

the South Sydney Herald

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Federal Election 2022 CANDIDATES HAVE THEIR SAY – PAGES 4 & 5



Kween G. Photo: Jodie Welsh

Inaugural First Nations women's hip-hop showcase

MUSIC

SSH

AUSTRALIAN Women in Music Awards (AWMA) will host the inaugural First Nations women's hip-hop showcase, *Love for My Sisters*, as part of this year's conference program with a belting line-up of artists curated by Cairns-based First Nations hip-hop artist and MC, Dizzy Doolan.

Doolan will also perform and MC this year's award ceremony with Yumi Stynes, which will be broadcast on ABC TV for the very first time.

AWMA founding executive producer and program director Vicki Gordon created the event to highlight AWMA's ongoing commitment to showcase the exceptional talent of Australian First Nations female artists, musicians and DJs.

"Dizzy was one of our regional participants in 2019 and it is exciting to be working with her in a curatorial role this year. She is an incredible talent and, like all of the artists in this year's showcase, Doolan has pioneered the way for women in the Australian hip-hop scene," Gordon said.

Love for My Sisters is inspired by the single release, of the same name, written by Crystal Mastrovas (Lady Lash) and Gladys Namokoyi (Kween G) who will both perform at the showcase on the evening of May 17 at The Tivoli in Brisbane.

Doolan, aka Charmaine Armstrong, invited her First Nations sisters RedBelly, Hot Brown Honey, Kaylah Truth, Kween G, Lady Lash and Shakaya to join the line-up for *Love for My Sisters*.

Staged at What's Golden at The Tivoli, the concert will be an electrifying evening exploring deep storytelling through music

– neo-soul, RnB, rap, hip-hop and house – with plenty of politics, identity and shared experiences.

Doolan's powerful curation includes artists from across the country and combines their collective experiences to raise consciousness with their music.

"I've felt so empowered to play so many special roles in this year's AWMA and I'm truly honoured and so grateful to have been given the opportunity to curate the First Nations hip-hop showcase, to be a part of history in that way is next level," Doolan said.

SSH

www.womeninmusicawards.com.au

Tickets for the showcase are available at www.bit.ly/3vVEZeG

Tickets include a chance to join an after-show function and network with music industry practitioners:



Brian Lim, CEO Dandelions and Paul Hilton, Business Development Manager Spiral Blue. Photo: Supplied

Wolfpack Space Hub lands in Waterloo

LOCALS

LYN TURNBULL

WATERLOO: The soft opening of Wolfpack Space Hub's new facility in Wellington Street was on April 19, 2022.

Wolfpack was jointly set up in December 2019 by Australian space engineering firm Saber Astronautics (2008) and TCP the first Australian-owned IT company (1971).

It presently has five members. All are space-tech start-ups which manufacture in Australia. They benefit from being co-located to, as the name suggests, "hunt-as-a-pack" to service customers that are looking for locally produced technologies to supply as the Australian Space Agency develops.

Sperospace manufactures robotic arms for small satellites which allow the satellites to be repaired, upgraded or assembled in space, rather than having to be returned to Earth for reconditioning and maintenance or just be written off as space junk.

Metakosmos designs and manufactures space suits. Maria Xygkaki, the Senior Business Developer at Wolfpack Space (Saber), noted on the opening night their space suit range is a great leap forward to help democratise space exploration, as the suits are produced to accommodate a wider range of body types and sizes, so overcome one barrier for female astronauts.

Space Industries is focused on creating energy efficiency for industries on Earth by sourcing elements in space that are not available on the planet; particularly Helium-3 which creates fuel for nuclear fusion. In the process it has developed ways to produce water in space for use on our moon and Mars.

Dandelions produces small payload scalable "Gyrochute" platforms which reduce the return-to-earth costs by 10 times to allow in-orbit manufacturing of products that require low gravity processes.

Esper Satellite Imagery aims to develop space-based monitoring of the efficiency of a range of industries on Earth to reduce their environmental impact.

Spiral Blue develops on-board systems technology that allows much of the processing of collected images for marine, forestry, agriculture and defence purposes to be done in space rather than having to transmit large quantities of data back to Earth for interpretation.

After Spiral Blue's three previous successful launches, in October this year a new generation Australian Earth observation mission "Over the Rainbow" will be conducted in conjunction with other Wolfpack Space Hub members Esper Satellite Imagery, Sperospace and Dandelions to test "a new approach to collection of high definition satellite images and their transmission back to Earth".

SSH



Quick-fire comedy **Online-only**



Gadsby goes deep **Online-only**



Pissarro premiere **Online-only**



South Sydney Herald

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Jenny Leong MP

STATE MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN

The Greens are committed to ending the use of fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy sources as rapidly as possible.

A climate-focused government is long overdue – and the Greens are committed to working in parliament and the community to drive the change that we know is so urgent.

The latest report from the IPCC on climate change is bleak. Climate change is already here. It's fuelling the extreme weather events we are currently seeing and the window of time that we have to reduce our emissions is rapidly closing.

We know the climate crisis is caused by mining and burning coal, oil and gas. They're heating up the planet, and if we want a chance at a safe climate future, we need to work to transition out of these fossil fuels.

But we don't need to choose between taking urgent climate action and supporting fossil fuel communities. We can do both. We can look after communities that rely on the coal, oil and gas industries, while at the same time developing renewables, creating new jobs and restoring our manufacturing industry.

In this critical decade for climate action, we need to keep coal and gas in the ground. It's time to make coal and gas history.

Both Liberal and Labor don't have a plan to get out of coal because they continue to take millions of dollars in political donations from polluting fossil fuel companies who are calling the shots. They are prepared to sacrifice a safe future for all of us and for future generations for short-term political gain. This is morally bankrupt.

Thankfully, young people are leading the movement for change – students are striking to ensure our future and the future of our planet. The Greens stand in solidarity and defiance with our student strikers – as we did outside Kirribilli House back in March. And we will continue to do so.

We need urgent policy reform to protect our futures, First Nations lands, and our environment, which is why I will be joining students on May 6 who are striking again for climate action and climate justice. Hope to see you there too!

You can watch my most recent speech on the climate crisis in Parliament here:



The Greens know the climate emergency is here and it's real – we know that we need urgent action to put a stop to the polluting fossil fuel industry.

Handwritten signature of 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.

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Slashed Burger in Woolloomooloo has print copies of the SSH. Photo: Andrew Collis

Print copies - find places near you

LOCALS

SSH

THE South Sydney Herald (SSH) continues in print every month. The paper is available from a range of venues across all suburbs in South Sydney – from cafés, pubs and restaurants to shops and community centres.

We are grateful to all participating organisations and businesses, and acknowledge long-standing commitments throughout the Covid lockdowns. In particular, we acknowledge Counterpoint Community Services in Alexandria and Waterloo, Weave Youth & Community Services in Waterloo, Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross, Glebe Assistance and Partnership Program, Mustard Seed Op Shop in Ultimo, Waterloo Laundrette & Dry Cleaning, Ambour's Hardware and Mickey's Fruit & Veges in Redfern, and Hum On King in Newtown.

IGA stores throughout South Sydney remain strong supporters of independent media, alongside the Bower and Food Pantry in Marrickville, Eat On Abercrombie and Café Abercrombie in Darlington, Lobby Boy in South Eveleigh, Park Café On Chalmers in Redfern, and Slashed Burger in Woolloomooloo.

Special thanks to Redfern Convenience Store and Bargain Super Store, Newtown Sydney Animal Hospitals, the Rose of Australia and Hive Bar in Erskineville, as well as news agencies in Redfern, Erskineville and Kings Cross.

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See our website for a full list of print locations: www.southsydneyherald.com.au/distribution



Seeking ideas for new Aboriginal knowledge and cultural centre

FIRST PEOPLES

SSH

REDFERN: The City of Sydney is asking local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members for ideas about how to transform the historic two-storey building at 119 Redfern Street into a local Aboriginal knowledge and cultural centre.

"The City of Sydney wants to hear your ideas and aspirations for what this space could be and how you'd like to see it used. I'd like this centre to bolster the local sense of community and be somewhere people of all ages gather."

You can still have your say by completing a short survey by May 9, 2022.

See www.surveymonkey.com/r/119Redfern



Manager of Indigenous Leadership and Engagement at the City of Sydney, Edie Coe, said:

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Sensor bracelet designed to give back control to hand-impaired

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

PEOPLE who lack the ability to use their hands from conditions like motor neurone disease and cerebral palsy may one day be able to play video games that require a handheld controller through the use of customisable, wearable 3D printed bracelets.

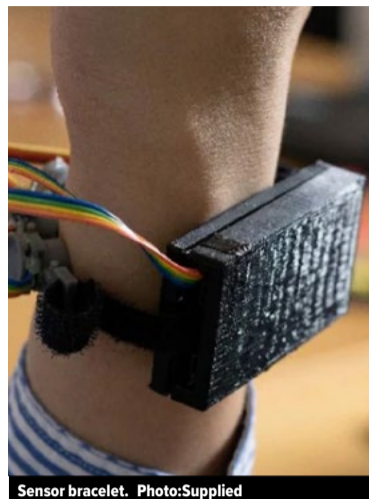
Made with a type of resin, the bracelet works by picking up tiny movements in the user's wrist when they move their fingers. These movements are sent wirelessly to a computer, and are then interpreted, classified and adapted using machine learning. The interpreted information can then be used to play a game, control a computer interface or communicate using a smart device.

The bracelet and program have been developed by a team of engineers in the University of Sydney's School of Computer Science, led by undergraduate honours student Mr Stephen Lin under the supervision of Dr Anusha Withana.

"We have 3D printed a sensor bracelet that can be easily customised for individual users. It accurately detects subtle finger movements through vibrations in the carpal tunnel – an area of the wrist that contains the tendons which control the hand," said Dr Withana.

"These subtle movements are then transmitted from the sensors to a program using Bluetooth, which interprets an individual's movement patterns using machine learning. It then communicates this with the game. It does so almost instantaneously, allowing the user to play games that would otherwise require the use of a handheld controller."

In 2020, Dr Withana received an ARC DECRA fellowship to investigate novel sensor fabrication techniques for wearable applications.



Sensor bracelet. Photo:Supplied

Currently, the research team is funded by Cerebral Palsy Alliance and Neurodisability Assist Trust to further investigate how this technology can be used to help people living with cerebral palsy.

"We know that assistive technology holds the key to a brighter future for many children with cerebral palsy and similar disabilities, with the potential to transform communication, mobility and participation in society. Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood globally, meaning it is vital that these tech advancements are accessible, customisable and as widely available as possible," said Professor Nadia Badawi, CP Alliance Chair of Cerebral Palsy Research at The University of Sydney and Medical Director and Co-Head at Westmead Hospital's Grace Centre for Newborn Intensive Care.

Cerebral palsy can cause spasticity in muscles and affect a person's ability to move. It can have profound impacts on the ability of people to communicate with 50 per cent of people living with the condition finding speech difficult or impossible, while two-thirds have difficulty with movement in one or both arms.

The sensors were designed using computational fabrication techniques, with the components able to be printed using a low-cost, commercial 3D printer. The

team has also developed a simple, easy-to-use tool that allows users to customise the sensor to fit their needs.

The researchers plan to release the tools to create sensor bracelets as open-source software, with the aim of improving accessibility for people living with disability worldwide.

Gopi Kitnasamy, Head of Rehabilitation Services at MJF Charitable Foundation, a Sri Lankan not-for-profit organisation the researchers are partnered with, says that new technology is helping individuals with disabilities to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible.

He hopes the device will also benefit his son, who has cerebral palsy.

"My 23-year-old son lives with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He loves watching car and bike races and playing video games, with a keen interest in car racing and shooting games.

"As he has lot of dyskinetic (involuntary) movements, he finds it difficult to use joysticks or controllers, so he ends up just watching as we play for him. He selects the tracks, cars, and drivers, but is never able to participate by actually playing. This is very frustrating for both him and us.

"I was so thrilled and excited to learn about the researchers' sensor bracelet, which appears promising in terms of functionality and affordability. We hope the research progresses, not only to give people like my son access to video games, but also to improve rehabilitative services, and to make the impossible possible. ^{SSH}



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

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Palm Sunday - 'justice and freedom for refugees'

HUMAN AFFAIRS

ANDREW COLLIS

THE Australian Refugee Action Network (ARAN) took a leading role in the Palm Sunday rally at Belmore Park, Haymarket, on April 10. The theme this year was "justice and freedom for refugees".

Community, church, political and union groups marched to Victoria Park, Camperdown, to express their strong opposition to the Australian government's refugee policies.

Protesters called for the immediate release of all refugees and asylum seekers from

immigration detention – their claims for asylum can be assessed while they live in the community; an end to mandatory and indefinite detention of refugees and asylum seekers; the right to work and access to Centrelink benefits for all refugees and asylum seekers; fair and timely assessment of all claims for refugee status; all refugees to be awarded permanent visas and family reunion rights; safe resettlement options either in New Zealand, the USA, Canada, or here in Australia for all people, many stranded on Nauru and in PNG, who have sought protection in Australia.

Benedictine Brother David Steindl-Rast writes: "Daily experience shows us how

difficult it is to stand up for those spiritual values to which we feel committed when we are at our best. Whenever we have to swim against the current for the sake of our deepest convictions, we know why Jesus 'suffered under Pontius Pilate' ..."

Palm Sunday rallies – held in cities throughout the world at the start of Holy Week – might be regarded faithful religious events – resistant to both trivialisation and commercialisation. ^{SSH}

You can sign ARAN's Palm Sunday petition here: www.bit.ly/3krsUZv



TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

AUSTRALIA NEEDS A NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

If a Labor government is elected it will establish a powerful, transparent, and independent National Anti-Corruption Commission.

Labor believes we have waited too long for a National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) to be established, and only an Albanese Labor Government will deliver an Anti-Corruption Commission with teeth.

The NACC established by Labor will operate with all the independence, resources, and powers of a standing Royal Commission into serious and systemic corruption in the federal government.

The Morrison Government's ever-increasing list of scandals and cover-ups has reinforced the urgent need for a powerful and independent National Anti-Corruption Commission.

CUTTING POWER BILLS & CUTTING EMISSIONS

1 in 5 Australian homes have solar panels. But only 1 in 60 have battery storage. If a Labor government is elected, we will fix that by installing 400 community batteries across the country.

The \$200 million investment will cut power bills, cut emissions, and reduce pressure on the electricity grid.

Increasing battery storage across the country is vital to taking full advantage of cheaper, cleaner solar energy.

Labor's plan will allow households that can't install solar- like apartment owners and renters – to draw from excess electricity stored in community batteries.

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

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Federal Election

2022

The Federal Election will be held on **Saturday, May 21**

All candidates for the federal electorate of Sydney were asked what three areas of reform they would prioritise to achieve social and economic equity for the community they seek to represent. Candidates from five parties responded to **two key prompts on housing and climate change.**



CHETAN SAHAI

GREENS

As a young person trying to live in Sydney, I know many will never be able to buy a home, rents are too expensive and public housing waiting lists grow longer and longer. Sydney needs a bold plan and a massive investment in new affordable, accessible and sustainable housing. Secondly, I would push to introduce a liveable income guarantee to ensure no one is living in poverty. This would involve an increase in all income support payments above the poverty line, to \$88 a day. It also means abolishing 'mutual obligations' and other punitive measures designed to harm those who are most at risk of falling into poverty. And finally, as a person who has grown up experiencing the real and structural impacts of racism, I know how important it is to fight for everyone that the political system does not respect. Whether that's people of colour, Indigenous people, women, the LGBTQIA+ community, people in poverty, or refugees. I love Sydney. That's why I want to fight to make it a more equitable and more affordable place for all of us.

1. What will you do to address the climate crisis and accelerate Australia's transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

The science is clear: this is a critical decade for climate action. We need to keep coal and gas in the ground. But the major parties aren't listening, with plans to open 114 new coal and gas mines. I want to push the next government to immediately ban the construction of new coal, oil and gas infrastructure; stop the massive subsidies to fossil-fuel corporations; and replace every coal-fired power plant in the country with renewables by 2030. I'll also push to establish a publicly-owned, non-profit power retailer to push power prices down and end price gouging by big energy companies.

2. What is your plan for building long-term social and affordable housing stock to house people on low and moderate incomes who cannot afford market rents in our electorate?

There's no doubt that housing in Sydney is completely cooked. That's why the Greens have a plan to build one million affordable homes to ensure everyone has a safe and secure place to live. I'll fight to achieve this bold plan, which includes 750,000 homes for people on low incomes, to slash public housing waiting lists and end homelessness; 125,000 shared ownership homes, which will support first-home buyers who are locked out of the housing market; and 125,000 universal-access rental homes, to provide secure housing for more people, moving towards a genuine universal public housing model.



RYAN MCALISTER

UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY

1. What will you do to address the climate crisis and accelerate Australia's transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

Our party is trying to go even beyond renewable energy, and become global leaders in safe nuclear energy. Whilst we appreciate the value of renewable energy, we also know it will have limits and challenges, as it still requires fossil fuels to be made. Other challenges are the disposal of non-recyclable wind turbines, dangers of crimes against humanity sourcing cobalt for batteries using child slave labour, disposal of non-recycle batteries, to name a few. Fusion nuclear energy has the ability to provide abundance of energy to a growing population with minimal footprint on the earth.

2. What is your plan for building long-term social and affordable housing stock to house people on low and moderate incomes who cannot afford market rents in our electorate?

Affordability of housing is a growing concern, and this is multi-factorial. Half of the residents in the electorate are non-citizens, and potentially the everyday Australian is struggling to compete with foreign renters and home buyers. Up to now, every major party, including Labor has failed to achieve it. Affordable housing requires a strong economy that is not saturated in certain zones. We are attempting to spread the burden out from capital cities, by introducing a 20 per cent tax concession to residents more than 200kms from capital cities. This will ease the pressure on inner-city dwellings.



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

For information visit www.aec.gov.au





WILLIAM ZHOU

CITIZENS PARTY

Now in 2022, the unaffordable cost of living for all Australians is at the forefront of the nation's political debate and only the Australian Citizens Party has a well-researched, workable solution. It begins with creating a thriving, productive, physical economy with meaningful well-paid employment and opportunities for all. But this requires a public banking system, including a postal savings bank that serves the needs of the people especially where the private banks have closed their branches. A postal bank will also guarantee deposits and support the cash payment system and lend to local small businesses neglected by the private banks. A public banking system also includes a National Development Bank to provide low interest credit for all forms of infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and industry and to support new technologies for the future. Only such a bank could fund a massive economic recovery, ensuring jobs for all, and facilitate affordable public housing developments, thereby making home ownership possible for young people with limited starting capital and low wages. The Citizens Party also has legislation to protect homeowners from eviction and foreclosure in the event of a predicted housing bubble collapse, and to reorganise failing banks should that be necessary.

1. What will you do to address the climate crisis and accelerate Australia's transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

I would address this issue in two main ways. For the purpose of reducing the cost of electricity and the cost of living for Australians, I would allocate more funding to Australian universities, and encourage collaboration with industry, to research technologies which increase the efficiency and effectiveness of renewable energy which includes solar, wind, biomass, hydro, etc; and to create a national bank to fund the infrastructure needed to accelerate the transition to efficient and cost effective renewable energy.

2. What is your plan for building long-term social and affordable housing stock to house people on low and moderate incomes who cannot afford market rents in our electorate?

We first need a national bank that can provide low interest funding for "not-for-profit" property developments. To address home ownership, this national bank will then (in essence) become the funder for high density housing developments which will have capped prices limited to only be sold to first home buyers (must be individuals and not trusts) with a percentage of the stock reserved for different age groups. To assist with rents, developments associated with this national bank would have a portion of the stock reserved for rentals and have lower than market rents.



ANDREW CHUTER

SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

My top concerns are addressing the climate emergency, housing affordability and peace. The fastest growing source of carbon emissions is transport. We must make a rapid shift to free public transport, walking and cycling. Expand fast and frequent services to more places. Tackle the housing crisis with a massive expansion of public housing. We need to build it close to jobs and services which would help reduce the transport burden too. Maintain and improve the housing stock to make it carbon neutral. Provide universal public housing with rent set at 20 per cent of a person's income. We need to stop the sabre rattling and out-of-control war expenditure. The current war budget is \$1 trillion over the next 20 years. We must cut that by at least half and use the savings to start fixing the real and urgent problems we face. None of this can be achieved without people power. Electing a few politicians won't be enough. That's why I'm representing Socialist Alliance because we know that it's capitalism itself that is the real problem. We will continue to help build the broad social movements that are the only chance to overcome massive entrenched wealth and power, regardless of who wins the election.

1. What will you do to address the climate crisis and accelerate Australia's transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

We are in a climate emergency. Stop fossil fuel subsidies, which cost \$12 billion annually. Phase out fossil fuels by 2030. No new coal or gas projects. We need guaranteed jobs with no loss in pay for workers in those industries. De-carbonise our cities with a massive shift to public and active transport. Electric cars are not the answer – they will still leave us with the problems of congestion, sprawl, road trauma and physical inactivity. We have EVs already: trains and trams. We need to make them fast, frequent, free and connected to more places. New and existing buildings must be made energy efficient and not reliant on gas.

2. What is your plan for building long-term social and affordable housing stock to house people on low and moderate incomes who cannot afford market rents in our electorate?

Housing is a human right. There are currently 200,000 households on public housing waiting lists around the country and double that are either homeless or in unsuitable housing. Stop the demolitions and the Communities Plus model of privatisation. Let's clear the lists and tackle the affordability crisis with a large-scale Green New Deal for Public Housing. Shift away from the concept of "welfare housing". Quality public homes should be provided to everyone with rents capped at 20 per cent of income. Scrap capital gains tax exemptions and negative gearing. Repair and decarbonise public housing and build it close to work, education and services.



TANYA PLIBERSEK

LABOR

Everywhere I go, Australians are telling me that life has gotten harder under Scott Morrison and the Liberals. Everything is going up, except people's pay. Under Scott Morrison the cost of living has gone through the roof, and he's done nothing to fix it. Labor has a plan to make life easier, to lighten the load for Australians, with more secure jobs, better pay, and help with the cost of living – cheaper childcare, lower power bills, and more affordable housing. Labor will scrap the \$10,560 childcare subsidy cap which often sees parents losing money when they work more, lift the maximum childcare subsidy rate to 90 per cent of the cost of care, and make childcare cheaper for every family earning less than \$530,000. Labor has a Powering Australia Plan that will reduce pollution, create 604,000 jobs, and cut power bills for families and businesses by \$275 a year for homes by 2025, compared to today. Labor will create the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund which will build 30,000 new social and affordable housing properties in its first five years. I'm proud of Labor's plan for a national integrity Commission, restoring ABC funding and our support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

1. What will you do to address the climate crisis and accelerate Australia's transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

Creating jobs, cutting power bills and reducing emissions by boosting renewable energy are at the centre of Labor's Powering Australia plan. This plan will bring cheaper renewable energy to Australian homes and businesses. Our plan will create 604,000 jobs, with five out of six new jobs to be created in the regions. It will cut power bills for families and businesses by \$275 a year for homes by 2025, compared to today. Alongside the economic benefits, our plan will reduce Australia's emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 – which will become Australia's target under the Paris Agreement, keeping us on track for net zero by 2050.

2. What is your plan for building long-term social and affordable housing stock to house people on low and moderate incomes who cannot afford market rents in our electorate?

Labor will create the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund which will build 30,000 new social and affordable housing properties in its first five years. Each year investment returns from the Housing Australia Future Fund will be transferred to the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) to pay for social and affordable housing projects. Over the first five years the investment returns will build around:

- 20,000 social housing properties – at least 4,000 of which will be allocated for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness.
- 10,000 affordable homes for the frontline workers like police, nurses and cleaners who kept us safe during the pandemic. This will mean they can live closer to where they work, and it will mean better services for everyday Australians.

We'll also have extra funding for emergency accommodation for women and children fleeing violence; upgrade remote Indigenous housing and provide homes for veterans and older women who are disproportionately affected by homelessness.





cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

Let's get serious about climate justice

EDITORIAL

SSH

THE Morrison government's record on climate has been appalling. Yet we know climate action is central for many Australians going into this month's federal election.

Will enough people vote for leaders who will give climate action more than lip service? (The Morrison government, in announcing its 2022-2023 budget, mentioned the word "climate" only once.)

School Strike for Climate (SS4C) is one group that won't leave the planet and its inhabitants' futures to chance – and it is inviting people to strike again on May 6.

Kayla is an SS4C organiser whose work now centres around upholding accessibility in the climate movement.

"Disabled people often cannot access protests because it is not wheelchair accessible, interpreters are not present, the environment is very overwhelming, and there generally isn't a predisposed expectation of accessibility," she says.

"Ableism is rife across all aspects of society and fighting for climate justice comes hand in hand with disability justice."

Kayla tells us about a UN resource which shows how climate change affects people with disabilities disproportionately and another piece by Nicole Howard about how ableism manifests in the environment movement and how that can change.

Kayla also says: "The climate crisis is not an unaccompanied struggle. It occurs because of ableism, capitalism, colonialism and so many other systems. Here at SS4C, we need to ensure that everyone, from all walks of life, can participate in this movement."

To achieve this, she adds, a range of initiatives and accommodations will be available for all people – disabled or not – to use at the rally on May 6, which include:

- Regulation of COVID safety
- An AUSLAN interpreter
- Seating at the front of the rally
- The provision of ear plugs
- A chillout zone
- A briefing and resources for marshals on disability

Kayla and other SS4C strikers will want national leaders in place who are serious about committing to emission reduction targets and not those who say they are "blessed" not to have children with disabilities.

How will you vote? SSH

See SS4C resources (link in May 6 button): www.linktr.ee/syds4c



Scrapping sustainable planning principles is dystopian

COMMENT

HY WILLIAM CHAN

"IT'S now or never." That's the stomach-turning warning on climate change that the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change boldly issued on April 4, 2022.

On the very next day, Planning Minister Anthony Roberts announced at a lunch hosted by private financiers and property developers that the NSW government is scrapping the proposed liveability and future-focused Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) established under his predecessor Rob Stokes.

These draft planning rules, which were crafted with the lessons of Covid-19 in mind, would have ensured all future developments were held to the principles of sustainable

and green design, ensuring long-term liveable, healthy, resilient, and diverse places for communities across NSW.

Similarly, in March, Roberts announced that Stokes' Planning Principles, which detailed nine strategies for addressing the climate crisis in housing developments and prioritising proactive resilience against future natural disasters would also be dumped. These principles were described by Roberts as "utopian".

When announcing the abandoning of these principles, Roberts told a room of private developers, "I've heard you – the government's heard you."

And who wasn't in the room to have their voices heard when these plans were scrapped? Homeowners and future homeowners, renters and future renters, the very people who will be expected to buy or lease developments in years and decades to come.

And the very people who will reasonably expect homes that will be safe, secure, and adaptive to future climate emergencies.

We have witnessed the impacts of unregulated property developers, focused on quick, cheap and corner-cutting builds that are defended as the solution to the ongoing housing crisis.

Horror stories like Sydney's Opal Tower cracking apart in 2018 and Melbourne's Larcosse apartments flammable cladding blaze in 2014 were a warning of what would come if new developments continued without regulatory requirements and good design principles.

It is not utopian to believe that we can all deserve affordable, safe and high-quality housing that is designed with the future in mind. It is not utopian to believe that our homes should be developed with strong sustainability and amenity at their core.

In fact, we already know "Australian developers and

Hope is stronger than cynicism

FAITH

ALLISON FORREST

THIS issue of the SSH is being published in the closing weeks of the Federal Election campaign.

I suspect I'm not alone in saying that election campaigns do not fill me with hope. This year's experience is no different and it concerns me because hope is not a weak, sentimental quality. Hope underpins all action for change.

By definition, hope exists when we cannot see justice, equity and peace. Hope opens eyes and hearts to the possibility of a different world, a kinder humanity, a society founded on justice and equity. Hope takes root when we decide to believe in the possibility of change.

If you too are struggling to find hope, I want to encourage you to look in a different direction: to focus your gaze closer to the ground. Instead of looking to the mainstream media's portrayal of politicians, party platforms, photo opps and slogans, look to the margins. Look to the places that the mainstream media overlooks.

Look around your neighbourhood. Notice the individuals who speak up for others, who go out of their way to help, who are leading others in making a difference. The SSH and other independent media often tell the stories of such people.

And look to the community groups, organisations – dare I say it, churches – who are

organising voices of dissent and presenting an alternative view of how the world could be.

Take, for example the issue of climate change. Just this week, a Pasifika Climate election forum gathered Pacific Islander peoples and others from across Western Sydney to question political candidates on their policies for climate action in Australia and the Pacific.

The Sydney Alliance organises Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith groups to speak to power with a unified voice.

My denomination, the United Church, has identified seven key election issues, including climate justice, "that Australia must address urgently to build a more just, compassionate and inclusive nation".

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change brings together people of all faiths to stand together to advocate, educate and act, grounded in a shared moral and spiritual commitment to care for and protect the Earth which is our home.

None of these initiatives are heralded, but I would argue they are more powerful, because they are the fruits of hope. They are actions taken because one person has taken hold of hope and encouraged others to do the same.

Hope is stronger than despair and cynicism. Hope leads to action that demonstrates there is more to life than money and status; that all human beings are inherently precious; that all actions have consequences; that we live in interconnection with each other and with all other living creatures. SSH

builders don't have to choose between sustainability and saving on costs," as Clean Energy Finance Corporation CEO Ian Learmonth said. According to the CEFC's 2021 report *Australian buildings and infrastructure: Opportunities for cutting embodied carbon* there are opportunities to achieve as much as an 18 per cent reduction in embodied carbon and save as much as 3 per cent on material costs for construction projects.

Putting the short-term savings aside, what house or apartment will be valuable or safe in 15 or 20 years if it doesn't take into consideration the reality of global threat we face? Not only will these properties be unliveable, but they will also put livelihoods and, indeed, lives at risk.

Having worked and contributed on the development of this proposed Design and Place state policy at the height of the pandemic in 2020, it was an opportune time to finally address better housing and urban design through policy.

For many, it wasn't until the pandemic unfolded that we

began to truly consider what well-designed space meant. It has opened opportunities for the need for passive design, renewable energy solutions, better air quality, green open spaces that provide for all. Our health and wellbeing is delicately intertwined with the environment, and that includes designed spaces.

It is in the interests of us all to consider what high-quality, sustainable and liveable housing can look like, now and into the future. We do not have to wrestle between the immediate nature of the housing crisis and the similarly immediate nature of climate change. What we do need is to facilitate policy and urban development that includes everyone. Everyone – where not only private developers feel they have been heard by government.

The time for utopian thinking is now. SSH

HY William Chan is a registered architect, executive of Climate Emergency Australia and independent councillor at the City of Sydney.
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The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



The Candy House
Jennifer Egan
Hachette \$32.99

Although Jennifer Egan published her first novel in 1994 (*The Invisible Circus*), it was her 2010 Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Visit from the Goon Squad* that catapulted her to fame. Her subsequent *Manhattan Beach* (2017) was widely praised and won the 2018 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction.

Now, Egan has produced *The Candy House*, a book she describes as a “companion” (the term “sequel” is avoided by both Egan and publicists) to *Goon Squad*. Several of *Goon Squad*'s characters reappear, among them Lou Kline, Bennie Salazar, Sasha, Lincoln and Lulu.

The Candy House begins in 2010 with Bix Boulton wandering the New York City streets, afraid he will never have a new idea. Bix sees a poster advertising a discussion of the work of Miranda Kline, the anthropologist whose theories of algorithms explaining trust and influence among members of an isolated Brazilian tribe that Bix adapted to make his fortune as a tech whiz.

At the meeting, Bix learns about Own Your Unconscious, a technology allowing users to access the memories of others if they're willing to share their own. This innovation develops into a major movement with detractors and counter movements: the “eluders,” who advocate privacy, and the “proxies,” who impersonate them. Another futuristic element includes the implantation of weevils in the brains of humans and the “cleaning” process undertaken to remove them.

This synopsis makes *The Candy House* sound like dystopian sci-fi. It isn't. It is more difficult, though, to pinpoint exactly what it is. Told by a range of shifting, ultimately interconnected characters, *The Candy House* (at least the first three quarters) is highly readable, partly due to the suspense when the storyline shifts to a new person. Who is this? What is his/her connection to the other characters?

The various sub plots are frequently compelling, from the drug addict Roxy Klein to the self-possessed 12 year old Lulu to the autistic and lovelorn Lincoln. These lives intersect, and there are stories both heart-warming and heartrending.

In 2032, an adult Lulu enters the murky world of espionage. Here the story changes from straightforward narration to her account of survival in a milieu fraught with dangers, among them sexual violence.

Several of the Baby Boomer characters mourn their increasing irrelevance. As Bennie writes in an email: “Tongue-in-cheek nostalgia is merely the portal, the candy house, if you will, through which we hope to lure in a new generation and bewitch them.”

Shifting perspectives and narrators are hardly new in 2022. Many modern novels have no hero/heroine nor even a protagonist. Absorbing though much of the book is (although I admit to losing patience with the multipage email exchange near its end), its multiple threads ultimately leave a sense of emptiness, like a tasty meal which fails to keep you full for long. *The Candy House*'s characters come and go so fleetingly, it is hard to care deeply about any of them.

» books@ssh.com.au

Book review by Marjorie Lewis-Jones



This Is My Dad
Author: Dimity Powell
Illustrator: Nicky Johnston
Ages 4-8
EK Books, \$24.99

Recently, a friend of mine had to do a week-long stint of single parenting, and she confessed it was intimidating.

“My feeling is that all single parents should be given parades and trophies and free childcare.”

The Mum in *This Is My Dad* is a single parent and children's author. She has her hands full but she is powering through. Her son, Leo, admires her and clearly feels loved. He's never known his Dad – so when his teacher asks his class to do Show and Tell about their dads, his heart sinks. Who can he bring to introduce?

More than 10 per cent of households in Australia comprise of a single or primary parent and of those single parents 82 per cent are female.

Author Dimity Powell was only vaguely aware of these statistics when prompted by a proactive teacher-librarian during a Book Week visit to her school.

“She [the teacher-librarian] highlighted a notable absence of mainstream picture books featuring children who had never known a ‘father figure’ and or had no significant male model in their lives,” Powell says.

“To furnish school libraries and homes with a story that embraced this theme was an idea I simply couldn't let evaporate.”

The result is *This Is My Dad*, a whimsically wonderful tale, which celebrates families of all shapes and sizes and shows that where love and openness propels

and supports family relationships, children will find a way to embrace and tell their family stories.

For Leo, this firstly involves searching for a way to know his Dad. But when he can find no trace of him he realises who he *can* introduce to his class – and he does so very proudly.

Illustrator Nicky Johnston lived the first seven years of her life in a single parent family and brought this experience to her energetic but soothingly soft illustrations (the gentle approach well-suited to the sensitivity of the topic).

“I know firsthand how the role of both parents can sometimes fall onto one,” Johnston says.

“I delved into my own memories and feelings when illustrating this book. I wanted the pride of Leo (at the end of the book) to be visible and understood by all single parents who may feel they are not enough.

“Kids aren't great at communicating this until they're much older and, as a kid, all they need is to be loved, cherished and supported, by whoever they have in their world.”

This Is My Dad might well fill a gap in your home or school library. It's not a trophy – but it is a tribute – and one that should help children and parents value the prize that is their version of family.

» books@ssh.com.au

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



The Northman
Director: Robert Eggers
Starring: Alexander Skarsgård, Nicole Kidman, Claes Bang
Genre: Thorless

If your taste in film is Shakespearean drama, Tarantino level violence and Viking legend then *The Northman* hits your sweet spot. For the rest of us, there's still plenty to like so long as you can deal with graphically realistic cinematic blood and gore and thousand-year-old Viking practices that range between the surreal, the extraordinary and the horrendous.

Perhaps the most interesting discussion point about *The Northman* is the fine line between gratuitous violence and historical accuracy. Context is everything in this debate. The Northman claims to be based on real Viking history – the “landnámsöld” (the age of land-taking) and the Danish historical legend that inspired *Hamlet*. Indeed, almost everything in the film is Norse mythology such as raven familiars, catching spears mid-air, pickled heads and almost every piece of clothing.

There is almost no CGI to ensure historical accuracy and everything was built on set, including viking long-boats, villages and swords, although all the men are hairless and buff with perfect teeth (a realism problem I also had with *The Power of the Dog*).

So, the argument goes that if the legends are full of murder, rape and pillaging then so should the film. Indeed, if it wasn't for the level of violence then the amazing battle and fight scenes wouldn't have nearly the same impact on the viewer, and the extraordinary final battle scene, the culmination of what is ultimately a straight-forward obsessive revenge drama, wouldn't work at all.

And if that's too much for you then there's always the Marvel Studios *Thor* series where buff bodies, perfect teeth and computer animation are essential and expected. And dull.

Rating: Four-and-a-half swimming pools of blood.

» film@ssh.com.au

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



Wayside Bride
Writer: Alana Valentine
Co-directors: Hannah Goodwin, Eamon Flack
Upstairs Theatre, Belvoir
April 2 - May 29, 2022

Alana Valentine's *Wayside Bride*, a warm tribute to the work of the Reverend Ted Noffs and the Wayside Chapel, is a moving affirmation of the power of acceptance to transform human lives. The playwright as actor in, and observer of, her own play becomes a point of intersection between past and present socio-religious attitudes that exclude those judged to be unworthy from experiencing life more safely, more richly, more fully.

As actor in her own drama, Valentine tests her own authenticity as a practitioner of verbatim theatre. While many, many interviews with a community are recorded, the playwright must shape the material into a theatrical performance. In doing so, does truthfulness become a lesser interest or is the truth given a greater impact as those who believe their voice of no value, or who can't voice their story in a coherent way, are lent (in a way) the playwright's creative magic to help them recognise and value their own voice?

The play opens with a very funny conversation between Alana (an engaging Emily Goddard) and her mother, Janice (Sacha Horler) as Alana tries to press a reluctant Janice to say why she was married at the Wayside Chapel.

Her mother stubbornly clings to the fiction that the Wayside was “just around the corner” until she is drawn into talking about a dress she made for her interview with Noffs (Brandon McClelland). The dress “was really hard to make” – perhaps like piecing together a play from bits and pieces – but in the end “she did it”, her success giving her the confidence to face the interview. Magically (with Rashidi Edward as a sparkling genie) the dress transforms Alana into Janice who spends her day watching and listening at Wayside.

While the churches drew their circle of acceptance firmly, Noffs created a different circle and any who chose to enter it – although they may have danced to their own tune – were assured of a glowing “Welcome” and hospitality (a coffee urn and biscuit barrel). Noffs and his wife Margaret (again Horler who gives an outstanding performance in both her roles) opened the Wayside chapel in 1964 as a means of tackling the social problems of the Cross – the disaffected young, a pervasive drug culture and prostitution – and it became a refuge for the marginalised and those denied marriage and baptismal rites.

The Ted we meet, in a powder-blue suit and white shoes, believes that people need acceptance rather than “fixing”, but his dedication has come at a price as the loyal Margaret later reveals in a powerful scene.

Throughout Alana's composite day at Wayside we meet a sampling of the people who found acceptance within the Wayside circle. From the disoriented, sweet *awesome* (Maggie Blinco), the relaxed Joan (Sandy Greenwood) living in a car with her husband-to-be, the beehived interjector into others' conversations (Rebecca Massey), a vociferous bride (Angelina Penrith) crying like a baby or a wolf because her father will not give her away, a debonair gay (Marco Chiappi) who agrees to be a substitute parent, a wraith-like bride in white lace (Blinco) who married a Vietnamese against both their parents' inclinations, to a more fashionable “I'm an artist” couple (Massey and Edward), we gain the impression of the teeming life in the Cross and of the colourful chaos at the Chapel. It was all too much for the Methodist Church which found excuses to try to hobble its rebellious minister who preferred humanity to divinity.

As the play comes full circle and we return to Alana and Janice, who concedes that as a divorcee Noffs was her only option, the playwright Valentine joins her own voice with the voices of all the marginalised beneath a now rainbow-coloured “Welcome”. While it can be claimed we live in a secular age, two recent plays – *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Seymour) and *A is for Apple* (Griffin) – strongly suggest the restrictive and devaluing practices of religious or ideological faith is still a burning issue for many.

» theatre@ssh.com.au



Iga Świątek. Photo: Associated Press

Shake-up of rankings after Barty's retirement

SPORT

STEVE TURNER

POLISH player Iga Świątek has gained the world number 1 women's ranking after Ash Barty's retirement from tennis. Behind Świątek are Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic), Paula Badosa (Spain) and Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus).

Despite inconsistent form since being deported from Australia in January, Novak Djokovic (Serbia) still leads the men's rankings from Daniil Medvedev (Russia), Rafael Nadal (Spain) and Dominic Thiem (Austria).

It was recently announced by the Wimbledon committee that players from Russia and Belarus are banned from playing in the tournament due to the war in Ukraine. This means that Medvedev and Sabalenka will have to sit out this major tournament.

Commonwealth Games news

It has been announced that the 2026 Commonwealth Games will be held in Victoria. The Opening Ceremony will be held at the MCG and sporting competition will mainly be shared across regional hubs. Hubs so far announced are Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland, with each hub expected to have its own Athletes' Village. Premier Daniel Andrews will soon announce the other regional centres that will be hosting events.

The 2026 Commonwealth Games were originally awarded to Birmingham in the United Kingdom. After the original host city Durban was unable to fulfil their obligations, Birmingham stepped up to host the 2022 edition. This shift left the 2026 Games without a host.

Victoria has a long history of hosting international sporting events, including the Australian Open Tennis, the Melbourne F1 Grand Prix and the 1956 Olympic Games. Melbourne hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2006.

Birmingham's edition of the Commonwealth Games will be bookmarked by the opening and closing ceremonies, beginning July 28 for two weeks. Based in the West Midlands region of England, the city will host the Games for the first time ever.

Aussie stars from the recent Olympic Games in Tokyo are expected to compete, including Ariarne Titmus (swimming), Nicola McDermott (high jump), Rohan Browning (athletics) and Peter Bol (athletics). The Australian contingent will join a pool of approximately 4,500 athletes in Birmingham, stemming from 72 nations.

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Photo: Getty

Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

I'VE just come back to Sydney from an extensive trip to visit relatives in Victoria (where they so badly need good rainfall) and Queensland to visit a friend of 50 years. It was wonderful to catch up after so long and to see a few new places of interest. It did feel good to be "let out" but despite the cliché, I've decided there's no place like home (must be my age)!

Autumn bursts upon us and as always Sydney is full of things to do in May.

Neighbourhood Centre Week – May 9-15

Counterpoint Community Services has a list of activities on its Facebook page. As part of NCW, housing activist and SSH volunteer the late Ross Smith will be honoured with a Memorial Plaque and bench installed outside the Waterloo Neighbourhood Centre in Wellington Street – **11am on May 13.**

Sydney Park Community Planting Day (Adults and Children) – May 15, 9am-1pm

Plant a tree in Sydney Park and help regenerate what was once a brickworks and waste depot, before extensive remediation, to make it the wonderful area it is today. Dress sun-safe and bring your water bottle and gardening gloves. Using public transport is advisable, as parking is limited.

To register contact www.events-humantix.com/sydney-park-community-planting-day.

Recycle it Saturday, Alexandra Canal Depot, 67C Bourke Road Alexandria – May 28, 9am-3pm

This is a free drop-off event by the City of Sydney in partnership with Waverley and Woollahra Councils and you need to bring along ID as proof of residence in one of these council areas. It is drive-through and you stay in your vehicle while teams unload your pre-separated items from your car boot. I'm sure we all have reusable items and goods that need a new home, so this is the perfect one-stop way of recycling. You can also bring along certain types of plastics, paints, mobile phones ... the list is extensive, see www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/waste-recycling-services/drop-off-household-items-for-recycling/. People walking or cycling can access a separate drop-off area.

Sydney Writers' Festival 2022 – May 16-22

Events will take place at Carriageworks, City Recital Hall, Sydney Town Hall and some suburban venues. For tickets and other information: www.swf.org.au.

National Volunteer Week 2022 – May 16-22

Our acknowledgement and sincere thanks to volunteers from all walks of life and all disciplines. You are amazing and deserving of praise and gratitude for your contributions.

Sydney Film Festival 2022 – June 8-19

Tickets sell fast, and single tickets will go on sale on Wednesday May 11. For all the films, times and prices contact: www.ssf.org.au/tickets/buying-tickets.

For your diary

Nauha Dabboussy, *Selected Works*, the Orchard Gallery from May 28.

Until next time, keep safe and well, Pat Clarke

SSH

» volunteers@ssh.com.au

Neighbourhood Centre Week
9-15 May 2022
Building resilience by bringing people together

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING NCW 2022 WITH A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK OF 9TH TO 15TH MAY 2022 FOR DETAILS, PLEASE FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM @COUNTERPOINT_COMSERV

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 02 9698 9569

Get free, confidential support to share your story with the Disability Royal Commission.

The Disability Royal Commission is investigating violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability in Australia. Your story can help them make everyone safer.

All kinds of people with disability can tell their stories. That includes:

- People who can't see or hear well
- People with a long-term physical or mental illness
- People who need support to move, like a wheelchair
- People with autism or a learning disability

Advocates at People with Disability Australia can:

- Give you more information
- Talk to you & give you advice while you decide what to share
- Help you write or record your story
- Organise translators and other ways to help you communicate
- Link you to counselling or legal services if you need more help.

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