 5, Shelter NSW led a workshop on community mobilisation.

"It's good to have the help of the experts," Mr Antonelli says. "Bruce Judd, David Lilley and students from UNSW are assisting residents, many without easy access to digital technology, to make submissions. It's important

to get as many responses as possible, and that submissions touch on technicalities that need to be addressed.

"Selling public land is only justified on the grounds of a corresponding public good. Selling prime real estate to quadruple the density for a renewed housing stock and incremental increase in social housing with some affordable housing does not provide that return.

"The government's Communities Plus model, whereby public housing estates are sold off to deliver a ratio of 70 per cent market housing and 30 per cent social housing, underpins the Waterloo redevelopment. The policy should be scrutinised as there is little evidence to suggest this is the 'sweet spot' for social mix.

"In fact, the proposal does not meet this target with just 28.2 per cent social housing dwellings or 26.5 per cent of the residential floor space being social housing.

"And the new housing minister seems to be focused on density, with no attention to the importance of community and sustainability. The Waterloo community deserves better.

"Council's analysis is that the government's proposal is 10 per cent larger than Council's own recommendations."

Readers are advised to go to the Waterloo South Exhibition tab on the REDWatch website for more information:

www.bit.ly/36ZJrAG

Representatives from the government's Department of Planning and Environment will attend Autumn On the Green, Friday April 8, 1-5pm, to answer questions and receive feedback on the Waterloo South proposal.

Adam Antonelli can be contacted at Counterpoint Community Services, 67 Raglan St, Waterloo. Phone 9698 9569, email a.antonelli@counterpointcs.org.au

Eden Garden - community consultation

LOCALS

ANDREW COLLIS

ESTABLISHED in the 1980s, Eden Community Garden at South Sydney Uniting Church has a proud history of providing a safe space for gardening and more. Members of the garden grow and share flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables.

This month will see the demolition of an old concrete shed, the removal of which will open space for a comprehensive re-design.

Multiple garden beds are envisioned, along with a smaller shed to store tools and supplies, a greenhouse and improved chicken coop (currently the garden is home to 14 egg-laying hens).

The Eden Garden working group invites community input. Three design themes are important to this consultation process.

1. Eden Garden will express commitment to First Nations justice.

The new garden will acknowledge, by way of signage and artworks, trees and plants, membership and special events, the sovereignty of the Gadigal people.

2. Eden Garden will welcome young people, children and carers as participants in gardening activities, including educational and social activities.

3. Eden Garden will continue to be a place to practise organic and sustainable gardening, waste management, composting, reuse and recycling.

If you'd like to be part of the consultation, you are most welcome to attend the garden on Saturday April 30, from 11am to 12.30pm.

Please RSVP to Dr Megan Weier, Convenor, by April 23. You can also contribute ideas via email: meganlouise.weier@gmail.com Eden Community Garden is located behind South Sydney Uniting Church, 56a Raglan St, Waterloo (entry via the driveway and through to back gate).

Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme closes soon – help to apply

FIRST PEOPLES

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

IN this Q&A, Maureen Randall from Redfern Legal Centre encourages First Nations Elders who may be eligible for ex-gratia payments under the Stolen Generations Reparation Scheme to talk to her soon because time is running out.

Why should people who could be eligible for the scheme but have not yet applied come forward now to seek help from Redfern Legal Centre?

The Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme is open to all survivors of the Stolen Generations who were removed by, committed to, or otherwise came into the care of the New South Wales Aborigines Protection or Welfare Boards before June 2, 1969. You have until June 30, 2022 to apply.

We strongly encourage any First Nations people who are members of the Stolen Generations who have not previously applied for the scheme to do so. Once the scheme closes there will not be another opportunity to apply.

Redfern Legal Centre delivers a friendly and accessible service to First Nations People. We work

hard to address barriers that may prevent First Nations people from accessing legal assistance or applying to the Stolen Generation Reparations Scheme. First Nation People can speak with us directly by phone or email about the Scheme or about other legal concerns they may have.

Accessing our service is free. Your enquiry will be kept confidential, and if you are eligible for the Scheme we will help you to lodge your application. If you have any additional support needs, do not hesitate let us know.

How much easier will getting help from RLC make the application process?

We know there are many barriers that prevent First Nations people from coming forward. Many survivors of the Stolen Generations find it traumatic and painful to retell and relive the horrors of their childhood. Children and babies were forcibly removed from their families and grew up in brutal and uncompassionate institutions.

Children of the Stolen Generations were victims of systemic racism and many were sexually, physically and emotionally abused, and allocated to homes to serve as cheap labour.

As the Aboriginal and Torres



L-R – Maureen Randall, Redfern Legal Centre's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Access Worker, with Margaret Macrae, District Housing Manager, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, and Dee, a local jewellery maker. Photo: Supplied

Strait Islander Legal Access Worker, and proud Koori woman, I work with members of the

Aboriginal community every day. I am experienced in handling inquiries in a way that is sensitive

and culturally safe. I encourage all Stolen Generations survivors who have not yet lodged an application for the scheme to reach out to me, because time is running out.

Given that this payment is made in recognition of the harm that the removals caused, how can you reassure people that RLC staff will offer their professional help with sensitivity and compassion?

Redfern Legal Centre prides itself on providing a culturally safe environment for our First Nations clients, and has the experience and expertise of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Access Worker and other First Nations staff on our team. The Chair of the RLC Board is also a proud Koori man. Last year, more than a third of RLC's casework supported First Nations people.

Providing legal advice in a way that is sensitive and culturally appropriate is our top priority. We do everything we can to ensure all our clients are treated with compassion and respect – and this includes First Nations people.

Maureen Randall is Redfern Legal Centre's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Access Worker. You can contact Maureen on 0427 111 647 or email: maureen@rlc.org.au

Vale Jack Carnegie (March 1948 - September 2021)

LOCALS

LYN TURNBULL

ON March 22 Jane Rogers opened an exhibition as a memorial for Jack Carnegie, presenting some of his photography between the 1980s and 2017.

She had spent the six months, since her husband and partner in activism died of cancer last year, drawing together the works for a display in his DUCKRABBIT gallery in Little Eveleigh Street, Redfern, as fundraiser for the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. As she said on the evening, "Jack believed in the power of the collective to make a difference. Together in his name we can take this last action."

The following Saturday night neighbours and friends gathered again in the gallery to reminisce and tell stories of Jack's activism.

Hall Greenland recalled Jack as "a photographer with a good eye who was intensely concerned and interested in humanity and nature. Whenever he could, if they were under attack, he was on hand with either a banner or behind his camera to advance the struggle for our society to be equal and sustainable. [The successful] battles for Erskineville Public Housing and Erskineville School owe much to Jack who will be remembered as a battler, a man on the right side of history and instrumental in the formation of the Greens."

Jenny Leong, spoke of the transcendence of Jack's photography of non-violent historic direct action to inspire the next generations like herself. But she also acknowledged the cost of the time they devote to their work to those closest



Jane Rogers gathered friends and neighbours to reminisce about her husband and partner in activism, Jack Carnegie. They were surrounded by some of his photos in a memorial exhibition at DUCKRABBIT gallery. Photo: Lyn Turnbull

to people involved in global activism and concluded in thanking Jane for sharing "this significant human with us all".

Wendy Bacon spoke of how Jack's photographs, capturing history for us, have the power to transport her back to the exact time and place of the events featured and particularly mentioned his and Jane's grassroots contribution to community transport.

Read Hall Greenland's earlier tribute to Jack at www.greenleft.org.au/content/vale-jack-carnegie

Get proud at the InnerWest Disability Pride Fest

HUMAN AFFAIRS

GILL JEFFERY

NEWTOWN: Equal access for people with a disability is life changing. This includes things like access to services, access to professional support, access to educational opportunities, and access to work, social activities, and even at times access to buildings or bathrooms.

It's so important that everyone should be able to participate in our society, and that people with a disability should be able to join in and be respected as part of nature's natural variance. Physical disability supports mean that people with trolleys or prams have access to buildings and bathrooms too.

Did you know:

- Nine out of 10 women with intellectual disability will be raped.*
- Australia's migration health requirements mean that if you have a child with a disability you are vulnerable to deportation and people with disabilities and their carers are automatically refused visas.
- Forty per cent of people on JobSeeker have a disability, yet jobseeker is barely enough for rent alone in Sydney.
- Almost half of all discrimination complaints involve people with disabilities.
- Disability was not mentioned anywhere in the Covid pandemic plan.



Max speaks out at the InnerWest Disability Pride Fest in 2021. Photo: Supplied

- During Covid, many guidelines recommended de-prioritising people with disabilities for lifesaving treatments.

If this makes you as angry as it makes us, and if you want to show your support, or your pride and self-respect about your own disability like we do, come along to Newtown Neighbourhood Centre for the InnerWest Disability Pride Fest at 11am on April 9. Planned refreshments and arts and crafts events are for everyone.

Google InnerWest Disability Pride Fest for more info. This event is also on Facebook – www.bit.ly/3K2bONb

* Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) (2010) Family Violence – A National Legal Response. ALRC Final Report 114.



Can music slow the onset of neurodegenerative disease?



Photo: Jeremy Brooks

While anecdotally we know that music has a profound effect on cognitive function and mental wellbeing, this initiative is required to build a robust evidence base.

Professor Neal Peres Da Costa, Associate Dean, Research at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music explained: "Music is a social act between composer, performer, and listener. We are interested to know how will intensifying the music training experience with educational and post-concert social activities add to quality and enjoyment for older participants in the early stages of cognitive decline?"

This research has been made possible through a generous gift of \$1,757,997 by Ms Barbara Spencer in honour of her late husband, Mr Lance Bennett. Ms Spencer reflected that music was central to both their lives and the 49 years they spent together:

"I am delighted that SCM has such a key role in this research. As an alumnus, it was Lance's wish to endow the University of Sydney and I feel he would give this research the high priority that I do. We can all truly make a difference by supporting research of quality."

The initiative was launched on March 25 at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music's Verbrugghen Hall. The Conservatorium's Symphony Orchestra performed its first major public concert since Covid with renowned conductor Ola Rudner.



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof. Mark Scott.
Enquiries: 9351 2000
info.centre@sydney.edu.au

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

A new collaboration between the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (SCM) was launched on March 25. Together, with support of a generous gift, they are designing a musical intervention to help those at risk of cognitive decline.

The incidence of dementia is predicted to double in 20 years. Researchers are yet to find a cure, but it is critical to develop early interventions that slow or stop the progression of neurodegeneration.

This project, in collaboration with the Memory and Cognition Clinic at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, could create the evidence base needed to support wider implementation of musical interventions for people with mild cognitive impairment, the stage before dementia develops.

Lead researcher from the Brain and Mind Centre, Professor Sharon Naismith said: "Prevention is better than a cure. We have no cure for Alzheimer's disease.

We have no cure for all the other types of dementia.

"We need to focus on reducing cognitive decline, depression and underlying brain changes that are associated with dementia as early as we can. Music could be a powerful and enjoyable way to achieve this."

Engaging with music, such as learning to play an instrument or singing in a choir, is an accessible experience that often appeals to those who find they have more time on their hands following retirement or other lifestyle changes. Performing music involves complex, simultaneous motor and cognitive functions, and recent analysis showed some positive effects on cognition following musical training in healthy older people with mild cognitive impairment.

There is very little research to-date on using music training as a component of cognitive interventions for older people. This project will work with older people living with mild cognitive impairment, to understand the effectiveness of music training to slow or stop the progression of dementia.

This Figaro's fresh and pertinent

MUSIC

SSH

SYDNEY-BASED opera company The Cooperative will open its 2022 season with Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, performed at Pitt Street Uniting Church on April 28, 29 and 30 at 7pm, and May 1 at 3pm.

The Cooperative was founded two-and-a half years ago, in a desire to create change and confront injustices in our society, and to transform an operatic landscape which mirrored these injustices.

Since then, an array of productions has been brought to the stage (or rather, the church, rooftop, or park!) spanning multiple centuries, continents,

languages and styles. With a team of nearly 100 emerging artists, The Cooperative has told stories which form the core of the operatic canon, given much-needed performance to rare works, and explored contemporary repertoire, all through the lens of our society today.

Le Nozze di Figaro was Mozart's and da Lorenzo da Ponte's first operatic collaboration, based on Pierre Beaumarchais' play *La Folle Journée, ou Le Mariage de Figaro* that premiered in Paris in 1784.

Only five years before the storming of the Bastille in Paris, political tensions ran high in France, and a tale of a corrupt and immoral aristocrat outwitted by his servants was highly controversial and was immediately forbidden from public performance.

When the opera was first performed in Vienna in 1786, on the cusp of the French Revolution, after multiple further revisions driven by continuing censorship, *Le Nozze di Figaro* was an immediate popular and critical success.

Mozart's exquisite music and da Ponte's compellingly witty libretto, tied together with a biting social commentary, make this opera one of the supreme masterpieces of operatic comedy. The sublime arias of *Le Nozze di Figaro* are still as fresh and irresistible today as they were at the premiere – and the social pertinence as heightened as ever.

www.thecooperativeopera.org



Jenny Leong MP

STATE MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN

Support and protections for renters

The catastrophic floods that occurred last month have left many thousands of people homeless. This environmental and climate disaster has very quickly turned into an escalating housing crisis.

The Greens are calling for increased support and protections for all flood impacted tenants as well as other tenants throughout the state.

Renters need just as much support as property owners and businesses to get back on their feet after these disastrous floods. I've been working with my Greens colleague, Tamara Smith MP, the Member for Ballina, to encourage the government to take extra actions to support and protect renters.

We've developed a rental relief and flood response plan that includes amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act to help renters who are facing the extra stresses of having to negotiate rent waivers, bond refunds, potential no grounds evictions as well as searching for somewhere to live.

The Greens are calling on the NSW Government to step up and put a stop to no-grounds evictions for at least the next 12 months. This means that people who want to be able to return to their homes when they're habitable again, won't have to renegotiate a lease at a potentially higher rent as the demand for homes is skyrocketing post floods.

We believe that rents should be capped at pre-flood levels so that the enormous demand for homes doesn't result in landlords taking advantage of this housing crisis and jacking up the rents.

For renters across the state – including those living in our local community – who have seen a massive increase in mould and continue to face unaffordable rents and the threat of evictions we have included new provisions in this Bill that will mean that all renters in NSW will get better protections from unfair no grounds evictions or rent hikes, as well as improvements in the minimum standards of the properties they rent.

We're calling for an end to no-grounds evictions unless in special circumstances, rents to be capped to the CPI or similar and, for rental standards to include a lack of mould and proper waterproofing.

More than 30 per cent of people rent their homes. It's well time that they are given a fair go.

Support our campaign for renters' rights and sign our petition in support of rent relief and protections for flood impacted and other renters 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

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

383 King St, Newtown, NSW 2042
T: 02 9517 2800 F: 02 9230 3352
Newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au



Waterloo south



The Gadigal of the Eora Nation are the Traditional Custodians of the place we now call Waterloo.

A new plan for Waterloo south

Waterloo continues to grow and be a place where people love to live. It offers the advantage of being 3 km from the Sydney CBD and has the benefit of a strong and diverse community.

The NSW Government has a plan to renew Waterloo south and has proposed changes to the rules for how land can be used.

The changes will help deliver new social, affordable, and private homes with access to improved community facilities, shops, parks and transport.

The proposed plan builds on the strengths of the area and supports the needs of the growing number of people who call Waterloo home.



Planning process

- **May 2020** A plan was proposed to change the rules for how land can be used
- **March 2021** The plan was passed to the department for review
- **June 2021** Work was done to prepare the plan for exhibition
- **March 2022** The plan was made public and the community are encouraged to have their say
- **Mid-late 2022** Feedback will be considered and the plan finalised
New planning rules will be put in place and applications can be made to redevelop the land

Features of the plan

The plan allows the area to be developed in a way that suits the day-to-day lives and needs of the community and preserves the charm and character of Waterloo south.

Parks and outdoor areas



- Main park—used for range of activities
- Smaller park—a quieter outdoor space
- courtyards provide outdoor areas close to homes

Building location and heights



- 4 tall buildings 27 to 33 storeys high
- Medium-rise buildings 6 to 13 storeys along the edge of the block, with courtyards in the middle
- Low-rise buildings 2 to 5 storeys on quieter streets, next to the small park
- All heritage buildings in the area are being kept

Environmental factors



Building design will:

- minimise noise coming into homes
- reduce the risk of flooding
- make sure the area is comfortable and not too windy.

New and existing trees provide shade and help cool the air.

Housing mix



The plan includes an estimated 3,012 homes on government-owned land:

- around 847 (28.2%) social housing homes, about 100 more than currently in the area
- about 227 (7.5%) affordable housing homes
- around 1,938 (64.3%) private homes.

Streets and traffic flow



- Wider and better-connected streets and walkways
- New walkways and cycleways
- George Street will be the 'main street'
- Cycleway on George Street will stay

Trees and sunlight



- Building heights and locations allow for sunlight into homes and onto trees and gardens.
- New trees will be planted during the development stage.
- Trees currently cover 29% of the area, this is expected to increase to around 40% once new trees are planted.

The plan



The plan considers:

- the day-to-day lives of the community
- that more people live in areas close to the CBD and transport
- the space required for enough shops and services to meet the needs of the local community.

Proposed plan for Waterloo south



Building heights:

- Low - 2 to 5 storeys
- Medium - 6 to 13 storeys
- Tall - 27 to 33 storeys

- Existing roads
- New or widened roads
- Open space
- Trees to be kept

- Walkways
- Heritage site
- Ground level
- Site boundary





Have your say

The proposed plan for Waterloo south supports the needs of the growing community while keeping the character that makes Waterloo a great place to live.

More homes



Improved community facilities



Better outdoor areas



Have your say on the proposed plan for Waterloo south by Friday 29 April 2022.

Community feedback is an important part of the planning process and will help shape the final plan for Waterloo south.

Come along to an online session or community drop in event to learn more about the proposed plan for Waterloo south, ask questions and share your feedback.

Community drop in session

Waterloo Neighbourhood Centre
Shop 5, 95 Wellington Street, Waterloo

Thursday 21 April 10:00am-12:00pm

Online community information session

Wednesday 6 April 12:00pm-1.30pm

To register go to planning.nsw.gov.au/waterloo-haveyoursay

More information

Find out more about the plan for Waterloo south and have your say:



Visit our website
planning.nsw.gov.au/waterloo-south

Email us at waterloo.project@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Call us on **1300 420 596** (Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm) and select option 2

What happens after the plan is finalised?

We're still in the early stages of the redevelopment process. Subject to planning approval, the NSW Land and Housing Corporation will lead the overall Waterloo Redevelopment Project, with Waterloo south as the first stage.

The NSW Land and Housing Corporation will select a development partner, to deliver the project over the next 15 to 20 years. The NSW Land and Housing Corporation will keep the community informed throughout the Waterloo Redevelopment Project.

The NSW Land and Housing Corporation and the Department of Communities and Justice will work together to progress the redevelopment and are committed to supporting residents throughout the relocation process.

If you have any questions about the development or relocation process, please email WaterlooConnect@facs.nsw.gov.au or call **1800 738 718**.

Return to the world

FAITH

ANDREW COLLIS

WHAT is the message of Easter? We might approach the question with appreciation of the gospels as responses to trauma.

The story of Jesus embodies concerns common to all the Abrahamic religions – ethical concerns – namely, faithfulness to one another, openness to the stranger, including the Holy Stranger (different from me, more than I know).

The crucifixion of Jesus shows the all-too familiar – hostile religion, state-sanctioned violence. There are cries of abandonment, scattered disciples, loss of faith and hope.

The story might easily conclude in bitterness, desires for vengeance or acceptance of tyranny – power as power over others.

The gospel accounts of the risen Christ, however, trace a certain recovery and return to the world – a return to faith after faith, hope after hope (there is grace and hard-won wisdom).

Although the accounts differ – each gospel tells its own story – there is an underlying pattern. Christ is encountered (again, anew) in sharing food, exchanging signs of peace, sensitive and loving touch, tact.

Hospitality is the key – openness to the Holy Stranger as last, little, least.

Easter faith, then, means coming to choose hospitality over hostility (ever a risk), working to amplify hospitable voices, joining with others (confused, traumatised) to practise the art of welcome, nourishment, care.

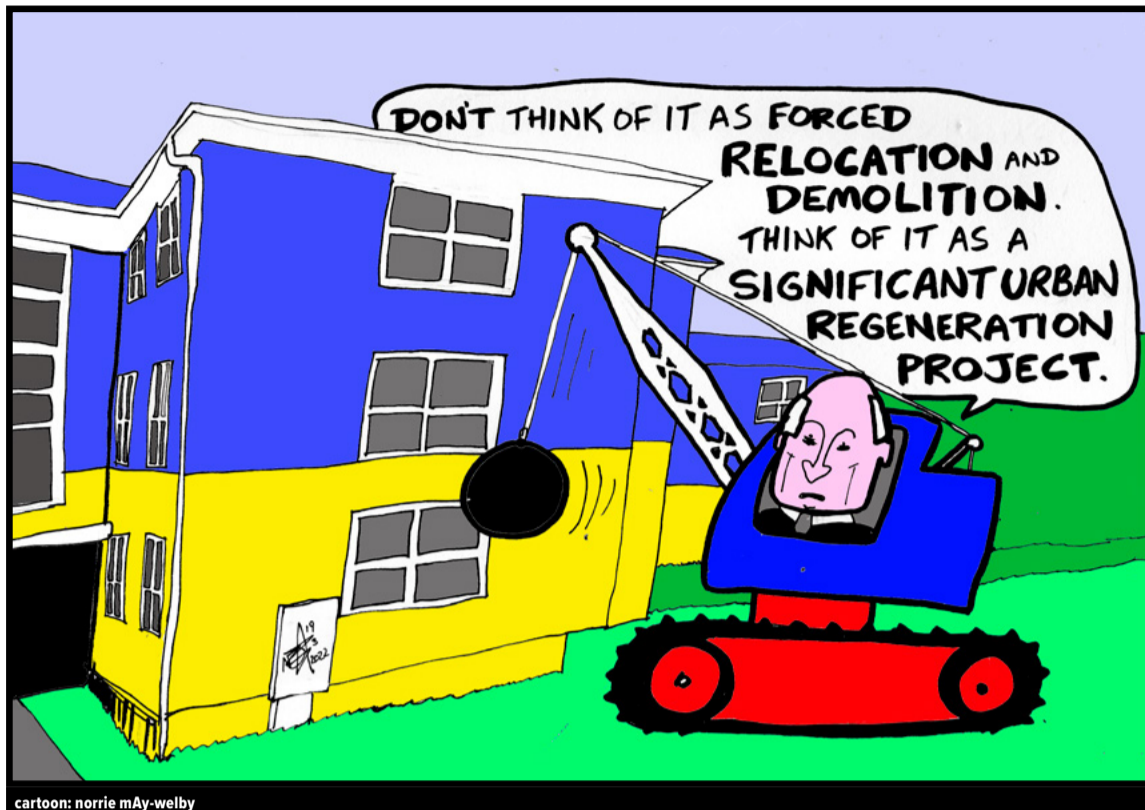
The message of Easter is thoroughly ethical as well as engaging poetic powers – songs and stories inspiring and inspired. It also means coming to experience the world in strange and wonderful ways. Hence, the various modes and layers of religion.

Just as Christ, in the gospels, returns to the world of gardens and community gatherings, cross-cultural friendships and courage for nonviolent action, we too are re-called – gently, insistently – to a world in need, in pain.

A story in Luke 24 tells of dejected disciples walking away from Jerusalem.

They are joined by a stranger with whom they share their deepest concerns. In a village called Emmaus they invite the stranger to stay with them. There, at a table in an inn, as the stranger breaks and shares bread, their eyes are opened to recognise the risen Christ. In that moment, we read, the Holy Stranger disappears.

Once revealed, all is changed. We might even come to understand ourselves as holy strangers, hosts and guests, the body of Christ.



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

More support for boarding house residents

EDITORIAL

SSH

ON March 15 three men lost their lives in a fire at a 14-room boarding house on Probert Street, Newtown. Police have charged a former resident with three counts of murder and one count of destroying or damaging property.

The SSH grieves with family and friends of the deceased and injured, along with the owner and fellow residents,

emergency workers, concerned neighbours and all for whom the tragedy raises questions about housing options and conditions for vulnerable people.

The owner of the property is not facing charges. The Inner West council has confirmed the property had a current fire compliance certificate and was registered with the NSW government.

Still, the event focuses attention on the precarious reality faced by those living in boarding houses. As Newtown Greens MP and Housing Spokesperson Jenny Leong argues, there is “need for more investment and support for people living in boarding houses and temporary accommodation”.

Boarding house residents share a kitchen and living space, rarely have their own bathroom, and for these reasons are technically considered homeless by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Most residents tend to be older men. About a third are on the disability pension, according to Homelessness NSW chief executive Katherine McKernan, who argues most people are only living in boarding houses due to the “dearth of social housing”. Rents can be higher than market rates.

Jenny Leong MP has called on the NSW government to acquire existing privately owned boarding houses, bring them up to a liveable standard, and run them as safe, secure, affordable and publicly owned social housing.

Ms Leong says: “The reason there is such demand for boarding houses in the inner city is because the public housing waitlist is so long, the private rental market is completely unaffordable, and there are vulnerable people who need access to social services and support.”

“One of the biggest problems for boarding house residents is that they can be so easily evicted.”

Shelter NSW is also critical of the sector. Boarding houses are better than rough sleeping, chief executive John Engeler argues, but should not be regarded a first or adequate option.

In 2012, NSW introduced the Boarding Houses Act, which created a compulsory register and laws governing the rights and responsibilities of occupants and proprietors.

While local councils are responsible for regulating the Act, any fines go to the state government. Critics point to this impracticality.

In January this year, the government introduced changes that would require new boarding houses to be “affordable” and run by community housing providers for 10 years.

Ms Leong says: “The government has acknowledged the problem with the current boarding house situation, but these requirements do not apply retrospectively.”

Shelter NSW proposes reforms whereby only community housing providers have rights to run boarding houses, whether new or existing houses and for whatever period – with support staff and regular safety inspections.

Chris Martin, a housing policy expert at UNSW, agrees. He would like to see an accreditation regime to regulate who can operate boarding houses.

“[Boarding house operators] are involved in managing relations between multiple people in shared space, which calls for a higher order of skill and capability than individual landlords,” Mr Martin says.

Paul Adabie, of the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, which provides in-reach social services to many boarding house residents in the area, backs the idea of a licensing regime.

“I really think boarding houses should be inspected a bit more often,” Mr Adabie says. “There should be more stringent rules applied.”

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre has launched an appeal to raise funds to directly benefit residents displaced by the boarding house fire. Donations can be made here: www.supportboardinghouseressidents.raisely.com



Anti-Racism Library launched to build harmony



Attendees at the launch of Counterpoint Community Services' Anti-Racism Library on March 25. Photo: Elle Jennison

On the day, the attendees in this small celebration of 13 people included City of Sydney's Councillor Emelda Davis and Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore; community leaders including Alexandria Park Community School P&C President, Mr Neil Morris; community representatives, Ms Catherine Skipper and Ms Lucy Brereton and the library's benefactor from South Eveleigh's Commonwealth Bank, Ms Ashley Auburn.

The Race Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Chin Tan, sent his apologies with a message that was read out by his representatives on the day. His message about the importance of education in promoting human rights and equality will be framed and form part of the library.

“This is such an important initiative for multicultural Australia,” said Mr Jack Chen, a CALD community staff person at the City of Sydney. Mr Yan added, “I hope that this space will create dialogue and tackle racism, while building a harmonious society.”

For now, the collection consists of a small, but growing, selection of about 60 titles suitable for all ages. Local State MP Jenny Leong also sent her apology, but has made a commitment to support the growth of the collection.

HUMAN AFFAIRS

SSH

COUNTERPOINT Community Services celebrated Harmony Week, in conjunction with the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, by launching its very own Anti-Racism Library on March 25.

The “library”, based at Alexandria Town Hall, is the brainchild of Counterpoint's Operations Manager, Mr Bill Yan. The idea stems from his involvement with the New

South Wales Local Government Network's Anti-Racism Working Group, where the differences between social cohesion and anti-racism advocacy are discussed.

It becomes apparent that both frameworks need to be championed together, leading to better racism issues awareness while building harmonious societies in a safe space.

Still, having the idea is only the first step, as it's an expensive endeavour. Fortunately, in 2021, Counterpoint received a lump sum donation for books from the Commonwealth Bank in South Eveleigh as part of its NAIDOC Week celebration.

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood



Nauha Dabboussy in her studio-gallery. Photo: Andrew Collis

Introducing Nauha Dabboussy

EXHIBITIONS

ANDREW COLLIS

NAUHA Dabboussy moved with her family to Australia from Lebanon when she was 8 years old. She grew up in Melbourne before coming to Sydney where she discovered a passion for painting. "I'd always wanted to do it," she says. "So I started to explore the options, first at TAFE (St George

and Gymea), then studying art history at COFA."

Since the late 1990s, the artist has completed several courses and won awards too, including First Prize at the Bayside Arts Festival in 2019.

Nauha's appreciation of impressionist painting informs much of her work, from bright-lit landscapes in oils and watercolour (European and Australian scenes) to richly textured still lifes, nudes and portraits.

There's also a highly stylised approach to figuration and composition. A striking lino-block print, hand-coloured, depicts two ducks on a lake.

"With regard to more stylised work, I just naturally found my way. It's about noticing the character of a place or subject, bringing out something special or beautiful, paying attention to design elements."

Most days Nauha works in her studio-gallery at Banksia

(14 Railway Street). She enjoys meeting people there (fortuitously, there's a coffee shop next door) – engaging in conversation while she draws or paints.

"Painting means many hours on my own but I love the social aspects too. I belong to art groups, including the St George Art Society, and like to visit the galleries. I enjoy getting involved in group shows – and will have some works in a show at Parliament House in June."

Nauha will present a selection of original works at the Orchard Gallery

in Waterloo on May 28.

There will be music and complimentary refreshments from 5pm, as well as affordable prints and cards for sale.

Selected Works

**Nauha Dabboussy
Opening 5-6.30pm
Saturday May 28
Until June 30, 2022
The Orchard Gallery
56a Raglan St, Waterloo
Phone 0405 849 315**

The sound of curiosity

THEATRE

ALANA VALENTINE

WHEN I walked into the main function room at the Paddington RSL Club on Saturday March 19, I heard an unfamiliar sound. It was day one of the Currency Press Australian Playwrights Festival – a rare and very welcome gathering of theatre makers, performers, academics and interested members of the public – to celebrate 50 years of Currency Press as a publisher of stage plays and other work about the performing arts in Australia.

So, of course, the first thing I heard in a room filled with approximately 150 people was the microphone amplified sound of two playwrights speaking about how they write their plays and, even more interestingly, why they write their plays.

Onstage was storyteller Debra Oswald, being interviewed by another writer Elias Jamieson Brown in a session called "My Playwright Crush".

It was a candid, funny and completely charming exchange of views and although I was immediately interested and engaged, it was the other sound in the room, the sound coming from a spellbound, largely silent audience that compelled my attention. It was the sound of a large group of people gathering together to think in public. Not to be at home on Zoom and listen to each other via digital means, but to sit beside one another, to smile, to nod, to laugh aloud in a group and to talk about what they love about the art of writing stories which will entertain, provoke, inspire and unsettle audiences who come to see work in Australian theatres.

It was a beautiful sound, this sound of an audience listening actively – I might even say listening hungrily – to the people who spend their lives crafting dialogue, imagining scenes, and creating structures which convey meaning and drama on stage.

As the day progressed I was given my own opportunity to contribute my thoughts on the onstage microphone on the panel "Staging the Real:



Alana Valentine with Maggie Blinco in rehearsal for *Wayside Bride*, on at Belvoir Theatre until May 29. Photo: Belvoir Theatre / Brett Boardman

Transforming Lived Experience into Compelling Drama" with S. Shakthidharan and Angela Betzien and chaired by Tommy Murphy. Our session was a collegiate exchange

of views about basing work for the stage on real life characters. Shakthi, who wrote *Counting and Cracking* for Belvoir put his philosophy of writing most eloquently when he said,

"It doesn't really matter if you're right or wrong, what matters is your capacity to sit and hold space for someone who disagrees with you, so I'm always looking for ways to engender that feeling." This deep truth was met, not with silent assent, but with spontaneous and heartfelt applause. Long may Currency Press continue to publish Australian plays and celebrate the contribution we make to the national conversation.

Alana Valentine's play *Wayside Bride*, drawn from the living testimony of people married at the Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross from 1964 to the present, opens at Belvoir Theatre on April 2 and plays until May 29. The unwaged performance for *Wayside Bride* is Thursday April 28 at 1pm. Unwaged members of the community can attend this matinee performance free of charge by presenting an eligible Pensioner Card, Health Care Card or Veteran's Affairs Card. Seniors, Students and groups of 10+ are eligible for discount tickets to other performances.

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



The Batman
Director: Matt Reeves
Starring: Robert Pattinson,
 Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright
Genre: Kapow!

The Batman doesn't want to be a superhero film but unfortunately ultimately is. It's torn between standard Marvel and DC story lines and trying to be a deep and complex noir thriller. So the simple good versus evil storyline in effect battles it out against a web of corruption and family intrigue. Violent over-the-top action sequences and love interests are added to keep the masses happy but just confuse the narrative.

The most striking example of this comes near the end. For over two hours an evolving corruption and drug trafficking scandal is revealed by the Riddler, encompassing Bruce Wayne's family and much of Gotham's political hierarchy. The Riddler's efforts to publically expose and kill the corrupt are just about to strike at the heart of Batman's reason for being when the entire narrative is ditched for an explosive dramatic turn of events devised by the Riddler that undermines his own efforts to inform the public by trying to kill them all instead!

The film is in many ways a backstory of the Penguin, the Joker and the Riddler. By trying to position them as simple enemies of the Batman, the director and producers maybe felt they had to make sure that the "baddies" were suitably removed from "good". As a result *The Batman* was a missed opportunity to add complexity and depth to each of the villains and establish (yet another) sequel series that differs from its many predecessors. Instead, what we're left

with is not that far removed from the original *Batman* TV series from the 1960s.

So mission unaccomplished, and not just the Riddler's.

Rating: Three hours in makeup.

» film@ssh.com.au

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



A is for Apple
Writer: Jessica Bellamy
Director: Scarlet McGlynn
SBW Stables Theatre
March 29 – April 9, 2022

Thank goodness for the Griffin Theatre's Lookout programme otherwise we may have missed the opportunity to see Jessica Bellamy's refreshingly charming and provocative play, *A is for Apple*. Bellamy, who is both writer and producer of *A is for Apple*, is a next generation talent to "look out" for. Her compact and potent play tackles the conflict between religious tradition and change in attitudes to women with a witty vivacity that is much more effective than the usual litany of sorrows.

As the simple but evocative set (designer, Emma White) reminds us through its blue and yellow chairs, the tyranny of the past is not confined to religious traditions. The demand for self-determination both national and personal varies from full-scale war to individual resistance to restrictive rules that maintain the power of an elite. In *A is for Apple* the battleground is the long-established Jewish patriarchal traditions that shape the behaviour, and the role in the Judaic community, of Jewish womanhood.

The pubescent Shoshona (Zoe Resnick) attired in baggy pants, striped tee and boots, immediately captures our hearts and interest as she erupts into the stage space delivering her resistance to the

demands of her religion in engaging rap style. Its lack of relevance to her life and female pop role models is conveyed by her comically insouciant pose as she falls asleep during the service.

Next to her sits her appointed guide through the mysteries of her approaching Bat Mitzvah, the soberly dressed Miriam (Amy Hack). They talk as they bob up and down in response to unheard ritual prompts – a device that links them as women and puppets – and at the same time is visually very funny.

The self-doubting Miriam, feeling unequal to the task of preparing her exuberant charge and increasingly discomfited her cheeky but thoughtful questions, seeks help – at Shoshona's prompting – from life coach Agathe (also Resnick). An entrancing mix of Roma fortune teller and flower power guru with a fascinating Australian-Middle European accent, Agathe fosters greater self-esteem in Miriam. Her methods are weird but as Miriam's repressed energy is released her dancing becomes less angular, more expressive of bodily pleasure.

The young girl and young woman are drawn together and with the aid of a magic potion (aka as imagination) launch a truly hilarious search – words cannot do justice to Bellamy's comedic gift and the actor's skill – through the matriarchs of the Old Testament for possible role models of Jewish womanhood. Their very trenchant and funny rescripting of the stories of Sarah, Rebekah, (a delightfully grumpy Hack), Leah and Rachel (in the Red Tent) lead us finally to Eve and a laid-back serpent sporting a sequined baseball cap.

The one constant on the stage is the apple-bearing tree, a reminder of the powerful and negative influence the Eden story has exerted over the lives of women for millennia. And so, this fabulously entertaining play ends with a passionate, deeply moving appeal by the young Shoshona for new stories, new and inclusive imaginings.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



The Urge
Carl Erik Fisher
Scribe, \$35

"For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple – and wrong," quipped the journalist and humourist HL Mencken over a century ago.

If there is one overarching message from *The Urge*, it is just that: Addiction is complex; quick fixes and slogans are irrelevant; its causes are both societal and individual, and there is no one-size-fits-all treatment model.

Carl Erik Fisher, an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University, treats many people struggling with addiction in his professional practice. He is also a former addict, whose addiction nearly ended his career.

Fisher's writing glows with compassion. He is painfully aware that he was one of the lucky ones – white, educated, supported by colleagues – when he ended up in the infamous Bellevue Hospital after an alcohol-induced psychotic episode.

The Urge is an ambitious book, and occasionally its level of detail can seem excessive.

Fisher presents a history of addiction and how various societies have responded to it. He examines the approaches to combating addiction, from prohibition to harm minimisation, and the philosophies of various treatment regimes. Interwoven with this, he gradually reveals his own struggle with alcoholism, which he supplemented by the stimulant Adderol when too sleepy to function.

While Fisher's sometimes lengthy discussion of public policy is focused on the United States, the broader questions he raises are universal: is abstinence the only way forward for ex-addicts, as many programs require? Is addiction the result of genetics or of environment? Why can some people dabble in drugs and avoid addiction? Will more forgiving approaches to drugs result in more drug use? Is the philosophy of many treatment programs, which hold that individuals need to be fully "broken down" to be built up again, a useful one?

He also presents compelling evidence in favour of maintenance programs for drug users (particularly methadone and buprenorphine) as being a more realistic way to enable them to function safely and productively, and questions whether the focus on total abstinence is more about moralism than practicality. Fisher also points out how easy it is for societies to demonise drug users, particularly when they are poor (and, in the US, Black); society is more sympathetic when those affected are our neighbours, friends, children – people like us.

Fisher's writing is its most compelling when describing his own descent into addiction. The only child of alcoholic, chain-smoking parents, Fisher was barely managing to function as a psychiatric resident (scarily, his job required responsibility for vulnerable people). Colleagues expressed concern about his tardiness, obvious fatigue and unreliability; he kept insisting that he was fine. Until he wasn't.

He has written an important book that I wish every politician would read. "Millions ... have struggled so fiercely and desperately with addiction," he writes. "When we accept that addiction is a part of life, and that there is no single solution, we give those who are suffering a better chance for relief."

» books@ssh.com.au

Singing together – Sydney Street Choir marks 20 years

MUSIC

ANDREW COLLIS

THE Sydney Street Choir celebrated its 20th anniversary on Wednesday March 16 with a special concert in Martin Place.

The two-hour performance was spirited and joy filled. The sun shone through the rainclouds. There was laughter, camaraderie, even dancing in puddles.

The choir's set list includes familiar hits – "Let It Be", "I Can See Clearly Now" and "This Little Light of Mine". Choristers commit to bringing beloved songs to life.

"We haven't had much opportunity to perform in recent years due to the pandemic," said choir director James Paul. "We slipped in a show at Christmas, but overall the



Sydney Street Choir members bring beloved songs to life. Photo: Andrew Collis

opportunities have been scarce. The choir absolutely loved performing again and we were able to raise some funds at the same time."

Established in 2001 by Jonathan

Welch AO, the choir keeps a busy rehearsal and performance schedule, with a live-to-air performance on Channel 10's Studio 10 on April 5, and a tour

to Brisbane later in the month.

The choir runs rehearsals at three locations – Redfern, Liverpool and the Dillwynia Women's Prison, with over 100 members

participating every week.

Matthew McLennan was very happy to perform at Martin Place. "I've only been a member for a few months," he smiled. "But I was on the promotional banners!"

Mr McLennan said he loves the opportunity to sing with others. "It's not always easy, what we all go through. Singing together is good for the soul. It's a healing experience."

The choir's social welfare support program helps members with issues such as housing, domestic violence, financial welfare or employment. It offers direct assistance, including counselling and individualised support, as well as referrals to other support services.

A defining legacy of the Sydney Street Choir's work lies in the lives of its past members – choristers have gone on to work in social work, and in the live music industry, supporting themselves and building new, socially robust and meaningful lives.

Ash Barty announces retirement



Ash Barty. Photo: www.sportingnews.com

SPORT

STEVE TURNER

ASH Barty has announced her retirement from professional tennis. The 25-year-old will put the racquet down and focus on other goals. Barty announced the news via social media, sending shockwaves through the tennis world in Australia and abroad.

“I don’t have the physical drive, the emotional want and kind of everything it takes to challenge yourself at the very top level anymore, I just know that I’m absolutely spent. I just know physically I have nothing more to give.”

Ash said she discussed the decision to retire with her team “multiple times”, adding that she “just doesn’t have it in her anymore”.

“I am so thankful for everything this sport has given me and I leave

feeling proud and fulfilled. Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way, I’ll always be grateful for the lifelong memories that we created together.”

Barty retires as the world’s number 1 ranked player. During her incredible career she won three Grand Slam singles titles; her first at the French Open in 2019, before winning Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian Open in January this year. The proud Ngarigo woman also won the 2018 US Open in women’s doubles with Coco Vandeweghe.

Sonny Bill defeats Barry Hall

Dual code rugby star Sonny Bill Williams defeated AFL great Barry Hall in Sydney recently, dominating the bout from the opening seconds. Williams jolted the Sydney Swans premiership winner in the first half minute with some crisp accurate shots.

Hall was down after just 47 seconds, though referee Les Fear said he didn’t see a punch. It looked like Hall had been hit with a left hook and he appeared unsteady after standing up. Within 40 seconds, the 45-year-old returned to the canvas after taking a couple of big shots.

A ruthless Williams ended the contest a few second later, after he landed a big right hand that felled Hall, prompting Fear to end the one-sided contest after only one minute 55 seconds.

36-year-old Williams, who weighed in 11 kilos heavier than Hall, improved his professional record to 9-0 while Hall dropped to 0-1-1. “There’s a reason why only 1 per cent of people do this type of stuff. So much respect for Barry and his team for coming in and doing this,” Williams said.

SSH



Your say on a local Aboriginal knowledge and culture centre

We want to hear from local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about how 119 Redfern Street, Redfern should be used by community.



How to give feedback
You can take a survey online, attend a community conversation or come to a drop-in session. city.sydney/consultations by 5pm on 9 May 2022

Share your ideas by completing a short survey or attending a workshop or drop-in session.



cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



Learn the basics of skateboarding. Photo: www.wickedlocal.com

Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

As I look out my window today, the sun is shining after lots of rain overnight. I’m hoping it will last, though the weather forecast tells me differently. Our thoughts and heartfelt prayers go out to those in northern NSW and Queensland who continue to suffer severe weather activity.

After a couple of postponements due to inclement weather, **Autumn on the Green** will take place on Waterloo Green on **Friday April 8, 1-5pm**. Come along for live entertainment, great food, an art exhibition, community information stalls, and a mechanical bull for the young and young at heart!

NSW School Holidays

Monday April 11 – Friday April 22

Check with your local Council for activities and programs for the holidays.

Free Skateboarding Clinics at Sydney Park Skatepark – April 23

Free tickets are available for children aged 5-15 years on 0410 545 157 or www.skate-now.com.au/holiday-clinic

Sydney Royal Easter Show

Friday April 8 – Tuesday April 19

The first Easter Show was held in 1823, a long tradition for New South Wales. This year tickets must be purchased online via Ticketmaster. For Easter Show transport timetables information is now available at www.transportnsw.info. All other information about the Show can be found on www.eastershow.com.au/tickets-deals

23rd Biennale of Sydney – RIVUS

Until June 13

You may have seen the street banners

advertising the Biennale as “Rivus”, and it refers to rivers, wetlands, salt and freshwater ecosystems and around waterways of the Gadigal, Burrumattagal and Cabrogal peoples. Artworks and installations are at various venues including Cockatoo Island, Art Gallery of NSW, MCA, Barangaroo and others. For information on all the venues and artists visit www.biennaleofsydney.art

Other events and activities for April

Parkinson’s Awareness Month – April 1-30

www.parkinsons.org.au

National Youth Week – April 4-14

Earth Day (Invest in our Planet) – April 22

World Day for Safety and Health at Work – April 28

www.un.org/en/observance/work-safety-day

Upcoming events and activities in May

Congratulations to volunteer distributor Noel Jeffs who will launch his book, *Maturing in the Religious Life*, at **11am on Monday May 2** at Lobby Boy in South Eveleigh. The book will be launched by Dr Matthew Egan, Senior Lecturer Business School, University of Sydney, and the MC will be Thor Blomfield, Community Development Co-ordinator, St Vincent de Paul Society.

A collaborative exhibition to mark **Neighbourhood Centre Week** (May 9-15) and featuring work by artists from Poets Corner Art Group and Saturday Art Workshops at South Sydney Uniting Church will open at the Orchard Gallery on May 14. Further details next month.

Wishing all our volunteers, readers and supporters a very happy and safe Easter and school holiday break.

Until next time, Pat Clarke

SSH

» volunteers@ssh.com.au

Waterloo Recycling Workshop



Friday mornings 8-11am
1 Phillip St, Waterloo
(at the base of the Turanga flats)

Serving the Waterloo community since 2008